

ALICIA BARNABÉ THOMAS

321 W. Via Sol, Palm Springs, CA 92262 • 760.534.1618 • aliciabthomas@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal, Nail-to-Nail: Museum Consulting & Fine Arts Services (2020 –present), Palm Springs, CA

A comprehensive fine arts services & consulting business working with museums, private collectors, artists, foundations & estates. Museum services include exhibition management; coordinating, packing, crating, shipping & installation; courier training & work; condition reporting, conducting damage assessments & arranging conservation; grantwriting. For additional services see www.nailtonail.com.

Director of Exhibitions & Collections Management (2012 –2020), Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA

Collaborated with the director & curators to realize exhibitions & installations within the museum & beyond through the management of complex loan exhibitions, the implementation of a travelling exhibition program, the oversight of in-house exhibitions, & long-term partnerships. Strategized on adaptive use of galleries & negotiated loans (lender requirements & fees) in the best interest of the museum. Supervised exhibitions management, developed production schedules & team meeting structure to ensure effective & timely production of multiple & concurrent exhibition-related activities; managed exhibition contracts, budgets, installations, condition reporting, crating, transportation, & customs formalities. Managed department functions, collections & conservation budgets, policies, procedures & staff; supervised the preservation & management of permanent collections, loans, accessioning, deaccessioning, conservation treatment, rights & reproductions & storage; served on Museum's collections & exhibitions committee, buildings & grounds committee, & strategic planning committee; member of senior staff. Maintained facility reports & museum's emergency preparedness plan, monitored HVAC systems for galleries & vaults; prepared registrar's report of annual acquisitions; ensured compliance with IRS regulations, copyright laws, NAGPRA laws, & AAMD guidelines; wrote collections-related grants; arranged fine arts insurance & responsible for securing U.S. Government Indemnity for the museum & its exhibition partners; managed the master schedule for art movement, installations, & exhibitions; served as emergency responder for collections & damages; supervised the management of the collections database (TMS). Awarded 2014 NEH & 2015 IMLS preservation grants.

Senior Loan Officer/Acting Department Head (2000 – 2012), National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Established loan policies & procedures; initiated & cultivated institutional reciprocity; monitored cultural exchange with borrowing institutions; managed office functions; supervised the loan officer in the administration of extended loans; conducted staff-wide courier training. Administered & negotiated outgoing loans: reviewed facility reports to set loan conditions & courier requirements according to Gallery policies; prepared contracts; obtained approvals; secured immunity from seizure; reviewed insurance policies & international Government Indemnity schemes; prepared budgets & invoices; served as liaison with borrowing institutions; inspected facilities; served as courier; & wrote loan-related correspondence for director. Coordinated traveling exhibitions: wrote & negotiated contracts; created exhibition budgets; monitored production schedules; compiled educational materials; assisted with the packing, shipping, courier, display, & security matters for artworks. Notable shows: *Impressionist & Post-Impressionist Masterpieces from the National Gallery of Art* (Houston, Tokyo & Kyoto) & *Mark Rothko: A Centennial Celebration* (Riga, St. Petersburg, Mexico City, Hong Kong & Seoul). Administered extended loans to museums & to senior government officials. Served on committee for the development of 9.38 TMS; established departmental data entry standards; & wrote TMS instruction manual for loans.

Acting Exhibition Officer (2002 – 2003), National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Managed nine exhibitions simultaneously; served as liaison with lenders & partner institutions; negotiated contracts & shared costs with partners; responded to lender correspondence, reviewing lenders' conditions of loan, installation & insurance requirements; monitored the status of loan requests & appeals; prepared & revised exhibition budgets; approved travel authorizations, invoices, & expenditures; supervised U. S. Government Indemnity applications; reviewed printed materials for press distribution, in-house publications, & public display.

Assistant Registrar for Loans & Exhibitions (1997 – 2000), J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA

Coordinated temporary exhibitions & processed incoming loans, acquisitions, & lend-backs; prepared loan agreements & insurance certificates; handled shipping & courier arrangements; coordinated customs clearance with customs broker & ensured correct use of U.S. tariff codes; negotiated costs with agents, lenders, brokers, & carriers;

– continued –

planned & supervised uncrating & installation schedules. Maintained loan & exhibition records in TMS; prepared quarterly transit report for risk manager & quarterly loan value report for insurance carrier; processed donations, deaccessions, & temporary deposits; served as courier; first responder for damages to the collection; conducted monthly inventory of receiving room & annual audit of incoming loans & deposits.

Assistant Registrar (1995 – 1997), Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY

Compiled the annual report of acquisitions; planned & supervised exhibition & permanent collection installations; managed extended loans; prepared condition reports; processed loan agreements & receipts; supervised preparator; assigned storage locations; crated, & installed art; served as courier; updated loans, acquisitions & locations in collections database; conducted annual inventory; answered collection queries; & processed rights & reproductions.

Graduate Intern (1994 – 1995), Provenance Index, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA

Researched extant versions of Titian's *Venus & Adonis* for an exhibition; performed data entry, proofread & edited departmental publications; & researched artists' names appearing in 17th – 19th c. Italian, French, & Dutch inventories.

Contractor (1994), National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Assisted with the development of loans sub-system of collections database; renewed loans & prepared loan agreements; updated loan records; created wall labels, wall text, checklists, artist biographies, bibliographies, & film lists for traveling exhibitions; developed traveling exhibitions; administered outgoing loans; coordinated AAM conference booth for traveling exhibition program.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, 1994: *Patronage in the Italian Renaissance*.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, George Washington University, Washington, DC, 1989 – 1991.

Lecturer, George Washington University, Washington, DC, 1991: *Byzantine Art & Architecture & Italian Renaissance Architecture*.

Temporary positions in procurement, accounting, & office administration, 1985-1989.

EDUCATION

George Washington University, Washington, DC M.A., Art History, 1993.

Concentration in Italian Renaissance Art. Kreeger Award of Excellence in Art History, 1990 & 1991.

Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, VA B.A., Art History & Fine Arts, *cum laude*, 1988.

Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, Outstanding College Students of America, Dean's List 1984 – 1988.

SKILLS

Reading comprehension in French & Italian.

Extensive computer experience in Windows & Macintosh platforms: Microsoft Word, Word Perfect; Excel, Lotus 1-2-3; PowerPoint, Access; Reflex, Q&A, STAR, Dbase III, Omnis; Mars G; Microsoft Outlook, Groupwise, Eudora; Peoplesoft Financial Information System; Collections Management System Databases: Gallery Systems TMS, Willoby iO, & Leonardo (National Gallery of Art), Quixis, & FileMaker Pro.