

ALICIA BARNABÉ THOMAS

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

A comprehensive fine arts services & appraising business working with museums, private collectors, artists, foundations, trusts & estates. Museum services include exhibition management; coordinating, packing, crating, shipping & installation; courier training & courier work; condition reporting, conducting damage assessments & arranging conservation; grant writing & reviewing fine arts insurance policies. Appraisal experience in fine arts, antiques, decorative arts & furniture for insurance and estate purposes. Multiple research projects for independent appraisers and appraisal firms. For additional services, client & project lists see www.nailtonail.com.

Director of Exhibitions & Collections Management (2012 –20), 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 (\$2.5 million per annum), 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 TMS (collections database). Awarded 2014 NEH & 2015 IMLS preservation grants.

Senior Loan Officer/Acting Department Head (2000 – 12), 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 manual for loans.

Acting Exhibition Officer (2002 – 03), 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; 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.

– continued –

Assistant Registrar (1995 – 97), 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.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Appraisal Mentorship with ESC Appraisals, Sonoma, CA, 2021
Graduate Intern, Provenance Index, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA, 1993-94
Contractor & lecturer, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, 1993
Graduate Teaching Assistant & lecturer, George Washington University, Washington, DC, 1989 – 91
Temporary positions in procurement, accounting, & office administration, 1985 – 89

EDUCATION

Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) compliant through May 31, 2026
Appraisal Institute of America, New York, NY, Certificate, Comprehensive Appraisal Studies Program 2020
George Washington University, Washington, DC, M.A., Art History, 1993; Kreeger Award of Excellence, 1990 & 1991
Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, VA, B.A., *cum laude*, 1988; Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa
Outstanding College Students of America, Dean's List 1984 – 88

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Accredited Member, Appraisers Association of America
Member of Associate Candidates Steering Committee, Appraisers Association of America
Board Member, Association of Registrars & Collections Specialists
Member, Collections Stewardship-American Alliance of Museums
Member, Registrar's Committee Western Region

SKILLS

Software experience: Microsoft Word, Word Perfect, Google Docs; Excel, Lotus 1-2-3; PowerPoint, Access; Microsoft Teams, Zoom; Reflex, Q&A, STAR, Dbase III, Omnis; Mars G; Microsoft Outlook, Groupwise, Eudora; Adobe PDF Reader, Peoplesoft Financial Information System. Collections management systems: Gallery Systems TMS, Willoby iO, Quixis, & FileMaker Pro. Project management systems: Asana and Slack.
Reading comprehension in French & Italian.