



Art Handler / Object Preparator / Installation Technician

Contract work on a temporary project basis, accepting resumes

Rate of compensation: \$15-50/hour, dependent on experience

The New Bedford Whaling Museum seeks contract Art Handlers / Object Preparators / Installation technicians to work on a short-term contract basis for project-based timelines. They will assist in all aspects of preparation, packing, transporting, installation, deinstallation, and storage of works for the museum. The ideal candidate understands that the safety and security of artworks and of fellow team members is critical. This position will move and install valuable art objects in various locations; pack and unpack objects, maintain collections storage areas to ensure the safety of the art; create custom crate interiors for outgoing loans, frame and unframe two-dimensional works, and perform other miscellaneous art handling duties as required. They work closely with curators and other department staff, under the direction of the Chief Curator and the Associate Curator of Exhibitions and Collections to facilitate the safe exhibition of works from the collection. We are looking to have resumes on hand for project-based work throughout the year.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Understanding and execution of art handling fundamentals and practices
- Inspect artworks prior to handling to ensure proper handling and demonstrates care when handling objects of various mediums
- Understanding of archival and other packing materials for various mediums
- Complete wrapping, packing, and/or crating of works for transport or storage
- Safely load and secure objects on/in company vehicles
- Move artworks to and from trucks, loading docks, storage facilities, etc.
- Pickup and delivery of a wide range of works (sculpture, paintings, media) and mediums (i.e.: paint, mineral, organic)
- Knowledge of exhibition procedures, including experience working with couriers and condition reporting a plus
- Ensure packing, handling and installation standards and protocols are met
- Professional installation of work, including use of proper tools and hardware
- May provide some recommendations on design and aesthetics when requested
- Use good judgement in all aspects of the job, and follow security, safety, and ethics protocols

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, AND ABILITIES:

- Demonstrated knowledge of museum standards and ethics for collections care
- Demonstrated experience with object handling
- Basic knowledge of packing methods and materials involved with art works
- Skills in organizing resources and establishing priorities
- Safety first attitude and exceptional care in handling and security of property

- Highly self-motivated and able to remain calm under pressure
- Very high level of attention to detail and organizational skills
- Able to take direction and work as part of a team
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to deal effectively in a team environment
- Professional demeanor
- Ability to handle objects up to 40 pounds, see the normal range of color vision, and/or stand and/or walk an average of eight (8) hours per day and climb a typical step ladder.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- High school diploma/GED required. Bachelor's Degree in studio art, museum studies, or related art field is *preferred*
- 2+ years of art handling experience in a museum, gallery, artist studio, private collection or similar environment
- Familiarity with standard museum practices and terminology
- Proficiency with hand and power tools
- Ability to carry out work required in lifting and transporting artworks
- Awareness and understanding of mounts, supports and structures. Mount-making or framing experience a plus
- We are open to material specialty and area of expertise

The New Bedford Whaling Museum

The New Bedford Whaling Museum ignites learning through explorations of art, history, science and culture rooted in the stories of people, the region and an international seaport. Founded in 1903 as the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, the Museum seeks to advance understanding related to the influence of the whaling industry and the port of New Bedford on the history, economy, ecology, arts, and cultures of the region, the nation, and the world. We tell the stories of the many diverse communities that shared in the creation of this history, through excellence in our collections, scholarship, and public engagement. The Museum is recognized as a compelling destination that inspires all visitors to reflect on the complex issues that shaped the past, remain critical today, and inform a sustainable future. Today, the Whaling Museum is a leader in the cultural landscape of the SouthCoast serving more than 100,000 visitors and offering engaging exhibitions, dynamic public programs, and vibrant educational activities appealing to learners of all ages.

TO APPLY Send an application form, cover letter that outlines your hourly fee structure, and a resume to Melanie Correia, Associate Curator of Exhibitions and Collections, at mcorreia@whalingmuseum.org. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and filed for future projects. No phone calls, please.

The New Bedford Whaling Museum is committed to diversity among its employees and encourages qualified candidates from all backgrounds to apply.