APAG Archives Seminar

Presented by Hugh Wood Inc.
a member of the HW International Group

Recommendations for Preserving Photographs:

- Do not exhibit photographs in direct sunlight, as damage from light is irreversible. When possible use UV-filtered glazing and rotate works on display.

- Monitor ambient conditions and strive to keep the temperature from 68 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit with a relative humidity of 40 to 50 percent.

- Handle photographs with clean or gloved hands to avoid leaving residues such as oils and salts that can permanently disfigure the work.

- Individually sleeve photographs to increase protection from abrasion, dust, dirt, and harmful gases in the air, utilizing products that have passed the Photographic Activity Test (P.A.T).

Recommendations are based on a discussion with Dana Hemmenway, a photograph conservator working at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

Best Practices for Caring and Protecting your Collection:

- It is recommended to keep a separate file for each work. This should include the purchase invoice with date and seller.

- You should ask the gallery or auction house for photographs as well as exhibition and conservation histories.

- Your records can be paper, electronic, or a combination of both. It is advisable to store a copy of your inventory at a separate location, such as with your insurance broker.

- Insurance for art collections generally offer coverage worldwide, and take into account the security, number of objects, value of the objects, extent of documentation and intent of the collection.

- It is important to pay attention to the valuation clause in your policy. This is the way in which an insurance carrier will adjust your fine art loss in the event of a claim.

Claims to Photography comes in all forms:

- Improper packing of photographs and frames
- Fire, and Water Damage
- Theft

Insurance does not cover gradual wear and tear, deterioration, and exposure to light

Risk Management Advice:

- The insurance market is soft right now – discuss your insurance policy, it's terms and conditions each year with your broker prior to renewal, however, the policy should go to market every 3 years.

- Seek out quality brokers – continuity in a relationship with an experienced broker can benefit your premiums, deductibles and enhance the service provided to you.

- Consider your loss history when discussing deductibles.

- Buy only from qualified carriers.

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