ITALY - THE GORI COLLECTION OF SITE-SPECIFIC ART

Number of Placements: 1

Placement Site: Santomato di Pistoia, Italy

URL: www.goricoll.it

**Field/Subject Area:**

Open to all York students who meet the eligibility criteria

**Position Description:**

The primary job responsibility is organizing and conducting the guided visits to the Collection. Our visiting season runs from late April to the end of September and there are very many requests to handle. This is definitely a job for a student with good “people skills”: we receive groups from the general (and unqualified) public as well as from such highly-qualified visitors as artists, museum directors, professors, and journalists, often from all over the world. Their presence represents a rare opportunity to enter into contact with operators in the fields of contemporary art and culture. Visits last about 5 hours, are conducted in English and Italian and can sometimes be held as often as 5-6 times a week. The intern must be a well-disposed towards a bilingual experience, physically fit, healthy and enjoy walking and being with people.

Handling correspondence, answering the telephone and other office work is requested when interns are not conducting visits.

Secondary job responsibilities depend on the intern’s aptitude and good will. In such a small organization as ours, the things to do range from the (only) seemingly inconsequential to the highly important. The former include typing, filing, helping with small organizational jobs while the more challenging duties may include assisting artists working/staying at Celle; helping organize events such as exhibitions, performances, concerts, etc.; writing/editorial/graphics projects like producing catalogues, press releases; assisting members of the press.

**Tasks/Duties**

* Spending the first week/10 days preparing intensely for the tours.
* Conducting visits to the Collection in English and Italian.
* Dealing, in both languages, with acceptances/rejections of the many requests for visits that arrive by telephone, mail, e-mail.
* Helping organize/communicate the special event(s) that are held here every summer.
* Be present to help greet/guide the Gori family’s guests.

Expected work hours:

Mostly half days (either morning or afternoon according to the visiting schedule) from Monday - Saturday (Sundays are always days off for us all). We ask that the intern be more available in the very busy period (usually May-mid June) in exchange to having more time off in July.

Preferred start date:

May 1 (for training in the first week of May). By day 8 they need to be able to conduct the tours on their own in both languages. For this reason adequate preparation is required before departure from York University (our catalogues and info are available in the university library, we have a detailed bilingual website)

**Qualifications/skills required:**

* Proficient in Microsoft Office especially Word, Excel and PowerPoint
* Need to be able to proof-read in English
* Must have an intermediate level of Italian which will allow them not only to be trained to do visits in that language but, especially, to be able to communicate with the Gori family and other staff members.
* Good people skills
* Background in Art History and/or Italian Language particularly recommended

**Language requirements:**

Fluent English; intermediate Italian

**Highlights of Organization/background information:**

In 1982, Giuliano Gori was the first private collector in the world to start commissioning site-specific art and today his collection represents one of the largest and most qualified of its kind in the world. Each year we receive (by appointment) several thousand visitors who are all guided through the collection. There are only two people running this international collection so there is ample possibility for interns to be involved in every aspect of our work.