

THE GORI COLLECTION OF SITE-SPECIFIC ART

Number of Placements: 1-2

Placement Site: Santomato di Pistoia, Italy

Website: <http://www.goricoll.it>

Field/Subject Area:

Open to all York students who meet the eligibility criteria

Position Description:

The primary responsibility of the intern will be to organise and conduct the guided visits to the Collection. Our visiting season runs from late April to the end of September, with numerous requests to handle. This is definitely a job for a student with good “people skills”: we receive groups from the general 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 personal contact with operators in the fields of contemporary art and culture. Visits usually last about 3 hours (but on occasion can last as long as 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 well-disposed towards a bilingual experience, physically fit, healthy and enjoy walking & learning about art as well as being with people.

Handling correspondence, answering the telephone, and other office work will be expected when the intern is not conducting visits.

Secondary job responsibilities depend on the intern’s aptitude and good will. In such a small organization as ours, the tasks to do range from the (only) seemingly inconsequential to the highly important. The former include typing, filing, and 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.

Specific tasks will include:

- Adequate preparation and study is required before arrival (our catalogues and info are available in the university library, and we have a detailed bilingual website.).
- Conducting the many 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, and e-mail.
- Helping in organizing/communicating the special event(s) that are held here every summer.
- Being present to help greet/guide the Gori family's guests.

Complete all tasks assigned, which includes but is not limited to the responsibilities outlined above.

Expected work hours:

Mostly half days (either morning or afternoon according to the visiting schedule) from Monday – Saturday. (Sundays are always days off for everyone). Some periods are busier than others. We ask that the intern be more available in the very busy period in exchange for having more time off during the quieter times.

Preferred start date:

The intern will need to be on the premises by April 30 for training to start in the first week of the month. By day 8, the intern must be able to independently conduct the tours in both languages. For this reason, adequate preparation and study is required before arrival (our catalogues and info are available in the university library, and we have a detailed bilingual website).

Qualifications/skills required:

- Must have an intermediate level of Italian which will facilitate 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.
- Speak and write fluently in English (need to be able to proof-read)
- Good people skills
- Background in Art History and Italian Language particularly recommended; background in Fine Arts/Photography/Italian language and literature also acceptable
- Mostly an advanced grounding in the basics of Italian language/culture and an interest in art. Students who have a deeper linguistic or cultural motivation will certainly get more out of the experience.
- Good computer skills are fundamental: Proficient in Microsoft Office especially Word, Excel and PowerPoint

Language requirements:

Fluent English; intermediate Italian

Highlights of Organization/background information:

In 1982, Giuliano Gori was the first private collector 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 guided through the collection. There are only two people running this international collection so there is ample possibility for willing interns to be involved in every aspect of our work.

Accommodation

The Gori Collection is a rural property located on the outskirts of the tiny village of Santomato which is 4 km from the larger town of Pistoia.

It should be noted that Fattoria di Celle is located in a rather isolated area of the Tuscan countryside. While there are bus stops right outside our gates, the intern must be willing to navigate the Italian public transportation system and well-disposed to a country lifestyle.

Pursuant of Italian immigration regulations, York interns are officially registered as private guests of the Gori family and that is how they are expected to behave. They are provided with an apartment consisting of three private bedrooms, a kitchen, TV area, and bathroom. The apartment is in a separate building allowing privacy but some interns have found it isolated. While living in the apartment, interns are expected to treat the place with the utmost respect, undertaking weekly cleaning of all the spaces. Interns are expected to cover their food expenses - there is the chance to catch a weekly ride from staff to do food shopping. Due to security concerns, it is not possible for interns to invite or accommodate other people at the apartment without the consent of the Gori family.