



PHILIP HAFFERTY

FINE ART SPECIALIST & LECTURER

Philip (Phil) Hafferty '04 is a Specialist in Japanese and Korean Fine Art at Bonhams Auctioneers in New York City, and an Adjunct Lecturer at Hunter College in New York City.

My path to Bonhams was not a straight one. When I was in college, I thought that my future was in the foreign service, working as a diplomat for the United States. Then my passion for the Japanese tea ceremony and interest in art took me to graduate school in Seattle with hopes to become a museum curator. Some bumps along the road made that dream appear too distant for the present moment, so I returned to Minnesota and joined the health care field while finishing my thesis on Japanese tea house architecture. Many other job applications later, I landed a job in New York at a Japanese art gallery. Following the death of the gallery owner, I was able to utilize the connections I had made in that job to transition to Bonhams, one of two auction houses in the United States with a standalone Japanese and Korean art department. I also continue my training in the Japanese tea ceremony, and am an instructor in the Urasenke Chado Tradition, teaching a tea-related course at Hunter College.

How did your experience at Marshall help you after graduation?

Marshall taught me that it was possible to have a lifestyle with a foundation in my own values; that I didn't have to be part of a single stereotypical group in order to have a fulfilling educational and extracurricular life. Marshall gently introduced me to the benefits of diversity at a variety of levels, from ethnic, to economic, to cultural, to religious, to sexual, and beyond. But most important is that Marshall fostered a culture that encouraged an educational environment inside and outside of the classroom, and helped me to realize that good things could come from pursuing my passions.

Who at Marshall inspired you?

I was inspired by Dr. Buck, Ms. Whitlock, Dr. Nygaard, Ms. Fryberger, Mr. Chico Anderson, Dr. Hare, Mr. Sippel, Mrs. Johns, and Ms. Snyder.

Who currently inspires you?

My mother and father.