



Interview with Global Experiences Intern, Justin Horowitz
Oltrarno Restoration Studio – Florence, Italy - January 17, 2007

Love of Italian culture and language brought Justin Horowitz to Florence, the heart of the Italian renaissance, to do an internship in Restoration. Global Experiences Florence Representative, Danielle Moscou sat down with Justin in the Oltrarno Restoration Studio where he is currently interning to discuss his *global experience*.

DM: What drew you to Italy and to want to do an internship here?

JH: I decided to come to Italy because I love the culture here and I think the people are very friendly. Perfecting my Italian was very important to me. I chose Italy because I am very interested in art. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin with BA in Fine Art where I was interested in Restoration and for me Florence was the best place to go to for that kind of work.

DM: What was your experience in restoration prior to this internship?

JH: I didn't have much experience with Restoration. I took one summer session in San Gemini in Umbria last summer. We spent most of our time in lectures learning how restoration is done and in the afternoons we would do some hands on work and learn how to prepare old materials used by artists

DM: Can you explain a little your job? What does the company do? What type of responsibilities do you have?

JH: I work with two art restorers. We work on sculptures from all different time periods. We clean and remove dirt or previous restorations using various solvents and materials. I am their assistant and I am here to learn the field and to get hands on experience with art restoration and that's exactly what I am doing. My responsibilities start first and foremost with listening to what my bosses teach me. They make examples in front of me and show me exactly what I need to do so it's very good experience for me.



Justin at work in the restoration studio

DM: Have you found that your role has changed from when you first began? Have you seen your own progression?

JH: Yes, Absolutely. The first week or so I didn't even know the basics but after several weeks I became more comfortable with the materials and less afraid to actually touch the sculptures. In time my bosses had more confidence in me and allowed me to do things on

my own. They would leave me either in the studio or in the restoration rooms in museums to do my own work and to get my own experience which was nice.

DM: What is the most interesting piece of art you worked with?

JH: I don't really have a favorite because they are all interesting to me and all very different. We've worked with Roman sculptures to sculptures from the early renaissance so everything to me is very interesting. The most interesting place I worked would be the Uffizi. It's the most important museum in the world and for me to have hands on experience doing restoration there is an extremely unique experience and I feel very grateful to have worked there.

DM: How do you feel this experience has enhanced your professional abilities?

JH: Well I'm not a professional yet but it's definitely helped because I get to work with the materials with my hands rather than reading about how to use them in the book and to me that's a very important aspect.



Justin with his Internship Supervisor

DM: What is the best part about your work experience in Italy?

JH: The most important thing about having this work experience in Italy is the challenge of working with the language and experiencing the language everyday and challenging myself to meet those demands. Being introduced to the Italian culture is eye opening and very interesting. I love most everything about this country. In terms of working it's very different than working in the US.

DM: Do you think this experience is going to help you in the pursuit of your goals?

JH: Absolutely, this experience has helped me to decide what path I want to take after I go back to the states. If I didn't try this I wouldn't have known if I liked doing restoration or not.

DM: Would you recommend Global Experiences to a friend, if so why?

JH: I would definitely recommend Global Experiences because they found me this very exceptional job and I am very grateful for them having done that. Without them I don't think I would have ever been in contact with the company I work for.

Justin plans to continue painting and selling his own art and will be participating in a charity auction, donating some of his original pieces. He plans on enrolling in New York University's School of Conservation in the spring and working in an art gallery or with an art dealer. Global Experiences wishes him the best of luck.