

Erik Bennion

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Summary

- **Knowledgeable.** Life-long passion for fine art, the visual arts, and supporting both artists and art collectors. I have an in-depth knowledge of art techniques and mediums, including acrylic, oils, encaustic, watercolor, and sculpture.
- **Dedicated.** Worked in the arts and in retail sales for more than 30 years as a gallery director, assistant gallery director, fine art consultant, gallery manager, custom frame shop manager, head of sales, and assistant store manager. I've sold well over \$10 million of original artwork.
- **Relationship-centered.** Long-lasting relationships with art collectors and artists, some for more than 30 years. I have clients who have followed me from gallery to gallery, and both art collector and artists friendships that live on outside of which gallery I happen to be working in.
- **Creative.** In addition to growing relationships and supporting art collectors and artists, I enjoy planning art exhibits and events, fine art layout and installation in galleries and collectors' homes, creating gallery and artist websites, and graphic design and creation of fine art catalogs, invitations to art exhibits and seasonal events, and advertisements.
- **Supportive.** Known in the Seattle-area arts community as a passionate life-long supporter of the arts, including as an art collector, and as a compassionate friend of artists who helps support artists across their careers.

Experience

Patricia Rovzar Gallery, Kirkland and Seattle, WA 1997-2021

- Gallery director and assistant gallery director
- Responsible for:
 - Establishing and building relationships with art lovers and collectors and growing and maintaining client friendships over multiple decades with life-long art collectors.
 - Educating art collectors about how art commissions happen. Helping artists and clients work together to design custom-made art work while allowing the artist the freedom to create their own unique work. Specialized in over-sized works and supporting artists in creating the largest pieces they'd ever created.
 - Building and growing artist relationships. Assisted with critiques, in-studio visits, art delivery and pickup, emotional support, and website creation.
 - Consulting. I conducted home art placement and installation consultations using PhotoShop.
 - Managing monthly art installation and delivery of art to art collectors' homes.
 - Designing monthly catalogs, invitations, and ads.
 - Updating art gallery website for monthly exhibitions by adding and resizing images, text, titles, and pricing.
 - Opening and closing the art gallery each day, which included daily sales receipts. In 24 years—through snowstorms, earthquakes, and riots—our gallery never opened late because I always got there and got it open.
 - Packing fine art for safe shipment.
- Assisted with:
 - Valuing art and setting gallery prices.
 - Co-hosting monthly art walks and art exhibitions.
 - Training new gallery employees. Helped others learn how to sell art, build client relationships, layout gallery and artwork installation.

Howard/Mandville Gallery, Kirkland, WA 1994-1997

- Head of sales

- Responsible for:
 - Building client relationships, presenting artwork to clients, selling art, and client follow up.
 - Training new employees in art sales, gallery layout and installations, and frame design.
 - Designing custom framing of original fine art and limited edition prints for client and gallery presentations.
 - Monthly gallery layout and installation.
 - Building and growing artist relationships. Assisted with critiques, in-studio visits, art delivery and pickup.
- Assisted with co-hosting monthly art walks and art exhibitions.

Kenneth Behm Art Gallery/Frame Shops, 1989-1996

- Gallery manager and manager of custom frame shops
- Responsible for:
 - Presenting artwork to clients, selling art, building client relationships, and client follow up.
 - Designing custom framing of original fine art and limited edition prints for client and gallery presentations.
 - Monthly gallery layout and installation.
 - Building and growing artist relationships, including assisting with critiques, in-studio visits, art delivery and pickup.

Education

Art Institute of Seattle, Seattle WA, A.A. in Visual Communications, May 1992. I studied life drawings with William Cummings with an overall focus on graphic design and letter design.

EB Custom Frame Resume – focused on specific skills...

Summary

Skills

Experience

1997-2021

Gallery director and assistant gallery director, Patricia Rovzar Gallery, Seattle, WA

1994-1997

Head of sales, Howard/Mandville Gallery, Kirkland, WA

1989-1996

Gallery manager and manager of custom frame shops, Kenneth Behm Gallery

Education

Art Institute of Seattle, Seattle WA

A.A. in Visual Communication, May 1992

- Studied life drawings with William Cummings
- Overall focus on graphic design and letter design