



THE STATE OF LEARNING

THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

Deputy Commissioner for Higher Education
Room 979 Education Building Addition
Albany, NY 12234
Phone: (518) 474-5851
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April 21, 1998

Sandra Joys, Director
Christie's Education, Inc.
502 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Ms. Joys:

I am pleased to inform you that on April 21, 1998 the Regents took the following action:

VOTED, that Christie's Education, Inc. of New York City, be granted authority to award the Master of Arts degree and the Advanced Certificate in Connoisseurship and the Art Market.

A copy of my recommendation is enclosed.

Sincerely,


Jeanine L. Grinage
Acting Deputy Commissioner

Enclosure



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Deputy Commissioner for Higher Education
Room 979 Education Building Addition
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March 31, 1998

ITEM FOR ACTION

To: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
Committee on Higher and Professional Education

Subject: Christie's Education, Inc.:
Request for Degree Authority

Christie's Education, Inc. of New York City has requested degree authority and approval to award a Master of Arts degree and an advanced certificate in Connoisseurship and the Art Market. It would operate as a proprietary institution. Regents approval is required to grant degree authority to Christie's Education, Inc. and to authorize the organization's first degree and advanced certificate programs.

The Institution: Christie's Education, Inc. is a subsidiary of the auction house Christie, Manson and Woods, Inc. It has offered a non-credit certificate program known as the New York Art Course, focusing on connoisseurship of fine and decorative arts, the art market, and the auction house since 1992. The organization has offered similar programs in the United Kingdom since 1978, and now operates programs in Glasgow, Paris and Sydney as well. Christie's Education, London is recognized in the U.K. as a provider of courses which lead to a graduate degree, and its students can apply their work toward an MA or M Phil degree at the University of Glasgow. The course also qualifies students to sit for the Royal Society of Arts Examinations. The New York course draws on the artistic, cultural, and academic resources of New York City, as well as Christie's auction house, its staff, its library resources and its acquisitions.

Faculty: The Christie's Education faculty consists of a Director of Studies, a small resident core faculty, and a distinguished adjunct faculty drawn from the leading graduate art institutions and museums in New York City. An Academic Advisory Board with representation from the New York art, museum, and auction house community assists the Director of Studies in planning and evaluating curriculum and learning resources.

Curriculum: The curriculum consists of 39 credits to be completed over a period of 12 months. It combines required courses in art history of the period 1850 to the 1990s with field study of works of art at auction and in public and private collections, and connoisseurship (the authentication and judgment of the quality of works of art, through their firsthand examination and knowledge of the observations and assessments of others). A six-credit internship, a Master's seminar and a Master's thesis complete the requirements. The Certificate will consist of 30 credits, including all components of the Master's degree except the Master's seminar and the thesis. Christie's Education has a close working relationship with Christie's Auction House and with a number of museums and galleries where its students take their required internship.

Resources: Christie's Education, Inc. has the financial, administrative, academic, and physical resources necessary to operate a higher education program. A tightly focused library collection specifically chosen to support the curriculum is supplemented by the large collection of the Christie's main library to which students have access, as well as the library collections of a number of other New

York libraries and museums. The Christie's Education facilities are equipped with adequate computer workstations and access to electronic media, and large slide and other visual collections supplement the print resources.

Enrollment: Enrollment in the master's degree and advanced certificate programs combined is not expected to exceed 50 students. All will be full-time, and about one quarter are expected to be international students.

Planning Review: Sixteen colleges responded to a canvass of all degree-granting institutions in the New York City region. One supported the proposal, 14 had no objections or concerns, and one, Pratt Institute, opposed the proposal on the grounds that it would duplicate programs such as the Pratt MS degree program in Theory, Criticism and History of Art, Design and Architecture. However, that program does not include the auction house emphasis that is so central to the Christie's program. As Pratt also noted, the Christie's program focuses intensively on the period from 1850 to the present, while the Pratt program takes a more traditional art history approach addressing the earliest prehistoric art to the present. For these reasons, and because Christie's has already been offering the non-credit New York Art Course to the same audience for some years, we do not believe that the Christie's proposed program, if approved, would adversely impact other institutions' programs.

Evaluation: The Office of College and University Evaluation has determined that the proposed programs, if approved, would meet the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Recommendation: Based on the foregoing, I recommend that the Regents take the following action:

VOTED, that Christie's Education, Inc. of New York City, be granted authority to award the Master of Arts degree and the Advanced Certificate in Connoisseurship and the Art Market.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanine L. Grinage
Acting Deputy Commissioner

Approved: _____

Date