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As the 2017 recipient of the University of Sydney’s Christie’s Internship it was my privilege to travel to London and spend 10 weeks in the Impressionist & Modern Art Department, working primarily on the June Evening Sale. Having the opportunity to see behind-the-scenes of a major, international art auction house and to work on one of the most important sales on the global auction calendar was an incredible experience.

The staff of the Impressionist & Modern Art Department were wonderful. They made me feel welcome, and were always willing to help if I had questions or needed assistance with a task. The Department work together as a team, and as such I assisted a range of staff members with projects they were working on. As an intern this is a fantastic system, as it not only gave me the chance to try different tasks and gain a wide range of skills, it also meant I had to opportunity to work with and get to know many of the staff in the Department.

The Impressionist & Modern Art Specialists would often give me various research tasks to complete. These tasks included crosschecking cataloguing information, such as literature references, exhibition history and provenance, as well as looking for evidence to confirm the authenticity of artworks. My research took me to libraries and archives across London as I tracked down obscure exhibition catalogues, artist monographs and catalogues raisonnés. I found these research tasks incredibly interesting and rewarding, and they quickly became one of my favourite aspects of the internship.

During my internship I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to watch whilst Specialists from the Impressionist & Modern Art Department conducted condition reports on Evening Sale artworks, including Monet’s *Le chemin creux*. The artworks were unframed, and the Specialists examined both sides of the canvas under UV light, and with a magnifying glass. The details that these processes revealed were remarkable. I had seen paintings by Monet in galleries and museums in the past, however viewing his work in this way was a completely new experience, and one I will never forget.
One of the highlights of my internship was watching the Evening Sale auction. The saleroom was packed to the brim, and the atmosphere was utterly electric. The sale was a major success, with auction records being set for Max Beckmann, Hannoh Höch and Georges Vantongerloo. It was wonderful to see the hard work and dedication of everyone in the Impressionist & Modern Art Department rewarded, and I felt very privileged to have been a part of the Evening Sale team.

The Christie’s Internship is an amazing and rare opportunity for anyone wishing to pursue a career in the artworld. The knowledge and experiences I gained through my time in the Impressionist & Modern Art Department are something I will always remember and value. I would like to thank the University of Sydney for this incredible opportunity, and wish future recipients all the very best.