

## Cynthia Winings Gallery Final Reflection

My experience working at the Cynthia Winings gallery was a valuable one. Not only was I able to learn in much greater depth the details behind running a gallery independently, but I was able to see firsthand the gallery's impact on the community. Throughout the summer, a number of visitors mentioned how much they enjoyed the gallery, and how wonderful it was to have a contemporary art gallery in the area. Many of the visitors had been coming in consistently for years, and it was really exciting to see that patronage.

I was also able to learn a number of new skills regarding show installation, something I will take with me into installing my own show come this spring. I was introduced to countless hanging techniques, and witnessed firsthand the difference effective lighting can have. Conversations with both Cynthia, the gallery owner, and visiting artists taught me a great amount about their own show experiences, and tips and tricks to better efficiency (and avoid accidents).

The more hands-on aspects of working in the gallery were definitely preferable to me. I enjoyed handling the pieces shown, installing them and taking them down, packaging them, and so on. I was also very excited to get to work on the sculpture garden- it was a great addition to the space, and one the community responded very well to. I found I was well suited to some of the more organizational aspects of running the gallery as well, and felt I handled event preparation well. I preferred the social and organizational

aspects of gallery management to overseeing the business-oriented details, such as sales, funds, and so on.

Overall, I found that though I feel I work well in gallery spaces, I lean more towards event coordination and curation than managerial work. Thus, though going into the internship I felt I may aim towards more managerial careers in the arts, I now feel that I am more inclined to professions that would include working more hands-on with art, artists, and the community.