

Behind the Exhibit

Cheyenne Stunger '22 uses her Bucknell experience to create museum magic

by Boone Thames

There is an important mantra in the world of museum etiquette: Look, but don't touch. Unless you're **Cheyenne Stunger '22**, whose job is to handle art with great care and finesse.

As an exhibition production specialist, Stunger is one of the few who handle pieces housed at the Harvard Art Museums. Her role provides logistical support for the exhibitions and loan-out programs, which involves preparing, installing and lighting artwork and display cases.

"I love being the person who gets to work with the objects in an intimate way," says Stunger, who recently helped install *It's Time*, an exhibition of LaToya Hobbs' life-sized woodcuts depicting scenes from the artist's life. "Handling not only the art but the graphics, the labels, all the little details that go into it ... It's so cool to see how everything contributes to an impactful visitor experience."

Museum work seems like a natural aim for an art history major, but Stunger's journey to the discipline wasn't clear-cut. She intended to hone in on computer science before a course taught by Professor Roger Rothman, art history, changed her mind.

"I was focused on selecting a major that would lead to a 'practical job,' but Rothman opened my eyes to a whole other realm of possibilities," she says. "After looking at art from a critical standpoint and seeing how interdisciplinary the field could be, I thought, 'I love this. I'm good at this. This is the direction I want to go.'"

During her time at Bucknell, Stunger worked at the Samek Art Museum as a collections and exhibitions assistant, gaining invaluable knowledge from staff — notably museum director Rick Reinhart, who mentored Stunger through the GenFirst! program.

Her path post-graduation has included a stint at KW Contemporary Art, a commercial gallery owned and operated by **Kiersten Wilcox '11**. In conjunction with her position at the Harvard Art Museums, Stunger is pursuing a master's in art history and museum studies at Tufts University.

"Bucknell started me off in the right direction, and so many people have served as mentors in my career already," she says. "It's empowering to have this whole network of connections that has supported and inspired me — and I'm excited for what the future holds."

Photo caption: Cheyanne Stunger '22 uses the hands-on knowledge gained at Bucknell in her work as an exhibition specialist.

Photo credit: Joe Duval

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wC1kUaRCXxke9KYph3UnB3by53tg1ABh/view?usp=drive_link