

Victoria R. Gray

Victoria Gray is a native San Franciscan and currently serves as a Vice President and Director for Bonhams & Butterfields Auction House as well as Head of the San Francisco office. Victoria holds a Bachelor's degree in Art History from Bucknell University and also completed a 6 month course of intensive Historical research studies at Syracuse University in Florence, Italy.

A practicing Art Historian for 2 decades Victoria worked for Sotheby's Auction House in New York prior to joining Bonhams & Butterfields in San Francisco in 2003. Victoria's tenure at Bonhams started the Fine European & American Furniture and Decorative Arts Department where she focused solely on collections of important furniture and decorations. Victoria was responsible for putting together the catalogue for the collections and assisting with the research and writing of scholarly essays, highlighting the local historical context around each piece. In 2005 she moved into the Trusts & Estates Department working with large public and private collections from estates.

In 2007 and 2008 Victoria worked regularly in Bonhams' Hong Kong office helping to drive the company's expansion in the Asian Market including holding the first wine auction in Hong Kong in 2007. In 2008 Victoria was relocated to Bonhams' New York office where she was Head of the Trusts & Estates Department on the East Coast for 5 years. In 2012 Victoria was relocated back to the San Francisco office where she runs the Trusts & Estates group for Northern California in addition to serving as Head of the San Francisco office. Victoria advises trust officers, estate planning attorneys, wealth managers, certified public accountants and professional fiduciaries on all aspects of tangible personal property including appraisals, conservation, restoration, auctions and private treaty sales.

In Victoria's current capacity she is responsible for the historical research and writing of scholarly essays surrounding important Bay Area estate collection. In recent years this has included the handling of some of the most historically important San Francisco figures and families such as Helene & Charles Templeton Crocker of the Big Four and Charlotte and George Shultz. Victoria has also advised, researched and successfully handled the auctions of historically important items such a relief sculptures from the Palace of Fine Arts and longtime San Francisco institutions such as the bars Henry Africa and Eddie Rickenbacker's.

In addition to her Trusts & Estates responsibilities Victoria has also served as one of Bonhams chief auctioneers since 2014, selling auctions ranging from wine, guns, jewelry, Asian Works of Art and Fine Art. Victoria is a frequent lecturer and often speaks on topics including the art market, primary source research topics and conservation issues to groups including Santa Clara University, ArtTable, Society of Trusts & Estates Practitioners, American College of Trusts & Estate Counsel, Peninsula Estate Planning Council and local historical societies.

When not working Victoria enjoys spending time with her husband and three-year-old twins. She currently serves on the executive committee for the Edgewood Auxiliary of the Edgewood Center for Children and Families. Victoria is a native San Francisco, born and raised in the city and enjoys showing her family and friends all the city has to offer.