

Q&A with Carrie Imberman

Tell us about your professional journey? What inspired you to pursue a career in this field?

Previously, I worked in fashion and costume and set construction. I've always had a deep affinity for the material and I think that, especially when it's the family business, it's always lurking there in the back of your mind.

What challenges have you faced in a typically male-dominated industry, and how have you overcome them?

Where do I start??? I'll use the example I face almost weekly when a new potential client comes into the shop, they almost always presume that my younger brother is the "boss" and I'm the "shopgirl." I've overcome challenges by being very good at what I do.

I have definitely seen positive changes and we continue to thrive as a business that was founded by women whose core clientele are predominantly women buying for themselves.

How do you perceive the role of women in the art market today compared to, let's say, a decade ago?

I'm not sure I perceive a huge difference in the role per se, I certainly hope there's more access.

In your opinion, what unique perspectives or contributions do women bring to the art dealing profession?

What is fascinating to me is that many of our jewelry client's are contemporary art dealers and it's clear to me that they don't think of jewelry as art. At best they relegate it to the decorative arts....Not only do I think of my metier as Art, I also can relate to the end user which in my field is overwhelmingly female.

How do you think you can best support the next generation of women art/antiques/jewelry dealers?

By continuing to hire and support women and other women dealers.



What woman has been a trailblazer in the industry and has helped bring scholarship, expertise, and visibility to a particular field?

I owe a huge debt to my predecessors including, my mother, Marcie Imberman, my aunt, Ellen Israel, and trailblazers like Camilla Dietz Bergeron.

What advice would you give to women looking to enter the art field, and how can you best support the next generation?

I learned almost everything I know by physically handling pieces and asking a lot of questions. Knowledge is empowerment. Educate yourself! The more you know about your chosen field the more your gender becomes irrelevant and your expertise will be the salient point.