

Making it Possible

Guardian Fine Art Services



Photo credit: Robb Quinn

GUARDIAN is the gold standard of fine art services. Located at 1635 West St. Paul Avenue in Milwaukee's Menomonee Valley, this five-story building, originally constructed in 1924, today houses a state-of-the-art facility for fine art.

At the helm of this endeavor is John Shannon, a longtime MOWA member together with his wife, Jan Serr, who has exhibited at the museum in its former location and its Saint John's On The Lake satellite gallery. As avid collectors, they graciously opened their home to MOWA's Friends of Wisconsin Art in 2015 as part of the collectors' tour series. Their personal collection of 4,000 objects, passion for collecting, and expertise (John is a former Board President of the Racine Art Museum), was the impetus for launching GUARDIAN, which fills a distinct niche in Wisconsin.

Over the past year since GUARDIAN has been in operation, it has often been referred to as a place for fine art storage. That emphasis on place may emerge from the impressively pristine facility,

with every system flawlessly purpose-built for fine art. As the name GUARDIAN suggests, there is also an emphasis on service with a great degree of personalization involved. In addition to storage, GUARDIAN offers services including collection management, packing and crating, installation, appraisals and conservation consultations, and transportation. Viewing rooms for meetings and seminars serve as a resource for collectors, whether museums, corporations, or individuals. A dedicated workshop, an internal loading dock, and more, the business employs best practices and expert staff.

On entering the facility, you first encounter an exhibition space dubbed The Warehouse, which currently displays *Concentrations*, highlights from the collection of John and Jan. Who better than art lovers dedicated to art's long-term safety and well-being to fill a void in the market and assist with its custodianship? We are lucky to have GUARDIAN looking over our shoulders and appreciate its support of MOWA.

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