

About Franklin Silverstone

Franklin Silverstone, the founder and Chairman of Collectify, has been an art consultant, appraiser, and auction house expert for over 40 years. In fact, his experience as an arts professional led to the realization that no adequate software existed to help collectors manage their collections.

In 1966, Mr. Silverstone joined Phillips Son & Neale, the third largest auction house in the world, which was based in his native England. By 1972, he was a partner in Phillips, as well as the director of the company's Fine Art department. During this time, Mr. Silverstone cataloged thousands of paintings for Phillips, worth tens of millions of dollars.

Mr. Silverstone moved to Canada in 1975, to head Phillips's expansion into North America. He established salesrooms in Montreal, Toronto, and New York City.

He left Phillips in 1979 to form Franklin Silverstone Fine Arts, through which he is a private dealer, buying and selling paintings, drawings, and sculpture for clients, as well as being an appraiser and consultant specializing in 18th and 19th century paintings. The company continues to consult to The Royal Trust Company, Canada's leading trust company, as well as smaller concerns and individual clients in North America.

In 1981, Mr. Silverstone began working as the curator for Charles Bronfman, formerly Joint Chairman of Jos. E. Seagram, MCA Universal, and Polygram, and Mr. Bronfman's wife, Andrea. That relationship also led to Mr. Silverstone's appointment as curator for the Claridge Collection of Canadian Arts and Crafts, positions he still holds.

After building the collection for eight years, in 1995 Mr. Silverstone oversaw the digitization of the Claridge Collection. Through that process, he reviewed scores of software packages that combined the functions that a collections management system should have. During the review, he discovered that no commercially available software fulfilled the needs for recording, tracking, and managing information about art, antiques, and collectibles collections – whether the collectors were individuals, curators, or galleries. When no company addressed those needs, despite the increasing penetration of computers into households, Mr. Silverstone founded Collectify, which is releasing its first software product, MyStuff, in October 2001.

Mr. Silverstone is a member of the Appraisers Association of America. He lives in New York City with his wife Holly Hotchner, Director of the Museum of Arts and Design.

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