

Houston Chronicle
Saturday, Sept. 18, 1993

Europe's Finest Collections Influence Galleria Artist

By **KATE MURPHY**
ThisWeekend Correspondent

Inspired by the great art collections housed in Europe's finest museums, Jacqueline Hamilton has dedicated her life to sharing the beauty of creative expression with others. An art consultant for 14 years, Hamilton strives to help private collectors and corporations find pieces that not only decorate their spaces but fundamentally enrich their surroundings.

"I love what I do because I think I make a tremendous difference for the better in people's lives. Art stimulates the environment and where there is stimulation, there is growth," said Hamilton who lives and offices in the Galleria area.

Educated at Texas Christian University, Stockholm University, Harvard, Tufts and Rice, Hamilton asserted her most valuable education has been seeing and doing.

"I have been fortunate to travel abroad extensively," she said. "This gave me the benefit of seeing all the great masterpieces in person rather than in a textbook. It was a high to view works that really spoke to me."

She continued that it was this first hand and self-motivated study of pieces in Europe, Asia and Africa that cultivated the critical eye that has procured art for such notables as Transco Co. Inc., Fidelity Investments, Arthur Anderson & Co. and Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.

"There is also no education like experience," Hamilton said. "I learn something new every single day working as an art consultant. Over the years you learn to decipher client's needs, define their problems and satisfy their requirements.

"Additionally, you develop vast resources of artists, galleries, framers, conservators and restorers so you can appropriately handle any job."

'Most businesses realize that you
just can't go buy a piece of art
and stick it on the wall.'

Jacqueline Hamilton

Hamilton's self-started firm offers a vast array of art services. From appraisals, cataloguing and insuring to buying, installing and conserving, she assists novice and veteran collectors alike.

The majority of her clientele hearken from the corporate world who need tasteful pieces to compliment their offices.

"Most businesses realize that you just can't go buy a piece of art and stick it on the wall. A qualified art professional is important in ensuring they get value, proper presentation and projection of the desired theme," said Hamilton.

A particular challenge for Hamilton is when clients request a commissioned work. In these instances it is her responsibility to convey her customer's vision to the creative mind of the artist.

"I then maintain constant contact to ensure the translation adheres to the client's intent," said Hamilton. "I am the liaison that makes it happen."

A recent and particularly successful example of Hamilton's interpretive skills is the sky mural and ivy stenciling adorning the Galleria III. Hamilton supervised the six-month project for Gerald Hines Interests, often clambering up the scaffolding to collaborate with the artist.

"I see myself as an art trouble shooter. Clients tell me their problem and I solve it," said Hamilton. "It can be something as large as needing pieces for 12 floors of an office building or as small as wanting one special piece for the lobby of a small business. I do it all."

Not only does Hamilton handle all kinds of collectors and their concomitant dilemmas, she also deals in every media. Her expertise goes far beyond traditional painting and sculpture. She is well versed in the subtleties of photography, tapestry, graphics and fiber art.

"I could be buying a sculpture one day and a tapestry the next or an abstract today and a western piece tomorrow," said Hamilton.

Regardless of media or genre, Hamilton asserts her greatest joy is to see an employee of one of her corporate clients pause before one of the pieces she acquired and exhibit the same passion and appreciation she felt standing in the museums of Europe.