



# Appraiser Brings Real-World Skills to classroom

*When Allison Gee is not teaching art history at Rio Salado she appraises fine art at her Valley-based firm, Appraisals by Allison.*

Rio Salado College adjunct faculty member Allison Gee not only teaches art, she appraises it as well.

"Art always reflects the period of the artist and society," Gee said. "It shows quite a bit of who we are and where we have been. It shows laws, values and culture."

Gee's knowledge of art reaches beyond the classroom. When she is not teaching art history and humanities classes, she runs Appraisals By Allison, a nationwide fine-art appraisal firm based in the Valley.

Gee specializes in the appraisal of American and European paintings, sculptures and works on paper. Gee has evaluated works by Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Salvador Dali, Marc Chagall and Robert Indiana.

"As a professional appraiser, I have to keep up with the art world," Gee said. "Adding my appraisal work to the classroom allows me to bring real-world experiences to my classes."

Being an online instructor, Gee's students are found all over the world.

"I've had students contact me from Paris, Milan, and the Middle East," Gee said. "It's one of the things that make teaching online interesting. Students in different parts of the state, country or world have access to different works of art."

Keeping herself and students up to date with art movements has kept the teacher busy. Gee is active in the Phoenix-Metro Chapter of the American Society of Appraisers, and was elected an officer of the local chapter, which included a stint as the group's president.

Outside of Arizona, Gee has conducted research at many of the world's finest museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Casa Buonarroti in Florence, Italy.

Gee is certified to teach art history at the community college level in the state of Arizona. She often suggests places for students to see original works.

"There have been times when a student has written a paper about an artist, and during the same week or even the same day, I was holding an original piece by that particular artist," Gee said. "It's moments like these that I feel like I am bringing more to my classes."