
Oberlin College Library - Reference Guide Series

⚡ Researching An Artist: Basic Tools

Biography (Artists)

Artist Biographies Master Index.

Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., c1986.

Art Library Reference, N 40 .A78 1986

A time-saver, this index compiles entries from approximately 80 artist biographical dictionaries into a single alphabetical list. Under each artist's name is one or more codes for dictionaries with biographies for that artist. (The codes and the dictionaries they stand for are listed in the front.) This is also a good place to check for spellings of difficult names and lesser-known artists. The dictionaries indexed cover painters, sculptors, illustrators, designers, graphic artists, craftsmen, architects, and photographers. NOTE: Citations in the *Artist Biographies Master Index* are included in the *Biography and Genealogy Master Index* (online); search OBIS for the title *biography and gen*

[BQP 9/5/03]

Contemporary Artists.

Colin Naylor and Genesis P. Orridge eds. London: St. James Press ; New York : St. Martin's Press, 1977. 2nd ed., 1983. 3rd ed., 1989. 4th ed., c1996, 5th ed. 2002 (in Art Ref.). Art N 6490 .C6567

Arranged alphabetically by artist, this guide lists profiles of over 800 of the "most significant artists of our time" (roughly 1940 to 1996, since no artist who died before 1965 is included). Each profile includes brief biographical information, a list of exhibitions, collections, publications, (both by and about the artist), and a signed, brief discussion of the artist's work. Many entries also include illustrations, artist statements and interview excerpts. The earlier editions are still useful since the artists included change with each edition.

[BQP 10/8/03]

Contemporary Designers.

Colin Naylor, ed. Chicago and London: St. James Press, 1990. 2nd ed. 1997, 3rd ed. (in Art Ref.)

Art Ref. NK 1166 C66

Arranged alphabetically by artist, this guide lists profiles of significant 20th century designers. Each profile includes brief biographical information, a list of exhibitions, collections, publications, (both by and about the artist), and a signed, brief discussion of the designer's work. Many entries also include illustrations, artist statements and interview excerpts. The earlier edition is still useful since the list of designers included changes with each edition.

[BQP 10/8/03]

Contemporary Photographers.

Colin Naylor, ed. Chicago and London: St. James Press, 1988. 2nd ed.; 1995, 3rd ed. (in Art Ref.).

Art Ref. TR 139.C663

The arrangement of material is similar to *Contemporary Artists* and to *Contemporary Designers* (above). About 750 photographers are covered. The earlier editions are still useful since the photographers included change with each edition. [BQP

10/8/03]

Index to artistic biography.

Havlice, Patricia Pate.

Metuchen, N.J., Scarecrow Press, 1973. 2 v. 1st Suppl. 1981; 2nd Suppl. 2002

Art Reference: N 40 .H38

Abstract: As with *The Artist Biographies Master Index* (Art Ref. N 40 .A78 1986), *The Index to Artistic Biography* gives very little actual biographical information for the artists included (70,000 in the 1973 edition; 44,000 in the 1981 supplement; 97,600 in the 2002 supplement). Rather, Havlice indicates sources where biographical information can be found. Abbreviated references are given in each entry, coming from 265 biographical dictionaries published between 1902 and the early 2000's (64 sources in the 1973 edition; 70 sources in the 1981 supplement; 131 sources in the 2002 supplement). Variant spellings and alternate names are given in parentheses following the artist's name. This work is one of the first places to check for artist biographies especially when looking for more obscure artists. Note: The 1973 edition of Havlice is particularly useful as it excludes artists covered in the 1960-66 edition of Bénézit (Art Ref. N 40 .B47) and in Bryan's *Dictionary of Painters and Engravers* (Art Ref. N 40 .B94 1903a) as well as in Thieme-Becker (Art Ref. N 40 .T4) and Vollmer (Art Ref. N 40 .T412).

[BQP 9/5/03]

Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

ArtSpeak: a guide to contemporary ideas, movements, and buzzwords.

Atkins, Robert. New York: Abbeville Press Publishers, 1990. 1st ed

Art Ref. N 6490 .A87 1990

Artspoke: a guide to modern ideas, movements, and buzzwords, 1848-1944.

Atkins, Robert. New York: Abbeville Press, c1993. 1st ed

Art Ref. N 6447 .A85 1993

Contemporary Masterworks.

Colin Naylor (Ed.). New York: St. James Press, 1991.

Art Ref. N 6490 .C65675 1991

This guide "features entries on 450 individual works of art architecture, photography and design which have achieved the status of 'masterpiece' or 'classic' and have made a "significant contribution to twentieth century culture." The focus is on work produced after 1945. Entries are alphabetized by creator and include photos illustrating the work and a critical essay evaluating its importance followed by a bibliography.

[BQP 2/3/97 MJR 2/8/02]

The Dictionary of art. Turner, Jane, ed.

The Dictionary of art. (printed). New York : Grove's Dictionaries, 1996. .34 v.

Art Reference: N 31 .D5 1996

Grove dictionary of art (online). New York, NY: Grove's Dictionaries, Inc., 1999- .

Search OBIS for the title *grove dictionary*

A comprehensive art encyclopedia, this ambitious work covers all media, countries and historical periods. Survey articles discuss the cultures, civilizations and countries of Africa, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, the Ancient Near East, Ancient Rome, Central Asia and Mongolia, China, India, the Islamic world, Japan, Korea, Native North America, Pacific and Aboriginal Australia, Pre-Columbian Americas, and Southeast Asia. Articles on non-Western cultures cover the full range of art forms produced, from architecture to the fine and decorative arts; for some media and cultures this is the first discussion available in English. Additionally the architecture of every nation and culture in the world is surveyed in the country and civilization essays as is the urban culture of 1,350 cities world-wide. Artistic styles, movements and theories are discussed as are forms, themes and subject matter. Art materials, techniques and conservation are also included. The signed articles have bibliographies.

The printed *Dictionary of Art* claims to have the "largest single collection of image available in an art publication" and the "most comprehensive series of bibliographies in the art-historical world." The index does not follow standard alphabetical rules; please ask for help. The online *Dictionary of Art* does not have the extensive images available in print, but the online essays are slowly being updated so it is more current. [BQP 8/18/03; MJR 08/29/02]

Pronunciation dictionary of artists' names.

Edelstein, Debra.

Art Institute of Chicago. Boston: Little, Brown, and Co.,1993. 3rd rev. ed.

Provides phonetic pronunciations of artists' names. Also noted is the artist's gender, primary artistic medium, nationality and birth and death date. Includes artists from Western Europe, North American, South American and Australia. A useful resource that can be used to advantage with McConkey's *Klee as in Clay* (Art Ref. NX 163.M3 1992).

[BQP 11/19/01]

Handbooks

Art history and its methods: a critical anthology.

Fernie, E. C. London: Phaidon Press Ltd., 1995.

Art Reference: N 85 .F475 1995

Abstract: This anthology introduces students of art history to the variety of theoretical methods and approaches used to analyze art. Divided into three main sections, this book begins with a broad historical overview of the development of various theories and methods, and continues with a compilation of selected texts by authors. In section two, each author provides in-depth discussions about the wide range of methodological approaches related to their respective fields. The third section contains a glossary of concepts and subjects relevant to the analysis of art. This is a tremendously valuable tool for understanding the theoretical approaches utilized frequently by art historians, and placing them in a larger art historical framework. [MJR 08/30/02]

Critical terms for art history.

Nelson, Robert S. and Richard Shiff. 2d ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Art Reference: N 34 .C75 2003

This book is a compilation of essays by various art historians who seek to place words and

concepts relevant to contemporary art historical analysis within a historiographical and theoretical framework. The essays evaluate issues surrounding the usage of terms, illustrate their significance and utility, and employ concepts in an interpretation of a particular work of art. For further research, the editors have kindly included a suggested reading list (in addition to the general bibliography) for deepened discussions of art history methodology and historiography. [MJR]

2/25/02; BQP 8/18/03]

Iconography

Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art.

Hall, J. London: J. Murray, 1984. Rev. ed., 1st pbk. Ed
Art Library, Reference N 7560 .H34 1984

A dictionary of themes common to western art, especially those arising from classical and Christian sources, primarily from the Renaissance onward. Included are persons (and personifications), objects (especially attributes), and common events (e.g., The Raising of Lazarus). Special attention is paid to the interpretation of symbols in art. There is a bibliography and list of sources at the beginning of the dictionary and an index at the end, but no illustrations. [BQP 7/12/01]

Iconography of Christian art / Ikonographie der christlichen Kunst.

Schiller, Gertrud. London: Lund Humphries, 1971-1972. Translated by Janet Seligman.
Art Ref. N 7830 .S3513 -- English translation of volumes 1 & 2:

Vol. 1. *Christ's Incarnation, Childhood, Baptism, Temptation, Transfiguration, Works and miracles;*

Vol. 2. *The Passion of Jesus Christ*

Art Ref. N 7830 .S35 -- German original of volumes 3, 4 & 5:

Bd. 3 *Die Auferstehung und Erhöhung Christi*, (The Resurrection and Raising of Christ)

Bd. 4, t. pt.1, *Die Kirche*, (The Church); pt. 2, *Maria*, (Mary);

Bd. 5 (pt. 1 text, pt. 2 plates). *Die Apokalypse des Johannes*, (The Book of Revelation).

A comprehensive tool for the study of Christian iconography in art, Schiller's complete work consists of 5 volumes, 2 of which have been translated into English. The set describes the major events in the life of Christ and those figures closely associated with Him. Following each entry is a description of how this event or concept has typically been interpreted in works of art. For each Schiller investigates the origin, traces the changes they undergo as they develop, their connection with biblical texts, dogma, the liturgy, devotional writing and religious trends. Interpretation of symbolism is also provided. A bibliography and over 1,300 black and white illustrations are included. And, unlike Réau (Art Ref. N 7830 .R37), which it complements, Schiller has a large number of plates.

[BQP 10/28/02]

Museum Catalogs

Masterworks for learning: a college collection catalogue [CD-ROM].

Allen Memorial Art Museum

Oberlin College, Allen Memorial Art Museum; [catalogue editor, Jenny Squires Wilker]

Oberlin, OH: Oberlin College, c1998

Art Library, Limited Access N650 .A65 1998

Main Library, Reference CD-ROM N650 .A65 1998 c.3

Web www.oberlin.edu/

The first place to go for information about objects in the Allen Memorial Art Museum (AMAM), this multi-media CD is divided into two main sections. "The Museum" introduces the AMAM, its history, and its educational goals. "The Catalogue" presents 171 illustrated scholarly entries on selected paintings, drawings, sculpture, prints, and decorative arts in the AMAM collection, in addition to brief label information on all works in the collection. Double click on thumbnails to display essays, provenance, and bibliographies for illustrated works.

Periodical Indexes

Art Abstracts (Online), 1984-. H.W. Wilson Company

Note: Previous title *Art Index*.

Search OBIS for the title *art abstracts*

Abstract: Lists citations to articles in fine art journals by subject and author (of the article) published since 1929. The most widely used art index in the U.S., *Art Abstracts* covers all periods and all media. Abstracts are included for selected articles starting in the mid-1990's. Reproductions of art are indexed by artist and title of the piece. Exhibition catalogs and books are not included, although reviews of each are. Book reviews are included from the mid-1970's onward; *Art Index* (Art Z 5937 .A78) (the print predecessor of *Art Abstracts*), has book reviews from 1929 onward. [BQP 8/18/03]

ARTbibliographies MODERN.

Santa Barbara, Calif. : American Bibliographical Center-Clio Press.

Paper: v.1 - v.24#2, (1969-1993), Z 5935 .L64

Web: 1974 - present.

ARTbibliographies MODERN (ABM) indexes and abstracts articles dealing with 20th century art in about 300 US and foreign periodicals, more than half of which are in English. US and foreign books, artists' books, exhibition catalogs, *festschriften* and theses are also included in an attempt to cover all relevant material published since 1972. (Theses are culled from *Dissertation Abstracts International*.) A particular emphasis is placed upon adding new and lesser-known artists and on the coverage of foreign-language literature. *ABM* is one of the few sources that lists individual artists participating in group shows. *ABM* also includes exhibition catalogs from nearly 400 museums and galleries in Europe and North America indexing around 800 exhibition catalogs annually. The subjects of art and design are emphasized; architecture and 19th century art are covered until 1988. Photography is included from its invention in 1839 to the present.

[BQP 10/7/03]

Reproductions

The American art book.

London: Phaidon, 1999
Art N 6505 .A57 1999

The Art Book. London: Phaidon Press, Ltd., 1994.

Art Reference N 40 .A775 1994

The Art Book, is a unique dictionary; each page has a full color reproduction of a work, beginning with a brief entry about the artist. 500 artists from medieval to modern times are included in alphabetical order. References link similar styles and movements. A brief Glossary of Terms, a Glossary of Artistic Movements and a Directory of Museums and Galleries completes the work.

3/12/97]

[BQP

Base Joconde bienvenue [electronic resource].

[France] : Ministre de la Culture et de la Communication. [1999?]- .

Search OBIS for the title *base joconde*

Abstract: The database *Joconde* consists of more than 130,000 works, from the 7th century to the present, housed in more than 75 French museums, representing thousands of artists. Includes paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures, photographs and other art objects in French public collections. Information varies from record to record but often includes provenance, condition, and bibliographies. Works reproduced are in the public domain. Use *Joconde* to determine the location of works, the existence of works, search for objects by location and subject, or artist and subject.

[BQP 6/19/02]

The Black artist in America: an index to reproductions.

Thomison, Dennis. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1991.

Art Ref. N 6538 .N5 T46 1991

An index to reproductions in books, periodicals and exhibition catalogs through 1990 and primarily published in the United States. Both artists born in America and those born elsewhere who made their home in the United States are included. Includes biographical references and a subject index.

[BQP 10/15/02]

Contemporary art and artists: an index to reproductions.

Parry, Pamela Jeffcott. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1978

Art Ref. N 6490 .P3234

An index to reproductions of works of art created between 1940 and the mid-1970's. All media are included except architecture.

[MJR 2/14/02]

OhioLINK Digital Media Center databases [electronic resource].

Ohio Library and Information Network. [Columbus, Ohio] : OhioLINK, 1999-.

Search OBIS for the title *ohiolink digital*"

Abstract: Provides access to images, sounds, video, numeric data, and other types of media information. Users are able to search by attributes such as date, title, or creator, and view both thumbnail and full images. Divided into broad categories such as Art and Architecture.

Photographers encyclopedia international from its beginnings to the present (Encyclopédie internationale des photographes des débuts à nos jours).

Auer, Michèle Neuchâtel [Switzerland] : Ides et calendes, c1997

Art CD-ROMs TR 139 .A943 1997

An electronic encyclopedia containing biographies, exhibition lists, bibliographies and addresses of 3,135 photographers, less complete information for 3,000 others, plus a chronology of the history of photography, a lexicon of processes, and more than 5,900 images. [MJR 3/02]

Smithsonian American Art Museum (a.k.a. National Museum of American Art)

<http://nmaa-ryder.si.edu/home.html> (Select *Collections and Exhibitions*)

"Browse the Collection" leads to a database of over 14,000 images from the Museum's collections which can searched by subject and artist. A database of hundreds of photography images ("Helios") is also available. [BQP 10/7/03]

The 20th Century Art Book.

London: Phaidon Press, Ltd., 1996.

Art Ref. N 6490 .T85 1996

The 20th-Century Art Book is a unique dictionary that emphasizes images rather than text. Each page is a full color reproduction of a work and a very brief entry on the artist. Only twentieth-century artists (500; primarily from the west) are included. Use this tool for a quick visual overview of the century or for an example of a specific artist's style. Entries include references to other artists working in a similar style. Also included is a very selective "Directory of Museums and Galleries." For similar treatment of western art from other centuries, see *The Art Book* (Art Ref. N 40 .A775 1994). [BQP 10/14/02, MJR 5/22/02]

Victorian art reproductions in modern sources: a bibliography.

Garrigan, Kristine Ottesen. New York: Garland Pub., 1991. Series: *Garland reference library of the humanities*; vol. 1225.

Art Library Z 5961 .G7 G37 1991

World painting index. Havlice, Patricia Pate.

First supplement, 1973-1980. Second supplement, 1980-1989. Third supplement, 1990-1999.

Metuchen, N.J. : Scarecrow Press, 1977

Art Reference ND 45 .H38

An index to images of paintings in books and the first place to look when someone wants an image of a particular painting, especially if the painting is by a well-known western artist. Paintings are listed by artist and then title (vol. 1); a title index is available in volume 2. Under each artist in volume 1 is a list of works; each work is followed by a number. The number refers to a list of books in the front. The letter "c" after a number indicates the image is in color. [BQP 10/12/98]

Style Manuals

Barnet, Sylvan. *A Short Guide to Writing about Art.*

New York : Longman, c2000. 6th ed.

Art Library, Reference N 7476 .B37 2000

Chicago Manual of Style. 15th edition
Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.
Art Library, Reference Z 253 .U69 2003

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA handbook for writers of research papers*. 5th edition.
New York : Modern Language Association of America, 1999.
Art Library, Reference LB 2369 .G53 1999

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.
Chicago : University of Chicago Press, 1996
6th ed. Rev. by John Grossman and Alice Bennett.
Art Library, Reference LB 2369 .T8 1996

MSWORD OSX
Barb/library instruction/classes/Intro to Art History/IntroArtHist.doc
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