
Oberlin College Library - Reference Guide Series

⚡ How to Find Book Reviews in Art

Book reviews are included in many Art History journals; periodical indexes provide an efficient way to locate reviews of specific titles. There are two major Art History periodical indexes that include reviews of recent books, *Art Abstracts* and *The Bibliography of the History of Art*.

Art Abstracts.

New York, H.W. Wilson.

Paper: 1929 - 1984; Art Library, Z 5937 .A78 (also called *The Art Index*)

Web: 1929 - present; updated quarterly.

Art Abstracts lists citations to articles in fine art journals by subject and author (of the article). Reproductions of works of art are also included and listed by artist. *Art Abstracts* covers over 300 US and foreign serials in "archaeology, architecture, art history, city planning, crafts, films, graphic arts, industrial design, interior design, landscape architecture, museology, photography, and related fields."

Finding Book Reviews in *Art Index* / *Art Abstracts*:

Print (Art Index)

In the **print version** book reviews are found two different ways:

- From volume 1 (1929) to volume 21 (1972/73) books reviews are listed in the body of the index alphabetically by author (of the book being reviewed).
- Starting with volume 22 (1974/75) to our last printed volume (volume 40, 1991/92) book reviews have their own special "Book Review" section in the back of every volume.

Web (Art Abstracts):

In the **web version** of *Art Abstracts* book reviews are included from the mid-1970's forward.

- Type *book review* in the "Keyword or phrase:" search box;
- Next to "Words In:" select "Article Title" from the drop down menu and enter the title of the book being reviewed:

Enter words or phrases to find and click the Search button:

Keyword or phrase: **book review**

Words In: Article Title **mining the museum**

Bibliography of the History of Art / Bibliographie D'Histoire de L'Art (BHA).

Santa Monica, CA: J. Paul Getty Trust, Getty Art History Information Program, c1991 - .
Created by the merger of *RILA* and *RAA* in 1989.

Paper: RAA -- 1910 - 1973. Art Library, Reference. 1974-1989, Storage.

RILA --1973/75 - 1989. Storage.

BHA -- 1989/91 - 1996. Art Library, Z 5937 .B53.

Web: 1973/75 - present, updated annually. Search OBIS for the title *BHA*.

An index to the literature of European art from late Antiquity (4th century A.D.) to the present and "American art from the European discoveries to the present," *BHA* also includes art from anywhere in the world reflecting contact with the West. The Fine Arts are covered (architecture, sculpture, painting, drawing and prints) as well as decorative and applied arts including popular art, folk art, and "all objects of material culture that are of interest to the art historian." Film as a dramatic art is not included, but photography and all new media are covered.

BHA's coverage includes: books, periodical articles, conference proceedings, exhibition catalogs, selected reviews, and dissertations. Over 3,000 periodical titles are indexed in part or in full. Entries in the printed index are arranged in a broad outline or classification scheme. Author, subject and journal indexes are included in the back of each quarterly update, and are cumulated at the end of each year.

Finding Book Reviews in *BHA*:

Print BHA:

In the **print version** of *BHA*, look up the author being reviewed in the cumulative author index for each year. A double asterisk (**) next to an entry indicates an author who's work is the subject of a review.

Book reviews are also included in *RILA*; look in the 5 year cumulative indexes under the author being reviewed. A single asterisk (*) next to an entry indicates an author who's work is the subject of a review.

Web BHA:

To find book and exhibition reviews in the **web version** of *BHA*, on the search menu:

- Select "title word"
- Enter the name of the book or exhibition being reviewed in the box
- Select "search."
-

If the resulting set is too large to browse, from the search results screen:

- Select "limit" (near the top of the title list).
In the "Eureka Limit Search" dialog box select:
 - "form/genre"
 - "review"
 - "Apply Limit"