

RESEARCH GUIDE

Art and Art History Resources

George Mason University Libraries

Books pertaining to the study of art generally have call numbers that begin with N. All works on this guide are held in Fenwick Reference, unless otherwise noted (works with an "*" are also held at Johnson Center Library Reference). All journals are located in the Periodicals Room of Fenwick Library.

I. Subject Encyclopedias and Dictionaries

The Dictionary of Art
REF. N33. D5 1996 v.1-34

New, scholarly and comprehensive guide covering antiquity to the present. Includes illustrations and bibliographies. A standard source, excellent starting point.

Encyclopedia of World Art
REF. N31. E6 v.1-17

Older scholarly work, yet still important. Covers artists, movements, movements, and all forms of art from all periods. Numerous plates and extensive bibliographies.

**McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Art*
REF. N33. M3 v.1-5

15,000 short entries covering techniques, styles, artists, and museums. Extensive illustrations.

**Oxford Companion to Art*
REF. N33. O9

Encyclopedia for general information. Short articles on styles, techniques, movements, artists. Includes bibliographies.

Oxford Dictionary of Art
REF. N33. O93 1997

Updated version of the *Oxford Companion*, yet both remain useful.

Illustrated Dictionary of Architecture
REF. NA31. B83 1998

Covers antiquity to the present. Over 5,000 definitions and 2,000 illustrations.

**Encyclopedia of Architecture*
REF. NA31. E59

Excellent introduction to many topics, especially those a materials science nature.

II. General Art Histories

**Gardner's Art Through the Ages*
FENWICK AND JOHNSON CENTER LIBRARY STACKS N500. G25 1991

An art history standard, referred to as "Gardner."

History of Art
REF. N5300. J3 1997

Widely used, standard textbook referred to as "Janson." Survey of world art from antiquity to the twentieth century.

Pelican History of Art
FENWICK AND JOHNSON CENTER LIBRARY STACKS

Multi-volume survey on all areas of art with bibliographies and plates. Individual volumes have unique call numbers; for a list of the volumes owned by GMU, perform a title search for "Pelican History of Art," in the catalog.

III. Biographical Information

Allgemeines Lexikon der Bildenden Künstler von der Antike bis zur Gegenwart
REF. N40. A64 1979 v.1-37

Commonly referred to as "Thieme-Becker" after the editors. Comprehensive dictionary covering artists in every genre of visual art. In German.

Allgemeines Lexikon der Bildenden Künstler de XX Jahrhunderts
REF. N40. V6 v.1-6

Companion to Thieme-Becker, covering artists beginning in 1870. In German.

Art Books: A Basic Bibliography of Monographs on Artists
REF. N40. A78 1997

Bibliography of books on artists, an excellent resource to locate catalogues raisonné.

Index to Artistic Biography
REF. N40. H38 v.1-2

Index to bibliographical dictionaries of artists of all periods.

World Artists, 1950-1980
World Artists, 1980-1990
REF. N6489. M37
REF. N6489. W67

Biographies and short bibliographies of major artists.

**Contemporary Artists*
REF. N6490. C6567

Bibliographies, lists of works and location in collections, short critical appraisals, and biographical information of over 1,000 international artists.

The World's Master Paintings
REF. ND40. W75 1991 v.1-2

Biographical information and bibliographies for major artists of every period. Extensive listing of works and the institutions which own them.

Twentieth-Century Artists on Art
REF. AND FENWICK STACKS NX456. R59 1996

Indexes writings, statements, and interviews by artists of all genres.

**Dictionary of Women Artists*
REF. N8354. D53 1997 v.1-2

Biographical information and bibliographies about international women artists from antiquity to the present. Include introductory survey essays on various topics including women artists in the Middle Ages and modernism and women artists.

**International Dictionary of Art and Artists*
REF. N7425 .I67 1990 v.1-2

Biographical and bibliographic information with lists and locations of major collections for each artist. Critical essays are included on each artist. One major drawback is the absence of an index of works.

**International Dictionary of Architects and Architecture*
REF. NA40 .I48 1993 v.1-2

Biographical and bibliographic information about each architect. Critical essays included. Architecture is listed alphabetically by time periods and country.

IV. Materials/Techniques

**Dictionary of Art and Artists*
REF. N31. M8

Definitions of terms, processes, techniques and materials. Some biographical material included. Numerous illustrations.

The Painter's Handbook
REF. ND1500. C6155

Includes many tables and charts covering pigments, sizes, grounds, etc.

Artist's Handbook of Materials and Techniques
REF. ND1500. M3 1991

A standard source, written for the practitioner, this handbook includes descriptions of techniques, processes, and materials.

V. Symbolism

**A Dictionary of Symbols*
REF. BF1623. S9 C513 1971b

General dictionary of sacred and profane symbols. Does not include narrative subjects. Bibliographical references are made to a list of 61 reference books.

An Encyclopedia of Archetypal Symbolism
REF. BL603. A72

Detailed essays covering important myths and their depiction in the arts.

**A Dictionary of Symbols*
REF. GR931. C4413 1994

Symbols religious, secular, mythic, literary, and legendary from all over the world with citations provided to over 700 references.

**Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art*
REF. N7560. H34 1979

Scholarly work, widely used. Covers myth, allegory, history, legend.

Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae
REF. N7760. L49 1981 v.1-16

Comprehensive guide to iconography from antiquity. Most entries in German.

Iconography of Christian Art
REF. N7830. S313 v.1-2

Iconographic study of Christian art. Extensive illustrations.

**Oxford Guide to Classical Mythology in the Arts*
REF. NX650. M9 R45 1993 v.1-2

Covers mythology in art from the medieval to the modern. Descriptive and location information for 30,000 works.

VI. Reproductions

In addition to the following resources, reproductions can be found in indexes such as *Art Index* or *Bibliography of the History of Art*.

The 20th Century Art Book
REF. N6490. T9 1996

Over 500 color plates.

Sculpture Index
REF. NB36. C6 S3 v.1-2

A guide to illustrations of sculpture in about 950 publications.

World Painting Index
REF. ND45. H38

Reproductions in books and catalogs published between 1940 and 1980. Supplements *Index to Reproductions of European Paintings* (**REF. ND45. M6 I6**) and *Index to Reproductions of American Paintings* (**REF. ND205. S575**).

Print Index: A Guide to Reproductions
REF. NE90. P17 1983

A guide to prints in books and catalogs.

World Architecture Index
REF. NA202 .T4 1991

Find images of approximately 7,200 architectural works reproduced in more than 100 books. International coverage with access by site, architect, type of work, and name of work.

Photography Index: A Guide to Reproductions
REF. TR199. P37

Covers about 90 books which have reproductions of photographs made from 1820-1920; with photographer, subject, and title indices.

VII. Art in the Washington, D.C. Area

Guides to art in Metropolitan Washington area museums are located in the reference collection. Books on the National Gallery of Art (Washington, D.C.) collections are located in the circulating collection under the call number **N856**.

Finder's Guide to Prints and Drawings in the Smithsonian Institution
REF. N855.8. A56

Sculpture Index
REF. NB36. C6 S3 v.1-2

Descriptive Catalogue of Painting and Sculpture in the National Museum of American Art
REF. N857. A46X

**Handbook of the Byzantine Collection*
REF. N858. D8 A6

The Artists of Washington, D.C., 1796-1996
REF. N6535. W3 M16 1995

**AIA Guide to the Architecture of Washington, D.C.*
REF. NA735. W3 W44 1994

VIII. Research Guides and Other Library Catalogs

Guide to the Literature of Art History

REF. N380. A76X

Annotated, selective guide to major books on art history of all countries, periods, and genres.

Fine Arts: A Bibliographic Guide to Basic Reference Works, Histories, and Handbooks

REF. N5300. E34 1990

Annotated guide to reference works covering at least two or more of the major fine arts media: architecture, sculpture, and painting.

Art Information: Research Methods and Resources

FENWICK STACKS N85. J64 1990

A wonderful source for learning how to select and use art research sources.

Annual Bibliography of Modern Art

REF. NX454. M87

Annual acquisitions of the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA).

Library Catalog of the Metropolitan Museum of Art

FENWICK STORAGE Z881. N6624 1980 v.1-48 (ASK AT CIRCULATION DESK)

Catalog of the holdings of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Library.

WorldCat

library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html

Essentially a national library catalog, *WorldCat* contains over 40 million records for most academic, special, and some public libraries. Excellent resource for locating books and journals not owned by GMU. Items found may be requested through Interlibrary Loan (GMU students and staff only).

Catalog of the Archives of American Art

[telnet://sirsis.si.edu](mailto://sirsis.si.edu)

Part of the Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS). Largest collection of materials on American art. Items may be borrowed through Interlibrary Loan (GMU students and staff only).

IX. Periodical Indexes

Print indexes are located in Fenwick Reference. Electronic indexes are indexed through the GMU Library web site (library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html). The following is a selective list of indexes; for a more extensive listing of indexes which are useful for arts research, see the alphabetical list of Arts and Humanities databases on the GMU Library web site.

Art Index

REF. INDEXES N1. A7

Index to major art journals, includes fine arts, design, and architecture; provides coverage from 1929 to the present.

Art Abstracts

library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html

Includes periodicals, yearbooks, museum bulletins, competition and award notices, exhibition listings, interviews and more. Covers 1984 to the present.

BHA (Bibliographie d'Histoire de l'Art)

REF. INDEXES N6350. R22

library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html

Indexes and abstracts international journals, museum publications, conference proceedings, art-related books, exhibition and dealer's catalogs, and dissertations; provides coverage of art, design, and architecture from the 4th century on. The online version contains records from 1973 to the present. BHA incorporates the art indexes RILA (International Repertory of the Literature of Art) and RAA (Repertoire d'art et d'archeologie).

Arts and Humanities Citation Index

REF. INDEXES A13. A63

library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html

A citation index of over 900 arts and humanities journal, also good for tracking scholarly comment on "classic" articles or books. Coverage includes broad range of the humanities. AHCI in print begins in 1976; the electronic version cover 1993 to the present.

Arts and Humanities Search

library.gmu.edu/resources/databases.html

Indexes more than 1,300 of the world's leading arts and humanities journals.