

Library guide to resources in art history

Karen Bucky, Collections Access & Reference Librarian, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute Library

Background and context information: Encyclopedias, dictionaries, and guides

Histories, handbooks, and bibliographic guides

Finding books: Online catalogs and union catalogs

Finding articles and dissertations: Databases

Finding specialized resources: Primary-source, archival, auction sales, and more

Biographical research tools

Guides to terms and techniques for specific arts:

- Painting

- Prints

- Drawings

- Photographs

- Sculpture

- Decorative Arts

Finding Images

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Background and context information: Encyclopedias, dictionaries, and guides

Use these sources to find basic information about an artist, the history of art in a given country or region, artistic techniques and materials, schools and movements and terminology in art, and many other background, overview, or contextual facts. Browse Sawyer's and the Clark library's reference collections for additional resources; there are many hidden treasures there.

Chilvers, Ian, editor. *Dictionary of Twentieth-Century Art.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Biographical entries on artists and other people in the art world, and on art movements, techniques, media, organizations, and serial exhibitions and publications. No index or bibliographies.

Clark Reference N6490 A1 C55

Sawyer Reference N6490 .C5317 1998

Chilvers, Ian, editor. *The Oxford Dictionary of Art*, 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Deals primarily with Western and Western-inspired painting, sculpture, printmaking, and drawing from classical Greece to the present. Treatment of the modern period includes conceptual art, video art, and other fields of artistic activity now associated with the traditional fine arts. Does not include architecture, design, photography, and applied arts. About three-quarters of the articles are biographical, covering artists, patrons, collectors, dealers, administrators, and writers. Other articles cover styles, movements, materials, and techniques.

Includes a chronology that fits Western art into a wider historical context, and an index of galleries and museums.

Clark Reference N31 O81 2004

Fleming, John, and Hugh Honor. *The Penguin Dictionary of the Decorative Arts*, new edition. New York: Viking Penguin, 1989.

Revised and expanded edition of "the best comprehensive dictionary of the primary forms of Western decorative arts." 4,000+ entries on "furniture and furnishings" (movable objects other than paintings and sculpture) in Europe from the Middle Ages onward and in North America from the colonial period. Selective articles on such non-Western arts as carpets and ceramics. Includes definitions of stylistic and technical terms, accounts of materials and processes, biographies of leading craftsmen and designers, brief histories of notable factories and workshops.

Clark Reference NK30 F44

Sawyer Reference NK30 .F54 1989

Mayer, Ralph. *Dictionary of Art Terms and Techniques.* New York: Crowell, 1969.

A general one-volume dictionary with succinct definitions of terms that cover painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and ceramics. Architectural terms are not included. Especially useful for definitions of technical terms, processes, and materials. Includes a classified listing of books for further reference.

Clark Reference N33 M39

Osborne, Harold, editor. *Oxford Companion to the Decorative Arts*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975.

A comprehensive dictionary of the decorative arts, including "major crafts" going back to prehistoric times such as leather-working, costume, metal-working, and glass-making; historically documented arts such as papermaking, clock-making, landscape gardening, and photography; and luxury crafts such as arms and armor, jewelry, toys, lace-making, and tapestry. Includes articles on specific crafts, on particular periods or cultures, on techniques and materials, on schools and styles, and short biographical articles on outstanding craftsmen.

Clark Reference NK30 O8

Sawyer Reference NK30 .O93

Oxford Art Online (Grove Art)

Oxford Art Online (formerly *Grove Art*) comprises the searchable full text of *The Dictionary of Art*, edited by Jane Turner (see below), *The Oxford Companion to Western Art*, edited by Hugh Brigstocke (see below under Histories, handbooks, & bibliographic guides), the *Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*, and *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms*. Entries are continually being added and updated; articles updated since their original publication in print are date-stamped. Includes extensive links to images.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resource

Patin, Thomas. *Artwords: A Glossary of Contemporary Art Theory*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1997.

Includes 400+ terms and phrases "that have recently entered the discourse on visual art." Entries are substantive (the article on "feminism" covers several pages, for example) and include key writers and practitioners; they also include cross-references. Selected bibliography.

Clark Stacks N6490 A1 P38

Sawyer Reference N71 .P32

Turner, Jane, editor. *Dictionary of Art*. New York: Grove, 1996.

"One of the most significant art reference works ever produced – a monumental...attempt to encompass the field of art history" from prehistory to the present worldwide. The mandate to establish geographical balance makes this work "the most comprehensive coverage of the arts of Asia, Africa, Australasia, and the Americas ever published in one source." Entries include biographical material on artists, dealers, art historians, and other figures in the art world; coverage of the history of art in specific countries, cities, and archeological sites; and detailed entries on art theory, movements, art forms, building types, and art materials and techniques. Articles include bibliographies. Well illustrated.

Clark Reference N31 D48 (34 volumes; on counter)

Sawyer Reference N31 .D5 1991

Urdang, Laurence, and Frank R. Abate, editors. *Fine and Applied Arts Terms Index*, 1st edition. Detroit: Gale Research, 1983.

"An alphabetical guide of sources of information on more than 45,000 terms used by museums, art galleries, and auction galleries in the English-speaking world, and by artists, artisans, designers, and professional in associated fields, including words and phrases that describe objets d'art, objets de vertu, bibelots, antique furnishings, jewelry, rugs and carpets, paintings, engravings, drawings, sculptures, as well as designs, styles, periods, influences, motifs, ornamentation, components, shapes, production techniques, materials, and finishes, the entries gathered from standard reference books and auctions catalogs, with sources and illustrations indicated, the whole complemented by a descriptive bibliography of all materials indexed." Entries include the sources in which a definition can be found, with page numbers for the definition and for illustrations where applicable.

Clark Reference N33 U72

Histories, handbooks, and bibliographic guides

Arnason, H. Harvard. *History of Modern Art: Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, Photography*. [Various publishers depending on publication date].

Standard, well-respected textbook on the movements and styles of twentieth-century art. Chronologically/thematically arranged chapters begin with prehistory of modern painting, realism and impressionism, post-impressionism, art nouveau, Fauvism, and Expressionism, and end with sixties abstraction, the post-minimal seventies and the pluralistic seventies, the neo-expressionism and neo-abstractionism of the eighties, and post-modernism in architecture. Sawyer Library's 2004 edition may also include the art of the nineties.

Clark Stacks N6490 A75 1986

Sawyer Stacks N6490 .A713 2004

Arntzen, Etta, and Robert Rainwater. *Guide to the Literature of Art History*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1980.

Landmark bibliography of reference and basic research resources in the field of art history; a classified listing of bibliographies, directories, periodicals, auction sales material, visual resources, dictionaries and encyclopedias, iconography, historiography, sources and documents, histories and handbooks, and key resources in "the particular arts" *i.e.* architecture, sculpture, drawings, painting, prints, photography, and the decorative arts. See also Marmor & Ross' *GLAH2*, below, which continues but does not supercede *GLAH1*.

Clark Reference ZN5300 C4 1980

Sawyer Reference N380 A75

Brigstocke, Hugh, editor. *The Oxford Companion to Western Art*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Covers "all cultures speaking a European language" and is "object-oriented" in its approach. Includes biographical articles on artists, writers, and theorists as well as articles on cities (ancient and modern) and their galleries and museums, important works of art, styles and movements, art historical methodology, patronage and collecting, terminology, and aesthetic and scientific issues (including highly-respected articles on color, perspective, and proportion). See also *Grove Art Online*, above.

Clark Reference N31 B76

Sawyer Reference N33 O923 2001 (and search Francis for the electronic resource)

Foster, Hal, Rosiland Kraus, and Yves-Alain Bois. *Art Since 1900: Modernism, Antimodernism, Postmodernism*. London: Thames & Hudson, 2004.

A controversial and important book in the field. Arranged as a year-by-year chronology from 1900 to 2003.

Clark Stacks N6490 A783

Sawyer Stacks N6490 .A7186 2004

Marmor, Max, and Alex Ross. *Guide to the Literature of Art History 2*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2005.

Continues but does not supercede Arntzen & Rainwater's *GLAH1*, above, following the same classified organization of reference and research resources in art history. Includes some electronic databases but does not include websites.

Clark Reference ZN5300 C4 2005

Onians, John, editor. *Atlas of World Art*. London: Laurence King Publishing, 2004.

Historical atlas of world art is arranged chronologically, with chapters on hunting/gathering (40,000–5000 BC), agriculture and urbanization (5000–500 BC), war and empire (500 BC–600 AD), religion and the ruler (600–1500), exploitation and display (1500–1800), industry and science (1800–1900), ideas and technology (1900–2000). Within these chapters are sections for the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific. Text and maps trace the development, influences, and transmission of art worldwide throughout human history.

Clark Atlas Cabinet G1030 O65

Sawyer Stacks N34 .C75 2003

Vaughn, William. *Arts of the 19th Century, Volume One: 1780 to 1850*. Translated from the French by James Underwood. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1998.

Cachin, Françoise. *Arts of the 19th Century, Volume Two: 1850 to 1905*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1998.

Documents the innovations and discoveries of the turbulent years of the 19th century, and the flowering of the arts (painting, sculpture, graphic arts, decorative arts, and architecture and planning) that resulted. The book is not a social history of art, nor is it merely or only an aesthetic evaluation; it is “an attempt to illustrate and shed light on the variety, profusion, and inexhaustible fecundity” of art from 1780 to 1905. Lavishly illustrated.

Includes short biographies of important 19th-century figures (not just artists) and a bibliography.

Clark Stacks N6450 V38a

Sawyer Stacks N6757 .V38 1998 (Volume 1)

Finding Books: Online catalogs and union catalogs

Search our collections

Use the Clark online catalog to access the Clark library's collection, which is rich in all areas of art theory, history, methodology, and philosophy. The Clark library's collection development mission (in a nutshell) is to collect materials in all languages on Western art and on art history, from the Renaissance to the present. Recently, as the result of a grant to the Research and Academic Program to bring in scholars studying non-Western art, the Clark library has begun collecting material on contemporary African, Asian, and Latin American art as well. Search Francis – the Williams College Library's online catalog – to access Sawyer Library's stronger collections on architecture, on Ancient and Medieval art, and on non-Western art.

Search consortial collections

In addition to books in the Williams and Clark libraries, Williams students, faculty, and staff have access through Francis to **NExpress**, a consortium of eight New England partner colleges, and to the **BLC (Boston Library Consortium) Virtual Catalog**, a union catalog of the holdings of many other major New England libraries such as Brown University, the Boston Public Library, Boston University, University of New Hampshire, and the University of Massachusetts. Materials found using NExpress and BLC can be requested electronically and picked up at Sawyer; delivery time is usually two to three days.

Search libraries worldwide

WorldCat is a vast database that represents the holdings of thousands of libraries worldwide, including every academic or research library in the United States. It is accessible through the Clark library's Electronic Resources page, and the Williams College Library website. WorldCat's member libraries include every type of library: public, academic, research, special, and K-12 school libraries. Search [WorldCat from the Clark](#) (FirstSearch) to request materials through the Clark's ILL service. Search [WorldCat from Williams](#) (WorldCat Local) to request materials through Williams' ILL service.

Interlibrary Loan

Materials not available through the Clark or Williams libraries, or through NExpress or BLC, can be requested through Interlibrary Loan. Both Williams and the Clark use ILLiad, but the two ILL systems are separate and the two libraries are members of different library consortia.

A reasonable rule of thumb is to request art-related materials through the Clark and non-art-related materials through Sawyer.

Please be aware that ALL interlibrary loan materials obtained through the Clark are in-library use only; they cannot be taken out of the Clark library. This is not the case with ILL materials requested at Williams.

Finding articles and dissertations: Databases

The following core databases are important sources for finding articles, dissertations, book chapters, essays, and other materials in art history and in related disciplines such as history, anthropology, literature and folklore, film, the performing arts, religion, and philosophy.

Check the Electronic Resources pages on the Williams and Clark libraries' websites for further [extensive] lists of databases. On the Clark ER page, click "Additional Resources by Subject" to find many useful websites and additional databases.

[Anthropological Literature](#)

Comprehensive international resource indexing articles and essays in physical and cultural anthropology and archaeology, and related disciplines including art history, demography, economics, psychology, and religious studies. Coverage is from the late 19th century to the present.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resource

[Art Abstracts](#)

[Art Index Retrospective](#)

A good starting point for locating articles in fine arts journals, book reviews, and articles in museum bulletins for any period or genre of art, from classical antiquity to the present. Subjects such as archaeology, architectural history, museum studies, and the decorative arts are also included.

A/R covers 1929–1984; *AA* covers 1984 to the present with abstracts from 1994 on.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

Related print title: *Art Index*. New York: H.W. Wilson, 1929– . (Library has 1929–1984.)

Clark Reference Z3957 A7

[ArtBibliographies Modern](#)

Abstracts of journal articles, books, essays, exhibition catalogs, PhD dissertations, and exhibition reviews.

Covers modern and contemporary arts from the late 19th century onwards. Includes traditional media such as illustration, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and drawing; also includes photography since its invention, performance art and installation works, video art, artists' books, and other areas of contemporary art.

Coverage: 1960 to the present.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

[Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals](#)

Index to journals in archaeology, architecture, furniture, urban design, historic preservation, landscape architecture, and urban planning history.

Covers the 1930s to the present, with selective coverage back to the 1860s.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

[Bibliography of the History of Art](#)

BHA is THE premier index for art history (primarily for Western art, though articles on non-Western art can be found). Provides citations and abstracts for materials on European and American art from late antiquity to the present. Indexes journal articles, books, essays, conference proceedings, and exhibition catalogs in the field of art history. Covers mostly visual arts.

BHA has recently been dropped by the Getty, its institutional support, and no institution has yet been found to take it over. Its future is uncertain, and *BHA* can't be used to find recently published material.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

[Dissertation Abstracts](#)

Indexes U.S., Canadian, British, and some European theses and dissertations from academic institutions in North America and Europe from 1861 to the present. Abstracts for dissertations were added to the database in 1980; abstracts for theses in 1988. Most dissertations can be obtained through Interlibrary Loan, often in microformat.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

[Historical Abstracts](#)

[America: History and Life](#)

Indexes to scholarly articles, dissertations, and book reviews on history and culture, including much material in the field of art history. The two databases can be searched separately or together. *HA* covers world history excluding the United States and Canada, from 1450 to the present. *AHL* covers U.S. and Canadian history. Critically important resources for art historians, especially in the area of art and social history.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

[Humanities Abstracts](#)

Indexes articles on topics in the humanities, including archaeology, classical studies, folklore, history, journalism, literature, music, performing arts, philosophy and religion. A one-stop database for articles in several disciplines that relate to the study of art history.

Coverage is from 1980 to the present. For earlier coverage, consult the print indexes at Sawyer: *Humanities Index* (1974–), *Social Sciences and Humanities Index* (1966–1974), and *International Index* (1907–1965).

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

[JSTOR](#)

Full-text searchable database of core journals in all disciplines, especially math, general science, social sciences, history, art, religion, language, and philosophy. Historical collection covers from the inception of each title to 1-5 years ago (depending on contractual agreements with vendors). Rich source of information on art in all related disciplines, including art history, history, literature, religion, and philosophy.

Williams Electronic Resources

[MLA Bibliography](#)

Index to journals, monographs, working papers, proceedings, and other formats in the fields of languages, literature, linguistics, and folklore. Also an important source for material on film, photography, and theater.

Coverage is from 1963 to the present.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

[Philosopher's Index](#)

Indexing and abstracts from books and journals of philosophy and related fields, covering the areas of ethics, aesthetics, social philosophy, political philosophy, epistemology, and metaphysic logic as well as material on the philosophy of law, religion, science, history, education, and language. An important source of material on semiotics, structuralism, and post-structuralism.

Coverage is from 1940 to the present.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

[Religion Database \(ATLA\)](#)

Index to scholarly materials in religion and theology. Indexes journals, multi-author works, and book reviews. Covers such topics as Biblical studies, world religions, church history, and religious perspectives on social issues. Important source for iconography; also for material on the religious or theological context of much of Western art.

Coverage is from 1949 to the present.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

Specialized resources: primary-source, archival, and more

Primary-source materials

On the Clark library's Electronic Resources page, click "Additional resources by Subject" and then the link to "History: Primary Sources" to find many more databases and websites that can be used to find primary-source materials from many different sources, countries, and time periods.

Gallica

Full-text database created by the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, which has digitized a wide variety of 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-century books, documents, and periodicals. Click the "Discover" link for "La presse quotidienne dans Gallica" for a list of digitized periodicals that can be browsed and downloaded or printed. Click the "Themes" link to browse/search collections organized by subject. Or use the search box to find specific titles/authors or to search by subject.

<http://gallica.bnf.fr/>

Index to 19th-Century American Art Periodicals

Index to "nearly all" art journals published in the United States between 1840 and 1907. Each issue is indexed completely, including articles, art notes, illustrations, stories, poems, and advertisements.

Clark Electronic Resources

London Times Digital Archive 1785–1985

Scanned version of the London *Times*. Contains full content of the newspaper including advertisements, editorials, reviews, stock exchange tables, and weather reports. Does not include the Sunday edition.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

Nineteenth Century Masterfile

Citation index to English and American journal and newspaper articles published in the 19th and early 20th century, including the *New York Times*, *Atlantic Monthly*, the *Times of London*, *Harper's Monthly Magazine*, and *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*. Also indexes 19th-century monographs, legal periodicals, patents, and some U.S. government publications and presidential papers.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

Pro-Quest Index to Historical Newspapers

Full-text. Indexes the *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*. Coverage varies from publication to publication; start dates range from 1851 to 1890. Find advertisements, announcements, reviews, and articles.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

Readers' Guide Retrospective

Citation index to a wide variety of U.S. and Canadian general-interest periodicals and popular, non-technical magazines, a rich source of American cultural history. Find articles and reviews from such publications as *Critic*, *Century*, *Harper's*, *The Nation*, and *International Studio*.

Coverage is from 1890 to 1982. (See *Reader's Guide* for coverage from 1982 to the present.)

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

Archival materials

ArchiveGrid

A database of the archives of hundreds of research libraries worldwide. From within a search result you can restrict a search to specific archives or specific locations, using links on the sidebar.

Clark Electronic Resources

Archives Nationale (France)

Website for the five centers of the French national archives: Centre Historique des Archives Nationale (pre-1958), the Centre des Archives Contemporaines (post-1958), the Centre des Archives d'Outre-Mer (documents of French overseas colonial possessions), Centre des Archives du Monde du Travail (documents of corporations, syndicates, associations), and the Centre National du Microfilm.

One of the available online resources worth exploring is the database called Arcade

(<http://www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/chan/index.html>): "A la lumière des documents d'archives, la base *Arcade* retrace la genèse et l'histoire des œuvres d'art, acquises, commandées ou gérées par l'Etat et les collectivités territoriales de 1800 à 1939." This page also provides links to other online resources related to French art and museums.

<http://www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/>

Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution Research and Information System (SIRIS)

Online catalog to the collection of personal papers, manuscripts, photographs, oral histories, sound recordings, films, and organizational records from nine repositories. Many entries include links to finding aids and bibliographies. AAA materials on microfilm can usually be obtained through Interlibrary Loan.

<http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/>

Auction sales catalogs

Tools for finding auction sales information are many and varied, not to mention specialized, and those listed below are the tip of a very large iceberg. Feel free to ask for help if you are looking for auction sales or provenance information.

I. Union Catalogs

Lancour, Harold, compiler. *American Art Auction Catalogs, 1785–1942: A Union List.* New York: New York Public Library, 1943–44.

Union checklist of 6,000+ catalogs of auction sales of art objects held in the United States from 1785 to 1942.

Organized in chronological order, with an index of owners and artists whose names appear in the catalog title.

Entries include sale date, owner, catalog title, number of pages and whether illustrated, auction house, number of lots, and abbreviations of libraries holding the catalog.

Clark Reference N8650 L35

Lugt, Frits. *Répertoire des Catalogues de Ventes Publiques, Intéressant d'Art ou la Curiosité: Tableaux, Dessins, Estampes, Miniatures, Sculptures, Bronzes, Émaux, Vitraux, Tapisseries, Céramiques, Objets d'Art, Meubles, Antiquités, Monnaies, Médailles, Camées, Intailles, Armes, Instruments, Curiosités Naturelles, etc.* The Hague: Nijhoff, 1938–64.

Indispensable for ascertaining provenance of works of art and for locating copies of auction sales catalogs.

Information reported for each entry: catalog number; date; location of sale; name of collector, artist, merchant, or proprietor; contents; number of lots; auctioneers; number of pages in catalog; libraries in which catalog may be found and whether it is priced. Indexes by collector. See also **Lugt's Répertoire Online**, below.

Clark Reference N8650 L8 (4 vols.)

II. Auction sales databases

Art Sales Catalogues Online

Full-text database of art sales catalogues published between 1600 and 1900 by major American and European auction houses. Catalogues can be searched by Lugt number, date, place of sale, provenance, content, auction house, and existing copies. You can't use the database to search for specific artists or works sold; that requires more specialized [print] sources – ask at the reference desk for a bibliography of these sources if you need them.

Clark Electronic Resources

ArtFact

Database of auction sale catalog entries for antiques, fine art, and collectible objects. Includes color images of many works. Information includes artist, name of work, medium/materials, estimated price and sale price, as well as any other descriptive information that appeared in the sale catalog. This database can be searched by keyword, which means that *ArtFact* can be used in cases where *ArtNet* cannot (e.g. if an artist's name is not known). Ask at the reference desk for logon help.

Clark Electronic Resource

ArtNet

Comprehensive database of fine art auction sales results worldwide (from 500 international auction houses) since 1985. Search for specific artists or works by artist's name. Information given for each work includes artist, title, year, medium, dimensions, auction house and date of sale, estimated price and sale price. Includes color images of many works.

Clark Electronic Resource

Gordon's Print Price Annual

International auction results with sales prices of Old Master, modern, and contemporary fine prints; decorative, historical, sporting, topographical, natural history, botanical, and Japanese prints; fine art, vintage, and film posters; illustrated books, Livres d' Artiste, books and periodicals with original graphics; Picasso ceramics. Ask at the reference desk for logon help.

Clark Electronic Resources

Prints and Printmaking

The reference literature for prints is vast and often arcane. For a comprehensive bibliography of the Clark library's resources for researching prints, printmaking, and printmakers, check the library website under "Library Services" → "Services for Students in the Clark/Williams Graduate Program in the History of Art" and look for [Library Guide for ARTH 506: The Print: History, Theory, and Practice](#).

Biographical resources

The best biographical reference sources are still print sources, though two possible exceptions to this are *Grove Art Online* for better-known artists and the internet for very new and/or little-known contemporary artists. The resources listed below are standards in the field. The best place to start is the *Allgemeines Künstlerlexikon*, first on the list.

Worldwide Biography

Allgemeines Künstlerlexikon: Bio-Bibliographischer Index A–Z/The Artists of the World: Bio-Bibliographical Index A–Z. Munich: Saur, 1999–2000.

The most comprehensive and wide-ranging index to artistic biography available and the best starting place for information on all but the best-known artists. Indexes biographical encyclopedias and dictionaries. Entries include artist's name, birth and death dates where known, nationality, and references to biographical sources listed in the front of each volume (most of which the Clark library has). In several languages, including English.

Clark Reference N40 A44b (10 vols; on counter)

Allgemeines Künstlerlexikon: die Bildenden Künstler aller Zeiten und Völker. München: K.G. Saur, 1992– .

The most comprehensive dictionary of artist biography available, this in-progress work has advanced to about the letter G (as of 2009); if you are looking for an artist whose name begins with A to G, this (if the artist is not included in the *Dictionary of Art*) is the best first place to go. Articles include birth/death dates and places; information on training, places of residence, teaching posts, awards, travels, and other relevant facts; a summary of the artist's work and its importance/influence; lists of exhibitions; and concise but important bibliographies. In German.

Clark Reference N40 A44 (63 volumes and counting; on counter)

Bénézit, Emmanuel. *Dictionary of Artists*. Paris: Gründ, 2006.

Often referred to as "Bénézit." Comparable, in inclusiveness and comprehensiveness, to the much older Thieme-Becker and Vollmer (below), and now updated and for the first time available in English translation. Lengthy signed entries include bibliographic citations, museum collection information, and auction prices fetched by significant works. Facsimiles of artists' signatures are occasionally included.

Clark Reference N40 B4 2006 E (14 volumes; on counter)

Contemporary Arts Series:

Emanuel, Muriel, editor. *Contemporary Architects*. New York: St. James Press, 1994.

Clark Reference NA680 A1 C65 1994

Hopkinson, Amanda, editor. *Contemporary Photographers*. Detroit: St. James Press, 1995.

Clark Reference NE2600 A1 C65 1995

Prendergast, Sarah and Tom, editors. *Contemporary Artists*. Detroit: St. James Press, 2001.

Clark Reference N6490 A1 C65 2001

Prendergast, Sarah, editor. *Contemporary Designers*. Detroit: St. James Press, 1997.

Clark Reference NK1390 A1 C65 1997

Series that contains many useful biographical entries for artists, photographers, architects, and designers. Works in each series are not cumulative; in each edition a number of artists are deleted and others are added – check both libraries' online catalogs to find older editions. Each entry includes biographical data, list of exhibitions or projects, public collections that include works by the artist, and primary and secondary bibliographies. In many cases, artists' statements about their work are included. Critical essays have been contributed by specialists in the field.

Gaze, Delia, editor. *Dictionary of Women Artists.* Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1997.

Covers painters, sculptors, printmakers, photographers, and decorative/applied artists, as well as artists working in newer forms. Introductory surveys on: women as artists in the Middle Ages, convents, guilds and the open market, court artists, academies of art, copyists, printmakers, amateur artists, artistic training in various countries, modernism, and feminism. Signed entries by scholarly contributors include basic biographical information, chronological list of individual and group exhibitions, writings by the artist, citations of works about the artist, and an essay. Does not cover contemporary artists. Emphasis is on Western art.

Clark Reference N43 D53 (2 volumes)

Oxford Art Online (Grove Art)

Oxford Art Online comprises the searchable full text of *The Dictionary of Art*, edited by Jane Turner (see below) and *The Oxford Companion to Western Art*, edited by Hugh Brigstocke (see above under Histories, handbooks, & bibliographic guides). Entries are continually being added and updated; articles updated since their original publication in print are date-stamped. Includes extensive links to images.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resource

Hillstrom, Laurie Collier, and Kevin Hillstrom, editors. *Contemporary Women Artists.* Detroit: St. James Press, 1999.

Biographical and career information on 350+ of the world's most prominent and influential 20th century women artists working in painting, sculpture, printmaking, drawing, collage, photography, ceramics, mixed media, electronic media, performance art, video, design, and graphic arts. Entries include basic biographical data, exhibition history, works in collections, bibliographical references, critical reception, and, where possible, a comment by the artist.

Clark Reference N43 C65

Petteys, Chris. *Dictionary of Women Artists: An International Dictionary of Women Artists Born Before 1900.* Boston: G. K. Hall, 1985.

Brief entries provide basic biographical data on 21,000+ women painters, sculptors, printmakers, and illustrators. Omitted are photographers, architects, craftworker, and designers unless their skills were "adjunct to" painting or other arts. Entries include data on the artist's schooling, exhibition information, and bibliographical references.

Clark Reference N43 P483

Thieme, Ulrich, and Felix Becker. *Allgemeines Lexikon der Bildenden Künstler von der Antike bis zur Gegenwart; unter Mitwirkung von 300 Fachgelehrten des In- und Auslandes.* Leipzig: Seemann, 1907–50.

Comprehensive scholarly dictionary of artists; commonly known as "Thieme-Becker." Includes all known Western painters, sculptors, engravers, architects, and decorative artists up to the mid-20th century. Currently being updated, a few alphabetical volumes a year, by the *Allgemeines Künstlerlexikon: die Bildenden Künstler aller Zeiten und Völker* (Reference Counter N40 A44). Includes signed articles by outstanding scholars and long bibliographies. Locations of works of art frequently given. Numerous cross-references. See also Vollmer's *Allgemeines Lexikon der Bildenden Künstler des XX. Jahrhunderts* for information on 20th-century artists, below.

Clark Reference N40 V6 (37 volumes; on counter)

Turner, Jane, editor. *Dictionary of Art.* New York: Grove, 1996.

Entries include biographical material on artists, dealers, art historians, and other figures in the art world. Articles include bibliographies.

Clark Reference N31 D48 (34 vols; on counter)

Vollmer, Hans, editor. *Allgemeines Lexikon der Bildenden Künstler des XX. Jahrhunderts.* Leipzig: Seemann, 1953–62.

Supplements Theime-Becker (above); is known as “Vollmer.” Still the most scholarly, comprehensive dictionary of Western artists working in the first half of the 20th century.

Clark Reference N40 T4i

North America

Collins, Jim, and Glenn B. Opitz, editors. *Women Artists in America: 18th Century to the Present (1790–1980).* Poughkeepsie, NY: Apollo, 1980.

Illustrates the paucity of information available on women artists. Entries include name, date and place of birth and death, artistic designation (e.g. painter), schooling, awards, membership in artistic associations, public collections holding works.

Clark Reference N6505 A1 C6

Falk, Peter Hastings, editor. *Who Was Who in American Art, 1564–1975: 400 Years of Artists in America.* Madison, CT: Sound View Press, 1999.

The best first place to check to find basic information on an artist who worked in America up to 1975. Covers 50,000+ painters, printmakers, sculptors, photographers, decorative and applied artists, as well as critics and historians, who worked in the U.S. Entries contain basic information on schooling, teaching, selective exhibition history, collections that own the artist's work, commentary on important figures, and bibliographic citations.

Clark Reference N6512 A1 W431 (3 volumes, on counter)

Farris, Phoebe, editor. *Women Artists of Color: A Bio-Critical Sourcebook to 20th-Century Artists in the Americas.* Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999.

Four ethnic groupings (Native American, Latin American, African American, Asian Pacific American), within which about 100 artists are arranged alphabetically. Entries include basic biographical data, exhibitions, collections holding the artist's work, publications by and about, a statement by the artist, and a biographical essay. Goal of the work is “to provide a representative sample of older and/or deceased artists who helped pave the way for future generations; mature, midcareer mainstream artists....and younger, emerging artists.”

Clark Reference N43 F37

Matuz, Roger, editor. *St. James Guide to Native North American Artists.* Detroit: St. James Press, 1988.

Selection of 350+ biographical and critical articles on native North American artists in all media working in the 20th century. Entries include biographical data (variant names and tribal affiliation where appropriate), exhibitions, publications, collections, artist's statement, illustration, and an essay on the artist.

Clark Reference N40 S35n

Opitz, Glenn B., editor. *Dictionary of American Sculptors: 18th Century to the Present.* Poughkeepsie, NY: Apollo, 1984.

Biographical entries for 5,000+ American sculptors. Entries include birth and death dates and locations (when known), schools attended, where work is collected or located, membership in professional organizations, teaching positions held, awards won, and where work was exhibited.

Clark Reference NB205 A1 O65

———. *Mantle Fielding's Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors, and Engravers*, 2nd edition. Poughkeepsie, NY: Apollo, 1986.

Basic biographical dictionary of American artists. Original edition published in 1926. Biographical articles on 12,000+ artists include information on awards, group and solo shows, museums holding the artist's work, association memberships, and teaching experience. Concentrates on lesser-known figures rather than on leading artists about whom information is readily available from other sources.

Clark Reference N6505 A1 F5

Riggs, Thomas, editor. *St. James Guide to Black Artists*. Detroit: St. James Press, 1997.

Includes nearly 400 19th- and 20th-century painters, sculptors, printmakers, photographers, ceramicists, and textile workers of African descent. Most of the artists are African-American; the remainder are from Africa, the Caribbean, and other parts of the diaspora. Entries include basic biographical data, exhibition history, works in collections, bibliographical references, some criticism, and, where available, a comment by the artist. Includes a nationality index, medium index, and index to illustrations.

Clark Reference N40 S35b

Who's Who in American Art. New York: Bowker, 1935–.

Formerly published as part of *American Art Annual*. Includes biographical sketches of artists, craftsmen, administrators, collectors, dealers, scholars, critics, curators, and illustrators in the U.S. and Canada. Each annual volume contains a necrology, geographical index, and a professional classifications index. Entries may include birth date and place, schooling/training, exhibitions, professional classification, works in public collections, publications, positions held in schools/museums/organizations, memberships in art societies, honors and awards, media, dealer, and mailing address.

Current Year: Clark Reference N6512 A1 W43

Back Issues: Clark Stacks N6512 A1 W43 (Library has 1940/41–present; some volumes missing)

Both the Clark and Sawyer libraries have many dictionaries of artists from specific countries and from specific U.S. states (as well as the more general dictionaries of national biography and Who's Who for major European and North American countries), and from different time periods, movements, and groups. Check both libraries' online catalogs, or check with a reference librarian, if you are looking for information on artists in these categories.

Guides to terms and techniques for specific arts

Use the following guides and handbooks to find information about basic terminology, techniques, and materials for painting, works on paper, sculpture, and the decorative arts; good for answering the kind of “what’s the difference between an etching and an engraving?” question that arises when you are working outside the areas of art you are most familiar with.

Paintings

Carr, Dawson W., and Mark Leonard. *Looking at Paintings: A Guide to Technical Terms.* Los Angeles: J. Paul Getty Museum in association with British Museum Press, 1992.

Provides definitions of, and illustrates, terms commonly used to describe paintings, including styles, techniques, textures, and perspective.

Clark Stacks ND31 C7

Goldman, Paul. *Looking at Prints, Drawings, and Watercolors: A Guide to Technical Terms.* London: British Museum Publications; Malibu, CA: J. Paul Getty Museum, 1988.

Provides definitions of and illustrations for the most common terms used to discuss prints, drawings, and watercolors.

Clark Stacks N33 G65

Wehlte, Kurt. *The Materials and Techniques of Painting.* Translated by Ursus Dix. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1982.

Systematic, detailed, decimally organized treatise on the techniques and materials of wall painting and easel painting, special painting techniques, and the technical examination of paintings.

Clark Stacks ND1260 W44 E

Prints

Gascoigne, Bamber. *How to Identify Prints: A Complete Guide to Manual and Mechanical Processes from Woodcut to Ink Jet.* London: Thames & Hudson, 2004.

Part 1 describes the three types of prints, including “images not really prints but called prints” (e.g. screen print, Xerox and laser, and inkjet). Part 2 describes and illustrates visual evidence that can be used to identify and clarify areas of confusion, identify details based on historical development of genres and techniques, and draw conclusions based on details of technical processes. Part 3 defines terminology for families of prints, lays out a “Sherlock Holmes approach” to print identification, and includes a glossary-index that references numbered sections of the book and defines technical terms.

Clark Stacks NE850 G37 2004

Griffiths, Anthony. *Prints and Printmaking: Introduction to the History and Techniques.* Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1996.

Intended as a guide for the general reader wishing to understand the main categories and processes of printmaking, as well as how and by whom each method was used. Western art only. Sections include relief printing processes (woodcut, linocut, wood-engraving, and metalcut and relief etching), intaglio printing processes (engraving, etching, drypoint, crayon manner and stipple, mezzotint, aquatint, and soft-ground etching), lithography, screen printing, color printing, and photomechanical reproduction processes (relief printing, intaglio printing, surface printing, and color printing).

Clark Stacks NE400 G74 1996

Ivins, William Mills. *How Prints Look: Photographs with a Commentary.* Boston: Beacon Press, 1958.

Describes the basic processes of the three types of printmaking, with illustrations and captions that show fine details of technique, materials, or process and that give details on the impact of a given technique on artistic practice or on aesthetic taste or understanding. Includes a short chapter on color in printmaking, and another on "copies, facsimiles, and other bothersome matters" with details on how to tell the difference between originals and copies. The final chapter briefly places prints in a social, artistic, and economic context, with sections on the social importance of graphic techniques, the influence of illustration, and the economics of print publishing.

Clark Stacks NE400 I8h Repr.

Drawings

Goldman, Paul. *Looking at Drawings: A Guide to Technical Terms.* London: British Museum Publications, 1979.

Provides definitions of terms commonly used to describe and discuss drawings. Illustrations provide examples of specific media, techniques, and marks.

Clark Stacks NC730 G59

Mendelowitz, Daniel Marcus. *Mendelowitz's Guide to Drawing*, 3rd edition. Revised by Duane A. Wakeham. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1982.

A systematic introduction to the art of drawing, intended for students of drawing but useful to the collector wishing to understand drawing methods, materials, and subject matter. Includes chapters on art elements (line, value, texture, composition, perspective), media (dry media such as charcoal, chalk, pencil, and crayon, and wet media such as ink, wash drawing, and mixed media), and traditional areas of subject matter (still life, landscape, figure drawing, portraiture). Well illustrated.

Clark Stacks NC50 M45 1982

Photographs

Baldwin, Gordon. *Looking at Photographs: A Guide to Technical Terms.* Malibu, CA: J. Paul Getty Museum; London: British Museum Publications, 1991.

Provides concise explanations of the terms most frequently used by curators, collectors, and historians to discuss and describe photographs, especially those terms "likely to appear on descriptive labels in exhibitions or in catalogue entries."

Clark Stacks NE2600 B35

Haller, Margaret. *Collecting Old Photographs.* New York: Arco, 1978.

Includes sections on the images, photographers, and literature of photography, concentrates on the first 100 years of photography, to about 1940. Section 1 is a glossary on the techniques and terms of photography; section 2 is a biographical dictionary of important figures in photography; section 3 is an annotated list of important publications on photography, by photographers, or with important photographic illustration.

Price/value information is out of date.

Clark Stacks NE2600 H3

Hannavy, John, editor. *Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography*. New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2008.

Clark Reference NE2600 A1 E635 (2 volumes)

Warren, Lynne, editor. *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Photography*. New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2006.

Clark Reference NE2610 A1 W37 (3 volumes)

Companion encyclopedias on the history and practice of photography that comprise “essential reference works for anyone interested in the medium of photography.” They include articles on photographers, inventors, patrons and critics; the history of photography; photographic processes and innovations; national and regional surveys; thematic articles such as the ethics of photography. Articles include bibliographies.

Sculpture

Bassett, Jane, and Peggy Fogelman. *Looking at European Sculpture: A Guide to Technical Terms*. Los Angeles: J. Paul Getty Museum in collaboration with the Victoria and Albert Museum, 1997.

Provides explanations and illustrations for terms used in describing and discussing European sculpture, mainly sculpture from the Renaissance through the 19th century. Terms include materials, processes, tools, techniques, media, and sculptural forms.

Clark Stacks NB50 B37

Decorative Arts

Heisinger, Kathryn B., and George H. Marcus. *Antiquespeak: A Guide to the Styles, Techniques, and Materials of the Decorative Arts, from the Renaissance to Art Deco*. New York: Abbeville Press, 1997.

Brief essays discuss European and American styles, materials, types of objects, specialized areas of collecting (e.g. export wares), and processes related to acquiring and caring for antiques. Essays that define styles (e.g. Tudor) include sections on Who (principle artists, architects, designers, etc.), When, Where (countries or continents in which a style was centered), and What (the origins, nature, and implications of the style).

Clark Stacks NK30 H5

Lewis, Philippa, and Gillian Darley. *Dictionary of Ornament*. New York: Pantheon, 1986.

A survey of ornament, pattern, and motif in the applied arts and architecture, covering mainly European and North American buildings and objects from the Renaissance to the present day “with reference, where relevant, to ancient and oriental sources and precedents.” Illustrations demonstrate the ways in which a motif, pattern, or theme may be interpreted in various media. A “visual key” functions as a visual dictionary that refers to definitions of ornamental details. Includes references.

Clark Reference NK30 L48

Trench, Lucy, editor. *Materials and Techniques in the Decorative Arts: An Illustrated Dictionary*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Describes and illustrates the materials and techniques used in the decorative arts, defined as “those objects and forms of decoration that have a practical purpose but are also prized for their beauty and craftsmanship.”

Materials covered include seven “core” materials—textiles, metals, wood, ceramics, glass, stone, and pape—as well as gemstones, ivory, lacquer, leather, and shell. The focus is primarily Western art but does include non-Western arts in such materials as lacquer and jade.

Clark Reference NK30 T74

Finding Images

The following sources are a few good and/or obvious places to go to find images of fine art. It's worth remembering that most major museums have images of their collections online and some – the Met, the Louvre, the National Gallery (U.S. and U.K.), the Tate, the Rijksmuseum, and many others – are rich sources of information on provenance, exhibition history, and bibliography as well. Consult Laurie Glover in Visual Resources for information on many other sites and databases, as well as for information on how to work with images and video in presentations.

[ArtCyclopedia](#)

ArtCyclopedia's mission is "to become the definitive and most effective guide to museum-quality fine art on the Internet" and it includes entries for "most well-known artists." A search for an artist will bring up links to images of that artist's work on museum websites and in image archives, and will also link to articles and reference sites.

<http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists>

[ARTstor](#)

ARTstor is a digital library of more than one million images in the arts, architecture, humanities, and social sciences with a suite of software tools to view, present, and manage images for research and pedagogical purposes. ARTstor collections are comprised of contributions from museums, individual photographers, scholars, special collections at libraries, and photo archives. Collections available fall into such categories as African-American studies, American studies, architecture and architectural history, Asian studies, design and decorative arts, Medieval studies, photography, Renaissance studies, women's studies, and many more. One of the major collections in ARTstor is *The Illustrated Bartsch*, a peerless source of images of prints.

Clark/Williams Electronic Resources

[Camio](#)

OCLC's *Catalog of Art Museum Images Online* is a growing online collection documenting works of art from around the world, representing the collections of prominent museums. CAMIO "highlights the creative output of cultures around the world, from prehistoric to contemporary times, and covering the complete range of expressive forms." Includes images of paintings, architecture, sculpture, drawings and watercolors, prints, photographs, textiles, decorative and utilitarian objects, and more.

Clark Electronic Resources

[Flickr](#)

Flickr is an image and video hosting website that allows users to store and share images and video. Photo submitters can organize images into "sets" of photos that share some theme or characteristic and can tag photos with keywords so that images or categories of images can be searched across the website. Although subject to all the vagaries of social networking websites, Flickr can be a surprisingly effective source for images that can't be found elsewhere, for instance work by contemporary artists, art installations, buildings or architectural details from interesting viewpoints, and works of art that don't appear in published works but that tourists or museum-goers or owners or galleries have snapped and put online.

<http://www.flickr.com/>

[Google](#)

Simply by virtue of being the most comprehensive source of images in the world, Google image search is a clear first and last choice for finding images as long as the other options between first and last are also thoroughly explored. Google image search is fraught with pitfalls, one example being questions of copyright and another being issues of image size and quality. Navigate these with care, and check to see if the image you are looking for can be more easily or safely obtained from an image database (ARTstor, Camio, Oxford Art Online), a book, a museum website, or some other published or vetted source.

<http://images.google.com/imghp?hl=en&tab=wi>

[Joconde](#)

"Catalog of the collections of the museums of France, available via the internet." Includes the holdings of about 140 museums with collections in archaeology, the fine arts, ethnology, history, and the sciences and technology.
<http://www.culture.gouv.fr/documentation/joconde/fr/pres.htm>

[Louvre: Inventory of the Department of Prints and Drawings](#)

An exhaustive catalogue of the museum's 140,000 works on paper, by some 4,500 artists; it provides access to the drawings, cartoons, pastels, and miniatures listed in the original handwritten inventories of the Cabinet des Dessins of the Musée du Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay. Choose "Oeuvres" and click "Recherche Multicritère" to search by inventory number, artist, school, date, subject, or technique, or in the context of the history of the collection. Information about the artists (in French) is also provided (lives, works, style). Includes images.
<http://arts-graphiques.louvre.fr/fo/visite?srv=home>

[Oxford Art Online](#)

Oxford Art Online (formerly *Grove Art*) includes links to external images and to the Art Resource image database, "the world's largest photo archive of fine art," which contains over 100,000 high quality images of works of painting, sculpture, architecture and the minor arts from most of the world's major museums, monuments, and commercial archives. There may be a charge for using images from this source.
Clark/Williams Electronic Resource

[RMN \(Réunion des Musées Nationaux\), Agence Photographique](#)

Searchable website created by the photo agency of the RMN. Online catalog of 200,000+ photographs of works of art collected in the national and regional museums of France. Search by artist, title, museum or collection, or by keyword for iconographic searches.
<http://www.photo.rmn.fr/c/htm/home.aspx?FR=T>