

Conducting Research on a Work of Art: A Bibliography of Sources available in the VMFA Library

Welcome to the Robert and Margaret Freeman Library at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts! We are the largest art library in the Southeastern United States, with an ever growing collection of over 143,500 volumes. Our holdings provide significant primary and secondary resources for the study of the history, criticism, and theory of art, including monographs, auction catalogues, bound periodicals, rare books and rare journals, vertical files on artists and subject files on VMFA history, an archive containing institutional and collection records, VMFA museum scrapbooks dating from 1935, and a media collection. The library has recently begun to develop new oral history and exhibition programs. VMFA Library is committed to all forms of information dissemination and is actively pursuing digital initiatives for this purpose.

Our greatest area of collection strength is in the Decorative Arts, especially Art Nouveau, Art Deco and Arts and Crafts. Other areas of specialization include African art, American art, American and English silver, Asian art, British art before 1850, Fabergé and Russian decorative arts, German Expressionist art, Indian art, Western European art, and American and European sporting art.

The Library serves VMFA staff, academics, students, art professionals, and the general public, and is open to the public each day from 12 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Library stacks are closed to browsing and materials circulate only to VMFA staff on the museum campus.

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I. Getting Started: Basic Reference Sources:

PANDORA

The Online Catalog for the Library

The most important research tool in the library is PANDORA, our online catalog. The catalog is available in the Library Reading Room at any of the four Macintosh public-access computers. One may also connect to PANDORA offsite using this web address: **www.pandora.vmfa.museum**, or from the Library research page of the VMFA website. Using the online catalog it is possible to search the holdings of the Main Library, The Educational Resource Room and the Media Collection simultaneously in the following ways:

- by **Author** to find books by a given author
- by **Title** to find specific books that you already know about
- by **Subject** to find books on particular topics or artists
- by **Keyword** to simultaneously search on all of the above
- by **Browse** feature to browse the shelves virtually

PINKNEY

The Collections Database for the Museum

The museums online collection management system, known as PINKNEY contains images and basic information about each art work owned by VMFA and is the natural place to begin research on art owned by the museum. PINKNEY is only available in the library on one of the public computer terminals.

Docent Manuals

Docent manuals were created for the convenience of the volunteer tour guides (docents) to assist them in locating information on works of art in the VMFA collection. Docent manuals are housed in three ring binders and located in the main library reading room. Some manuals are arranged by gallery are marked with orange stickers. Indexes are present in the first notebook for each group. Other manuals are arranged by culture, and then by artist and or genre. The docent manuals contain basic information on a work of art as well as additional articles, explanatory text written by curators and educators, other useful information.

Electronic Resources

Through the general VMFA Library website (located at **www.vmfa.museum/library.html**) one may also access the Library's suite of electronic resources: databases and selected websites that may be used to locate books, journal articles, auction sales results, visual resources, and many other types of material. Click "Electronic Resources at the Library" under the "Research Resources" heading. For electronic resources and websites that may be searched offsite, click "Research Resources on the Web" or "Art Resources on the Web" under the "Research Resources" heading.

Print Resources:

Encyclopedias and Dictionaries

Use these print resources as a starting point to find out 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 or contextual facts. Browse the library's reference collection for additional resources.

General - Art

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

Reference N31 D5 1996 (34 volumes); also available online (ask Librarian for logon assistance)

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

Reference N33 M36 1981

Fine and Applied Arts Terms Index, 1st edition. Laurence Urdang and Frank R. Abate, editors. Detroit: Gale Research, 1983. Reference N34 U72 1983

The Encyclopedia of Architecture: Historical, Theoretical and Practical. Joseph Gwilt. New York: Crown, 1982.

Reference NA2520 G94 1982

The Oxford Dictionary of Art. Ian Chilvers, editor. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Reference N33 O93 1997

The Pelican History of Art. New York: Penguin Books, 1953-

Reference N5300 P4 (45 volumes)

Ancient and Early Modern Art

A Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Oriental Arts. Kadokawa Shoten, editor. New York: Crown, 1969-

Reference N7265 P5 (3 volumes)

An Egyptian Hieroglyphic Dictionary: With an Index of English Words, King List, and Geographical List with Indexes, List of Hieroglyphic Characters, Coptic and Semitic Alphabets, etc. E. A. Wallis Budge. New York: Dover Publications, 1978.

Reference PJ1425 B8 1978 (2 volumes)

Encyclopedia of Greece and the Hellenic Tradition. Graham Speake, editor. London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1999.

Reference DF757 E52 1999 (2 volumes)

Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan. New York: Kodansha, 1983.

Reference DS805 K633 1983 (9 volumes)

The Grove Encyclopedia of Classical Art and Architecture. Gordon Campbell, editor. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Reference N5610 G76 2007 (2 volumes)

The Oxford Classical Dictionary, 5th edition. Simon Hornblower and Antony Spawform, editors. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.
Reference DE5 O9 1996

The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium. Alexander P. Kazhdan, editor. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.
Reference DF521 O93 1991 (3 volumes)

The Oxford Dictionary of the Renaissance. Gordon Campbell. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
Reference CB361 E52 1999 (6 volumes)

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt. Donald B. Redford, editor. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.
Reference DT58 O94 2001 (3 volumes)

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East. Eric M. Meyers, editor. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
Reference DE56 O9 1997 (5 volumes)

Contemporary Art

Phaidon Dictionary of Twentieth-Century Art. New York: Phaidon Press, 1973.
Reference N6490 P46

The Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Art. Harold Osborne, editor. New York: Oxford University Press, 1981.
Reference N6490 O94

The Prestel Dictionary of Art and Artists in the 20th Century. New York: Prestel, 2000.
Reference N33 P74 2000

Photography

Encyclopedia of Photography. International Center of Photography. New York: Crown, 1984.
Reference TR9 I24 1984

The Oxford Companion to the Photograph. Robin Lenman, editor. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
Reference TR9 L46 2005

Decorative Arts

Encyclopedia of Interior Design. Joanna Banham, editor. London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1997.
Reference NK1165 E48 1997 (2 volumes)

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

Reference NK30 O93

The Grove Encyclopedia of Decorative Arts. Gordon Campbell, Editor. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006-
Reference NK28 G76

The Penguin Dictionary of the Decorative Arts. John Fleming and Hugh Honor. New York: Harper & Row, 1986.
Reference NK30 F55 1986

Iconography

Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art. James Hall. New York: Harper and Row, 1974.
Reference N7560 H34

Encyclopedia of Comparative Iconography: Themes Depicted in Works of Art. Helene E. Roberts, editor. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1998.
Reference N7560 E53 1998 (2 volumes)

Saints and their Emblems. Maurice and Wildred Drake. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1971.
Reference N8080 D7

Signs and Symbols in Christian Art. George Ferguson. New York: Oxford University Press, 1954.
Reference N7830 F37

II. Understanding Works of Art: Sources for Specific Media

The books below will assist with research on the materials, terminology, and techniques used in the creation of specific kinds of art, and on collecting works of art. See Section V, "Caring For a Work of Art," to find information on the conservation and preservation of art objects.

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.
Stacks ND31 C7 1992

Constable, W. G. ***The Painter's Workshop.*** New York: Dover Publications, 1954.
Stacks ND1260 C6

Goldman, Paul. ***Looking at Prints, Drawings, and Watercolors: A Guide to Technical Terms.*** London: British Museum Publications; Malibu, CA: J. Paul Getty Museum, 1988.
Reference N33 G65 1988

Koschatzky, Walter. ***Watercolor: History and Technique.*** Translated from the German by Mary Whittall. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1970.
Stacks ND1790 K613

Thompson, Daniel V., Jr. ***The Practice of Tempera Painting***. New York: Dover Publications, 1936.

Stacks ND2470 T5

Prints and Printmaking

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

Reference NE850 G37 2004

Hults, Linda C. ***The Print in the Western World: An Introductory History***. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1996.

Stacks NE400 H79 1996

Ivins, William Mills. ***How Prints Look: Photographs with a Commentary***. New York, 1943.

Stacks NE863 I9

Drawings

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

Stacks N34 G3 1979

Mendelowitz, Daniel Marcus. ***A Guide to Drawing***, 2nd edition. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1976.

Stacks NC730 M39

Photographs

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

ERR TR9 B35 1991

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.

Reference NB50 B37 1997

Berman, Harold. ***Bronzes: Sculptors and Founders, 1800–1930***. Chicago: Abage Publishers, 1974.

Reference NK7908.8 B47 (4 volumes and index)

Decorative Arts

Edwards, Ralph, and L. G. G. Ramsey, editors. ***The Connoisseur Period Guides to the Houses, Decoration, Furnishing and Chattels of the Classic Periods.*** London: The Connoisseur, 1956-

Stacks NK928 C62 (6 volumes)

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.

Stacks NK30 H56 1997

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

Reference NK30 M38 2000

Silver and Gold

Clayton, Michael. ***The Collector's Dictionary of the Silver and Gold of Great Britain and North America.*** Woodbridge, Suffolk: Antique Collectors' Club, 1985.

Reference NK7143 C55 1985

Holland, Margaret. ***Phaidon Guide to Silver.*** Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1983.

Stacks NK7104 H618 1983

Venable, Charles L. ***Silver in America 1840–1940: A Century of Splendor.*** New York: H. N. Abrams, 1995.

Stacks NK7234 V46 1995

Silver Hallmarks

The Library's collection includes many books on the silver hallmarks of specific countries, cities, or regions. To find books on the hallmarks of a given country or region, searching PANDORA, or browse the resources adjacent to the call number NK7210. Following are several examples of books on the hallmarks of French, English, and American silversmiths.

Beuque, Emile. ***Dictionnaire des Poinçons Officiels Français et Étrangers, Anciens et Modernes de leur Création (XIV^e siècle) à nos Jours.*** Paris: C. Courtois, 1925.

Stacks NK7210 B4 (2 volumes)

Culme, John. ***The Directory of Gold & Silversmiths, Jewellers and Allied Traders 1838–1914 (from the London Assay Office Registers).*** Woodbridge, England: Antique Collectors' Club, 1987.

Reference NK7143 C924 1996 (2 volumes)

Divis, Jan. ***Guide to Silver Marks of the World.*** London: Promotional Reprint Co., 1992.

Reference NK7210 D5813 1992

Green, Robert Alan. ***Marks of American Silversmiths.*** Harrison, NY: Robert Alan Green, 1977.

Stacks NK7112 G73

Grimwade, Arthur G. ***London Goldsmiths, 1697–1837: Their Marks and Lives from the Original Registers at Goldsmiths' Hall and Other Sources.*** London: Faber and Faber, 1976.

Stacks NK7144 L66 G74

Jackson, Sir Charles James. ***English Goldsmiths and Their Marks, a History of the Goldsmiths and Plate Workers of England, Scotland, and Ireland, with over Thirteen Thousand Marks...*** New York: Dover, 1964.
Stacks NK7143 J15 1964

Rainwater, Dorothy T., and Martin and Collette Fuller. ***Encyclopedia of American Silver Manufacturers.*** Atglen, PA: Schiffer, 2004.
Reference NK7112 R3 2004

Porcelain and Pottery

Boger, Louise Ade. ***The Dictionary of World Pottery and Porcelain.*** New York: Scribner, 1971.
Reference NK3770 B64

Cohen, David Harris, and Catherine Hess. ***Looking at European Ceramics: A Guide to Technical Terms.*** Malibu, CA: J. Paul Getty Museum in association with British Museum Press, 1993.
Stacks NK4083 C64 1993

Cushion, J. P. and William Honey. ***Handbook of Pottery and Porcelain Marks***, 4th edition. London: Faber, 1980.
Stacks NK4215 C8 1980

Faÿ-Hallé, Antoinette, and Barbara Mundt. ***Porcelain of the Nineteenth Century.*** English translation by Aileen Dawson. New York: Rizzoli, 1983.
Stacks NK4483 F3713 1983

Honey, William Bowyer. ***European Ceramic Art from about the End of the Middle Ages to about 1815: A Dictionary of Factories, Artists, Technical Terms, et cetera.*** London: Faber and Faber, 1952.
Reference NK4083 H6 1952

Kovel, Ralph and Terry. ***Dictionary of Marks: Pottery and Porcelain.*** New York: Crown Publishers, 1953.

Kovel, Ralph and Terry. ***Kovels' New Dictionary of Marks.*** New York: Crown Publishers, 1986.
Reference NK4215 K68
Reference NK4215 K68 1986

Wang Quingzheng. ***A Dictionary of Chinese Ceramics.*** Singapore: Suntree Marketing, 2002.
Stacks NK4165 W36 2002

Glass

Battie, David and Simon Cottle, editors. ***Sotheby's Concise Encyclopedia of Glass.*** Boston: Little, Brown, 1991.
Reference NK5104 S66 1991

Hartmann, Carolus. *Glasmarken Lexikon 1600–1945: Signaturen, Frabrik- und Handelsmarken, Europa und Nordamerika*. Stuttgart: Arnoldsche, 1997.
Reference NK5100.6 H37 1997

Furniture and Frames

Aronson, Joseph. *The Encyclopedia of Furniture*, 3rd edition. New York: Crown, 1965.
Stacks NK2205 A7 1965

Boyce, Charles. *Dictionary of Furniture*. New York: Henry Holt, 1985.
Reference NK2205 D5 1985

Grimm, Claus. *The Book of Picture Frames, With a Supplement by George Szabo*. New York: Abaris Books, 1992.
Stacks N8550 G713 1992

Mitchell, Paul, and Lynn Roberts. *A History of European Picture Frames*. London: P. Mitchell in association with Merrell Holberton, 1996.
Stacks N8551 E85 M58 1996

Payne, Christopher, editor. *Sotheby's Concise Encyclopedia of Furniture*. London: Conran Octopus, 1989.
Reference NK2205 S68 1989

III. Finding Biographical Information

Biographical information about an artist is useful in order to understand the context of the art that the artist created. Resources are often specific to time period and/or geographic location of the artist. The best place to begin is with a simple Google or Google Image search. **Google** www.google.com

Online Sources

The websites suggested below may be searched offsite with the exception of Oxford Art Online, Newsbank and JSTOR which require subscriptions.

ArtCyclopedia

www.artcyclopedia.com

AskART

www.askart.com; mainly regional American artists; access to enhanced content available in the Library (ask librarian for logon assistance)

JSTOR (access on electronic resource page using library terminals)

Newsbank (ask librarian to conduct a search of U.S. newspapers)

Oxford Art Online (access on electronic resource page using library terminals)

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

Smithsonian Institution Research Information System

<http://www.siris.si.edu/>

Wikipedia

www.wikipedia.com

Print Sources

For a well-known artist, one might find entries in encyclopedias or dictionaries on art; for a less well-known artist, more specialized biographical/regional dictionaries are required. Some of these are listed below, but try browsing for others. The Library has several dictionaries based by country, but they are almost exclusively for English-speaking countries. Check PANDORA to determine if the VMFA Library contains an artist file for your artist or has a catalogue raisonné for the artist.

Worldwide Indexes

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

Reference N40 A634 (10 volumes)

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

Reference N40 B471 2006 (14 volumes) (English version available)

Bradley, John William. ***A Dictionary of Miniaturists, Illuminators, Calligraphers, and Copyists, with References to their Works, and Notices of their Patrons, from the Establishment of Christianity to the Eighteenth Century.*** New York: B. Franklin, 1958.

Reference ND1337 B7 D5 1958

Brewington, Dorothy E. R. ***Dictionary of Marine Artists.*** Salem, MA: Peabody Museum of Salem, 1982.

Reference ND1374 B8 1982

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

Reference N43 G3 1997 (2 volumes)

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

Reference N43 H54 1999

Jiminez, Jill Berk, editor. ***Dictionary of Artists' Models.*** Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2001.

Reference N7574 D48 2001

Morgan, Ann Lee and Colin Naylor, editors. ***Contemporary Architects.*** Chicago: St. James Press, 1987.

Reference NA680 C625

Naylor, Colin, editor. ***Contemporary Photographers.*** Chicago: St. James Press, 1988.

Reference TR139 C663 1988

Pendergast, Sara and Tom, editors. ***Contemporary Artists.*** Chicago: St. James Press, 2002–

Reference N6490 C6567 2002 (2 volumes)

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

Reference N43 P47 1985

Placzek, Adolf K., editor. ***Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects.*** New York: Free Press, 1982.

Reference NA40 M25 1982 (4 volumes)

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. (in German)

Reference N40 T4 (37 volumes)

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

Reference N31 D5 1996 (34 volumes); also available online as Oxford Art Online through VMFA electronic resources onsite.

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

Reference N40 V6 (6 volumes)

Wingfield, Mary Ann. ***A Dictionary of Sporting Artists: 1650-1990.*** Woodbridge, Suffolk, England: Antique Collectors' Club, 1992.

Reference N6796 W56 1992

Artists' Signatures, Monograms, and Seals

Bowes, James Lord. ***Japanese Marks and Seals.*** Ann Arbor, MI: Ars Ceramica, 1976.

Reference NK4167 B75 1976

Caplan, H. H. ***The Classified Directory of Artists' Signatures, Symbols and Monograms.*** London: G. Prior, 1982.

Reference N45 C36 1982A

Caplan, H. H. ***The Classified Directory of Artists' Signatures, Symbols and Monograms: American Artists with New U.K. Additions.*** London: Paul Grahame, 1987.

Reference N45 C36 1987

Contag, Victoria and Wang Chi-ch'ien. ***Seals of Chinese Painters and Collectors of the Ming and Ch'ing Periods, Reproduced in Facsimile Size and Deciphered.*** Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 1966.

Reference N45 W3 1966

Jackson, Radway. ***The Concise Dictionary of Artists' Signatures: Including Monograms and Symbols.*** New York: Alpine Fine Arts Collection, 1981.

Reference N45 J32 1981

North America

Chiaromonte, Paula L., editor. ***Women Artists in the United States: A Selective Bibliography and Resource Guide on the Fine and Decorative Arts, 1750-1986.*** Boston: G.K. Hall, 1990.

Reference N6536 C4 W6 1990

Collins, Jim, and Glenn B. Opitz, editors. ***Women Artists in America: 18th Century to the Present (1790–1980)***. Poughkeepsie, NY: Apollo, 1980.
Reference N6536 C523 1980

Falk, Peter Hastings, editor. ***Who Was Who in American Art, 1564–1975: 400 Years of Artists in America***. Madison, CT: Sound View Press, 1999.
Reference N6536 F26 1999 (3 volumes)

Farris, Phoebe, editor. ***Women Artists of Color: A Bio-Critical Sourcebook to 20th-Century Artists in the Americas***. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999.
Reference N8354 W656 1999

MacDonald, Colin S., compiler. ***A Dictionary of Canadian Artists***. Ottawa, Canada: Canadian Paperbacks, 1967-1990.
Reference N6548 M28 (7 volumes)

Opitz, Glenn B., editor. ***Dictionary of American Sculptors: 18th Century to the Present***. Poughkeepsie, NY: Apollo, 1984.
Reference NB236 O64 1984

Opitz, Glenn B., editor. ***Mantle Fielding's Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors, and Engravers***, 2nd edition. Poughkeepsie, NY: Apollo, 1986.
Reference N6536 F5 1986

Riggs, Thomas, editor. ***St. James Guide to Black Artists***. Detroit: St. James Press, 1997.
Reference N6538 S78 1997

Who's Who in American Art. New York: Bowker, 1936–
Reference N40 W5

Latin America

Shipp, Steve. ***Latin American and Caribbean Artists of the Modern Era: A Biographical Dictionary of More than 12,700 Persons***. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2003.
Reference N6502.4 S45 2003

Turner, Jane, editor. ***Encyclopedia of Latin American and Caribbean Art***. Macmillan Reference Limited, 2000.
Reference N6502 E53 2000

United Kingdom

Buckman, David. ***The Dictionary of Artists in Britain Since 1945***. Bristol: Art Dictionaries, 1998.
Reference N6768 B83 1998

Johnson, J., and A. Greutzner, compilers. ***Dictionary of British Artists 1880–1940: An Antique Collectors' Club Research Project Listing 41,000 Artists***. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Antique Collectors' Club, 1976.
Reference N6767 J63

IV. Estimating the Value of a Work of Art

The VMFA is prohibited from providing either monetary appraisals or authentication of art works, however we can assist patrons to obtain a comparable, that is an estimated value based on previous auction sales. One way to obtain a general idea of the value of a work of art is to locate the results of recent auction sales or upcoming auction sales of other works by the artist executed in the same medium, and of similar style, size, and date. The VMFA library subscribes to several auction result databases for this purpose.

Auction Sales Databases (typically only cover sales dating from the 1980's forward)

ArtFact

www.artfact.com (ask librarian for logon assistance)

ArtNet

www.artnet.com (ask Librarian for logon assistance)

AskART

www.askart.com ask Librarian for logon assistance

Sotheby's website (upcoming and past sale results)

www.sothebys.com

Christie's website (upcoming and past sale results)

www.christies.com

If you are seeking a value conclusion for insurance purposes a formal appraisal must be prepared by a professional appraiser. Appraisals are legal documents that provide a valuation for insurance, damage or loss, estate taxation, and distribution of property or for charitable contributions and donations.

The following organizations provide appraisal services:

Appraisers' Association of America www.appraisersassoc.org

Appraiser's Society of America <http://www.appraisers.org/ASAHome.aspx>

ArtDealers Association of America <http://www.artdealers.org/>

International Fine Art Appraisers <http://www.ifaacertified.com/>

National Institute of Appraisers <http://appraiserofflineart.com/>

Private Art Dealers Association <http://www.pada.net/>

Print Resources

Davenport, R. J. *Davenport's Art Reference and Price Guide*. Ventura, CA: Davenport's Art Reference, 1986-
Reference N867o D38

Lanmon, Dwight P., compiler. ***Evaluating your Collection: The Fourteen Points of Connoisseurship***. Winterthur, DE: Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1999.
Stacks AM231 L36 1999

Christie's, Sotheby's and miscellaneous auction catalogs from various auction houses worldwide provide historical sales data and are useful for provenance research and documentation of condition. The VMFA Library has thousands of auction catalogs dating from the early 1900's that are available for research.

V. Caring for a Work of Art: Preservation and Conservation

General Guidelines

Fall, Frieda Kay. ***Art Objects: Their Care and Preservation, a Handbook for Museums and Collectors***. La Jolla, CA: Laurence McGilvery, 1973.
Stacks N8560 F32

Guldbeck, Per E. ***The Care of Antiques and Historical Collections***, 2nd edition. Nashville, TN: ASSLH, 1985.
Stacks NK1127.5 G8 1985

Kelly, Francis. ***Art Restoration: A Guide to the Care and Preservation of Works of Art***. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1972.
Stacks ND1650 K4

National Committee to Save America's Cultural Collections. ***Caring for Your Collections***. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1992.
Stacks AM303 C37 1992

Shelley, Marjorie. ***The Care and Handling of Art Objects: Practices in the Metropolitan Museum of Art***. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1987.
Stacks NK1127.5 S52 1987

Paintings

Stout, George L. ***The Care of Pictures***. Ann Arbor, MI: University Microfilms, 1967.
Stacks ND1650 D758 1967

Works on Paper: Drawings, Prints, and Photographs

Clapp, Anne F. ***Curatorial Care of Works of Art on Paper: Basic Procedures for Paper Preservation***. Oberlin, OH: Intermuseum Laboratory, 1978.
Stacks N8560 C55 1978

Ellis, Margaret Holben. ***The Care of Prints and Drawings***. Nashville, TN: AASLH Press, 1987.
Stacks NE380 E45 1987

James, Carlo, et al. ***Old Master Prints and Drawings: A Guide to Preservation and Conservation***. Marjorie Cohn, editor and translator. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 1997.

Stacks NE380 O53 1997

Kosek, Joanna M. ***Conservation Mounting for Prints and Drawings: A Manual Based on Current Practice at the British Museum***. London: Archetype Publications, 2004.

Conserv NE380 K67 2004

Lavedrine, Bertrand. ***A Guide to the Preventive Conservation of Photographic Collections***. Sharon Grevet, translator. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute, 2003.

Conserv TR465 L39 2003

Reilly, James. ***Care and Identification of 19th-Century Photographic Prints***. Rochester, NY: Eastman Kodak Company, 1986.

Stacks TR465 R45 1986

Zigrosser, Carl, and Christa M. Gaehda. ***A Guide to the Collecting and Care of Original Prints***. New York: Crown, 1965.

Stacks NE885 Z5

Furniture

McGiffin, Robert F., Jr. ***Furniture Care and Conservation***, 3rd edition. Nashville, TN: ASSH, 1992.

Stacks TT199 M4 1992

Conservation Resources: The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC)

<http://www.conservation-us.org/>

VI. Researching an Unidentified Work of Art: Methodology

Adapted from guide by Karen Bucky, Librarian at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute

I. Gathering Evidence: Physical Observation

Begin with the evidence provided by the object itself. Gather as much information as you can by thoroughly examining the front, back, and all sides (including the inside, if applicable) of the piece. Look first for a signature and a date. If the signature is illegible, copy it and see what possible letters the artist's name starts with—if you can identify the first three letters you have a good start. Write down all possible variations if any letters are ambiguous.

Look for any marks that might have been part of the creating or manufacturing process: signatures; monograms; hallmarks; stamps; inscriptions on the back, stretchers, frame, or base; foundry markings. If it is a painting, look at the stretchers; were they manufactured commercially? If so, this will give an indication of the age of the work. If a sculpture is cast bronze, look for foundry marks,

copyright date, edition number, and where the foundry is located. Look also for markings that would give clues about the history of the object: gallery labels, exhibition labels, auction labels, or owners' stamps.

With paintings and works on paper, always examine the back of the object. There is often a great deal of information—inscriptions, labels, dealer numbers, collector's marks—on the stretcher or the back of a canvas or sheet of paper. With sculpture, look underneath and (if it is hollow cast) inside the object for inscriptions or signs of its age.

Take photos or make drawings of these marks exactly as they look—no detail is too small to dismiss. Make notes on exactly where the marks appear.

Determine what the object is made of and what materials/techniques the artist used, as specifically as possible. If the object is a painting, is it oil, acrylic, watercolor, tempera, or other material? Is a work on paper an original or is it a multiple? (look for an edition number, e.g. 3/50). If the work is a print, is it an engraving, etching, wood cut, aquatint, serigraph, silkscreen, lithograph, something else? If it is a sculpture, is it bronze, plaster, wood, marble, stone, mixed media, other? Many of the books listed in this bibliography include descriptions and illustrations that will help you to identify the materials and techniques used to create a work of art.

Look at a print or drawing under strong magnification, or a 10x loop. If there is color, do you see uneven pooling of color? This might indicate an engraving, hand-colored with watercolors. Can you see how the artist achieved halftones (gray areas)? Is there cross-hatching or do you see an overall stipple effect? Study the differences between etchings, engravings, and other kinds of prints to become familiar with what characterizes the different techniques.

Additionally, try to determine what type of surface the art is created on. If it is a painting, is it on stretched canvas or linen, a panel, a board, a piece of paper, or a piece of paper mounted on a canvas? It is a collage? There are many possibilities.

Make notes on whatever information you have on the object's history: when and where you got it, what you know about its prior ownership, any information provided by previous owners or dealers. Make note of the source of each piece of information. Don't assume that anecdotes passed along by former collectors and family history about the object is necessarily factual, but collect them nevertheless.

Make additional notes about the condition of the work. Condition affects value. For sale or legal purposes the condition of a work of art must be determined by a professional. However, you can look for discoloration along the mat edge, which is caused by non-archival matting materials and creates a dark yellow-orange to brown acid burn where the mat meets the paper. Additionally, older pieces are often framed with corrugated cardboard, which also burns the paper and creates staining that can cause striated dark burn marks. Varnish on oil paintings is often yellowed and discolored. Many paintings have an overall pattern of small hairline cracks called craquelure. If any of the paint is lifting or cupping, the paint is unstable and should be examined by a professional conservator. Document tears, missing paint, discoloration, and staining.

Last but not least, when conducting research on an unidentified work or artist, it is essential that you provide photographic documentation to reference personnel so that they may better assist you. Send jpeg images of your work by email to library@vmfa.museum or bring photographs of the object with details of marks, signatures, and views of the back or interior of the piece with you. Do not bring

original artwork into the museum, as it causes security concerns. Finally, be patient, and be realistic. It often takes a good deal of research to identify a piece and some works will never be identified.