



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What do you already know about the object? The more information you have to start with, the easier it is to find further information. The following types of information are extremely useful: name of the artist, dates (of the artist or the work itself), and type of media (painting, drawing, lithograph, sculpture, etc.)

If you know the name of the artist, begin your search with that name:

### CONSULT A BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCE:

**Grove Dictionary of Art.** AFA Reference N31.D5 1996 (or database version)

This 34-volume comprehensive dictionary is also available as an online database. See the AFA Library Website for access <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/afa>

**Dictionnaire critique et documentaire des peintres, sculpteurs, dessinateurs et graveurs de tous les temps et de tous les pays par un groupe 'decrivains francais et etrangers (E. Benezit)** AFA Reference N40 .B47x 1999

This 14-volume biographical work (in French) is particularly useful as articles often include signature facsimilies and brief auction histories in addition to biographical information.

**Artist Biographies Master Index:** AFA Reference N40 .A78 1986

This source indexes many biographical sources and will save you searching time, especially if you are looking for information on lesser known artists. A search in this source will often lead you to others where an artist is listed.

► *Note: Some artists simply do not receive biographical treatment in an existing reference publication. This is particularly true of local or regionally known artists. Information on these individuals may be found by searching the art periodical literature, or newspaper sources (for features and exhibition reviews.)*

### Look for Books, Exhibition Catalogs and Catalogues Raisonné :

Consult the **WebLUIIS UF LIBRARIES CATALOG**, to find books and other materials owned by the UF Libraries. A keyword search or a subject search using the artist's name (last name first!) often yields the best results.

If the artist is well-known, seek a **catalogue raisonné**. A catalogue raisonné is a publication (usually a book) which attempts to list all works (or all works in a particular medium or time period) by one artist. Entries often include a reproduction, a list of scholarly sources where the work has been discussed, and provenance information.

If the artist is lesser known, or if you do not have a specific name, try searching by period, style, region, artistic medium, or other keywords. Example: **painting and florida**

### Look for Articles in the Art Periodical Literature:

Use **ART ABSTRACTS** and **ART INDEX RETROSPECTIVE** to search for articles and reproductions in periodicals by subject or keyword. Go to the **AFA Library Home Page** <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/afa> , and choose from the databases menu.

## MARKET VALUE AND AUTHENTICATION

► *Please Note:* We will gladly assist you in the use of our reference collection, which includes authentication tools, auction and art sales indexes, and price guides for collectible items. However, the staff of the Architecture & Fine Arts Library cannot engage in questions about valuation, attribution or authentication of individual works of art, nor recommend individual appraisers for works of art.

### **MARKS, MONOGRAM, SIGNATURE SOURCES**

These sources provide a visual reference to the signatures and marks used by artists. Many provide citations to additional information as well.

**American artists : signatures and monograms, 1800-1989** . AFA Reference N 45 .C37 1990

**Artists' monograms and indiscernible signatures : an international directory, 1800-1991.**

AFA Reference N 45 .C374 1991

**Classified directory of artists' signatures, symbols & monograms.**

AFA Reference N 45 .C36 1982x

**European artists : signatures and monograms, 1800-1990, including selected artists from other parts of the world.** AFA Reference N 45 .C38 1990

**Latin American artists' signatures and monograms : colonial era to 1996.**

AFA Reference N 45 .C385 1997

**Monogramm-Lexikon: internationales Verzeichnis der Monogramme bildender Künstler seit 1850.** AFA Reference N 45 .G6

**Visual index of artists' signatures and monographs.** AFA Reference N 45 .J331 1991

### **ART SALES INFORMATION**

Because works of art may be sold at auction, using auction records is one way to find information about the value of works by particular artists. There are several different indexes to auction sales. You may need to look at more than one year to find sales references to a particular artist.

**Art Sales Index.** AFA Reference (latest edition) N 8670 .A65

Contains over 100,000 sales results from 1,800 auctions per season. Covers over 27,000 artists who work in painting, drawing, and sculpture.

**Mayer <Catalog>.** AFA Reference (latest edition) N8640 .I5

Contains over 120,000 sales results from over 800 auction houses worldwide. Media covered includes prints, drawings, watercolors, paintings and sculpture.

**Icollector Art Price Guide (database)** <http://www.icollector.com/artlib>

The Art Price Guide contains more than 1,000,000 auction records of sales from auction houses in 40 countries from 1987 to 1997. The coverage is international with listings on more than 100,000 artists.

Auction houses, such as Sotheby's and Christie's, publish sales catalogs in advance of auction sales. These catalogs contain reproductions of items to be auctioned, as well as information about particular art works. The Architecture & Fine Arts Library has a collection of **Sotheby's Auction Catalogs**. They are arranged by auction date and can be found at this call number: N 8650 .S55.

**SCIPIO: Art and Rare Book Sales Catalogs** is a database that describes art auction and rare book catalogs for sales from the late sixteenth century to scheduled auctions not yet held. Records include the dates and places of sales, the auction houses, sellers, institutional holdings, and titles of works. SCIPIO is updated daily. Access to SCIPIO is available via Eureka. To connect, go to the **AFA Library Home Page** <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/afa>. From the **Databases** Menu, choose **SCIPIO**.