

	<h1>Researching a WORK OF ART</h1>
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What do you already know about the work of art? 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

Database Version: **Oxford Art Online**

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 **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) that 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 FULL TEXT** and **ART INDEX RETROSPECTIVE** to search for articles and reproductions in periodicals by subject or keyword. Go to the **AFA Library Website** <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/afa> , and choose from the databases list.

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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, and others like them, 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. Examples include:

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.

Davenport's Art Reference & Price Guide. AFA Reference (latest edition) N8675 .D38

Current volume contains information 240,000 artists. Provides representative price information and biographical data. Covers the American and European market. Media covered includes painting, watercolor, drawing, prints, and sculpture.

ArtFact <http://www.artfact.com> Provides a searchable database of auction information.

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**.

Online Auction sites can be useful for general price and availability data. Examples include **Ebay** <<http://www.ebay.com>> and **Icollector** <<http://www.icollector.com>>