

Library Research Guide

Researching Artworks in the Collection of the Nelson-Atkins



Museum Collection Search

Online Collection Search The museum's collection search connects to information and images of thousands of works in the museum's collection. The collection search includes information about the maker, title, date, medium, dimensions, label copy, accession number, gallery label copy, exhibition history, provenance information, and published references. It also notes if the artwork is currently on view and if so, which gallery the work is exhibited in <https://art.nelson-atkins.org/collections>

Search the Library's Catalog

Search in library's catalog: <http://libraryonsearch.nelson-atkins.org> using keywords such as the artist's name, title of a book, author, subject or artistic time period. Use the Advanced Search option to combine several of your search terms and narrow your query results. *To find library books that include an illustration or information about a specific work of art try searching in the catalog using the accession number, from the collection search, and the phrase, "NAMAartobject" followed by object's accession number.

Museum Handbooks These publications begin in 1933 and will be especially helpful to you. Handbooks include images of the select artwork in the collection, the artist's name, title, medium and accession numbers for each piece. Collection handbooks have been published in 1933, 1941, 1949, 1959, 1973, 1988, 1993 the last full collection catalog was published in 2008:

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. *The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: A Handbook of the Collection*. Kansas City, MO: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2008.

Collection Handbooks

William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art and the Mary Atkins Museum of Fine Arts. *Handbook of the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art*. Kansas City: The Joseph D. Havens Co, 1933.

Call No: N582 .K3 W5 1933

Also available online: <https://archive.org/details/nama1933handbook>

Mackenzie, Colin, and Ling-En Lu. *Masterworks of Chinese Art: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*. Kansas City, Mo: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2011.

Call No: N7342 .N45 2011

Masteller, Kimberly. *Masterworks from India and Southeast Asia: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, in association with University of Washington Press, Seattle, 2016.

Call No: N7301 .N45 2016

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. *Bloch Galleries: Highlights from the Collection of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2016.

Call No: N6757 .N45 2016

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. *Ceramics: Highlights from the Collection of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2016.

Call No: NK3730 .K36 N456 2016

Torrence, Gaylord and Marjorie Alexander. *Continuum: Native North American Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2020.

Call No: E98 .A7 T68 2020

The Starr Collection of Portrait Miniatures, 1500–1850: The Collections of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2023. Volumes 1 – 4.

<https://nelson-atkins.org/art/digital-catalogues/starr-catalogue/>

Aimee Marcereau DeGalan, Editor. *French Paintings and Pastels, 1600–1945: The Collections of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art* (Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2021–2025), <https://doi.org/10.37764/78973>

Major Collection Catalogs The Museum has published several catalogs about the Museum's collections. These scholarly publication include essays about works of art, bibliography and the provenance for art objects. Below is a listing of the catalogs that are available.

Adams, Henry. *Handbook of American Paintings*. Kansas City, Mo: The Museum, 1991.

Call No: Reading Room N 582 .K31 1991 no. 12

Conrads, Margaret C., Lauren Lessing, and Randall R. Griffey. *The Collections of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: American Paintings to 1945*. Kansas City, Mo: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2007.

Call No: Reading Room N 582 .K31 2007 no. 3 v. 1-2

Davis, Keith F., Jane Lee Aspinwall, and Marc F. Wilson. *The Origins of American Photography: From Daguerreotype to Dry-Plate, 1839-1885*. Kansas City, Mo: Hall Family Foundation, 2007.

Call No: Reading Room N 582 .K31 2007 no. 4

DeGalan, Aimee Marcereau, Meghan Gray, Glynnis Stevenson, Mary Schafer, Rachel Freeman, John Twilley, Simon Kelly, Diana M. Jaskierny, Brigid M. Boyle, and Julián Zugazagoitia. *French Paintings and Pastels, 1600-1945 : the Collections of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*. Kansas City, Mo: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2020.

Available online: <https://www.nelson-atkins.org/fpc>

Dunbar, Burton L., Molly Faries, and Dena Marie Woodall. *The Collections of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. German and Netherlandish Paintings, 1450-1600*. Kansas City, Mo: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in association with the University of Washington Press, Seattle, 2005.

Call No: Reading Room N 582 .K31 2005 no. 1

McKenna, George L. *The Collections of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Prints, 1460-1995*. Kansas City, Mo: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in association with the University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1996.

Call No: Reading Room N 582 .K31 1996 no. 8

Reynolds, Graham., and Ross E. Taggart. *The Starr Collection of Miniatures in the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery / with Introduction by Graham Reynolds*. Kansas City: Nelson Gallery-Atkins Museum, 1971.

Call No: Reading Room N 582 .K31 1971 no. 9

Rowlands, Eliot Wooldridge. *The Collections of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Italian Paintings, 1300-1800*. Kansas City, Mo: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 1996.

Call No: Reading Room N 582 .K31 1996 no. 12

Taggart, Ross E., Frank P. Burnap, and Harriet Call. Burnap. *The Frank P. and Harriet C. Burnap Collection of English Pottery in the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery*. Rev. and enl. ed. by Ross E. Taggart. Kansas City, Mo: Nelson Gallery-Atkins Museum, 1967.

Call No: Reading Room N 582 .K31 1967 no.10

Wai-kam Ho. *Eight Dynasties of Chinese Painting: The Collections of the Nelson Gallery-Atkins Museum, Kansas City, and the Cleveland Museum of Art*. Cleveland, Ohio: Cleveland Museum of Art in cooperation with Indiana University Press, 1980.

Call No: Reading Room N 582 .K31 1980 no .3

The Nelson-Atkins Museum Bulletin Index (1956-1983) Bulletins can be searched from an electronic file available on the Public Access computers in the Library Reading Room in the SARL Programs folder. The index can be searched by using the “Find” function on the upper right hand side of the Home ribbon, or by browsing the alphabetical list.

William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art and Mary Atkins Museum of Fine Arts, and Jay I. Kislak Reference Collection (Library of Congress). *The Nelson Gallery and Atkins Museum Bulletin*. Kansas City, Mo: Nelson Gallery and Atkins Museum, 1956.
January 1956 – July 1983.

Call No: Reading Room N 582 .K3 A21 1956-1983

Museum Exhibition Catalogs If you find that your object was in an exhibition, it may be included in an exhibition catalog in the library’s collection. Not all exhibitions have an accompanying exhibition catalog, but many do.

Library Databases

The library subscribes to many databases and links to select freely accessible databases. Library databases are accessible from the public computers in the Spencer Art Reference Reading Room <https://nelson-atkins.org/library/online-library-resources/>

Subscription databases connect you to articles, art sales information, newspaper articles and more.

Oxford Art Online <http://www.oxfordartonline.com> This database is only available in the library and includes these reference works: *Benezit Dictionary of Artists*, *Grove Art Online*, *The Oxford Companion to Western Art*, *Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*, and *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms*. Search *Oxford Art Online* to find general information, including the artist's biography, definitions of terms, etc.

Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History Metropolitan Museum of Art This freely available resource can help you develop a contextual framework for your object. In addition to a timeline, the Heilbrunn site includes thematic essays, geographical maps and suggested readings to further your research @ <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/>

Quick Guides

The library has quick guides for select works in the museum's collection. These tailored guides connect researchers to focused resources that provide information on a work of art. These guides available at the library reference desk or by emailing, sarlcirc@nelson-atkins.org

Contact the Library

The library staff can assist you with developing an efficient search strategy tailored to your specific request or assignment. Library staff can also help with concept formulation, searching strategies, finding visual images and using specialized art historical information sources, specialized online services and primary sources.

- The Reading Room is in the Bloch Building, Level 2
- Contact us by phone at 816.751.1216
- Current Library hours and a web reference assistance form are available from the library website at **nelson-atkins.org/library**
- The online catalog may be searched 24 hours a day at **libraryonsearch.nelson-atkins.org**