

Using AskArt

To find information on artists and their art

Use this database to:

- Check auction prices
- Buy/sell artworks
- Read about artists
- Connect to galleries, museums and appraisers

About this database:

AskArt is a source of information on 185,000 artists and their work. The database has a strong focus on the art marketplace, featuring auction prices from 1987 to the present (2007-present for international artists). There are listings of art for sale by dealers, individuals and artists as well as art wanted by dealers, and classified ads. Users will also find directories for thousands of galleries, museums, auction houses and appraisers. The database covers paintings, sculpture and illustrations, but does not include reproductions, photographs, prints or lithographs.

Searching the Database

Please note: the link from the Library database page brings you to a very limited version of AskArt. Please ask a Reference Librarian to log you in to the full version.

The [AskArt home page](#) is divided into five sections: Artist Search, Art Marketplace, Research Center, Popular Topics and Participate. The choices available in these sections are clearly visible and require only one click of the mouse to access them. To search for a particular artist, either type in the person's name or click on the letter of the artist's last initial. The resulting page will give you some brief identifying data and links to Quick Facts, and book references. For many artists, there will be additional links to auction prices, signature examples, biographies, images, magazine references, dealers, discussions among users, and/or offers to buy or sell.

Searching Tips

- After you locate an artist, there will be different options available, depending upon the recognition the artist has received. Move the mouse cursor over the links (to auctions, current exhibits, signatures, etc) to see what is available. The cursor arrow will change to a hand if there's a link.
- If you are especially interested in specific artists, sign up to receive emails relevant to the artists and their works—including art for sale.
- Database users are encouraged to contribute information and take part in the discussions.

- To receive Artist Alerts, enter the discussion boards or place classified ads, you must first register. Find the Register link in the box titles Log in for full access. Next click on Artist's Alerts only and finally click on Sign Up (for free limited version).
- If you are buying art, be sure and try out the "virtual room" feature to see how the piece fits different wall sizes and color schemes

Sample Searches

Question: I have a painting by Katie Oakes. Is it worth anything?

Search procedure: At the home page, type in the artist's name in the search box or click on O to see all the artists whose last name begins with O. There is minimal information available on Oakes, but there are two references to art reference books.

Question: My mother left two paintings by Gilbert Gaul. How do I go about selling them?

Search procedure: Type in name as above. You're in luck! There are many book references, museum and gallery exhibits, and even some dealers looking for Gaul's paintings.

Question: I'm supposed to do a report on Fauvism and I don't even know what it is!

Search procedure: AskArt has short essays on about 30 artistic styles and movements. Look for the Research Center box on the home page. Click on Art Styles and find Fauvism among the list at the left. There is an introduction to the movement with images and links to relevant artists. (You will find much more on art topics and major artists in print sources. The Library has thousands of circulating books and excellent reference books covering art of all kinds. For browsing, look in the Folio section.)

Similar Databases

There are no similar databases available for free. You can research well-known artists in [Biography Resource Center](#) or [World Book](#) (databases available through the Library) or in [Wikipedia](#) online. [Art History Resources on the Web](#) is an excellent portal for art web sites.