



## The Oxford Dictionary of Art

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Ideal for students, picture researchers, and enthusiasts of all kinds, this third edition of *The Oxford Dictionary of Art* reaffirms the unrivalled position held by this authoritative one-volume guide to the art of the Western world. Covering Western art from the ancient world to the present day, the *Dictionary* provides a careful balance of fact and critical appraisal ranging across painting, sculpture, drawing, and the applied arts. Over 3000 entries provide the reader with information on a wide range of people and subjects, including artists, critics, collectors, dealers, patrons, museums, art schools, materials, and techniques. This third edition has been thoroughly revised and expanded, with over 200 new entries on contemporary artists, such as Damien Hirst, Julian Schnabel, Antony Gormley; new forms, such as video art; museums, patrons, and collectors. The *Dictionary* also includes an updated contextual chronology of major works, as well as a practical directory of museums and galleries around the world.

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### Editorial Review

#### From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—Chilvers provides more than 3000 concise, lucid entries in this second revision of Harold Osborne's one-volume dictionary, which first appeared in 1988. A preface explains the scope: "...Western and Western-inspired painting, sculpture, printmaking, and drawing from ancient times to the present day," with the qualification that no artists born after 1965 have their own headings. An introductory list of entries, organized geographically and chronologically for artists, and then thematically (terms, techniques, academies, etc.) reveals the Anglocentric focus. Randolph Caldecott, Kate Greenaway, and Arthur Rackham mingle with Henry Moore and John Constable in the English lineup. Major African-American artists such as Romare Bearden, Augusta Savage, and Jacob Lawrence are absent. Chilvers fails to include the infamous Guerilla Girls, and he misstates the relationship between the National Gallery and the Smithsonian. Nancy Frazier's *The Penguin Concise Dictionary of Art History* (Penguin, 2001), with its interdisciplinary approach, quotes from each artist, and more inclusive scope, offers an alternative, although with fewer entries. Neither source has any pictures, a situation requiring the additional use of monographs or online resources for most questions.—Wendy Lukehart, Washington DC Public Library

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#### From Library Journal

A handy work based on earlier Oxford Companions and revised from previous editions, this single-volume reference contains 3000 entries that discuss Western and Western-inspired art from antiquity on. It considers paintings, graphics, sculpture, and architecture in terms of artistic figures, periods, schools, techniques, critical terms, and museums; lesser artists are treated more concisely than major ones. Despite editorial claims that the dictionary is "up to date," coverage of recent activities is uneven, with Neo-expressionism and other contemporary movements and artists omitted. An easy format, accurate facts, and good cross-referencing make this a useful lexicon for the layperson or for general and public collections. Robin Kaplan, The Information Group, Los Angeles

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#### From [Booklist](#)

This new edition expands by some 200 pages the 1997 second edition, adding more than 200 entries and a very helpful classified list of entries. The chronology and index of museums and galleries have been updated, while "A Selection of Christian and Classical Themes in Painting and Sculpture" has been dropped. The annotated index of museums and galleries contains complete contact information and focuses on "150 of the world's leading collections of Western art." As in previous editions, the focus is Western art beginning with classical Greece.

According to the editor, "almost every entry has been amended in some way and many have been expanded or substantially rewritten." Of the 3,000 entries, about two-thirds are for artists, and the number of entries for people grows to around three-fourths of the total when patrons, collectors, administrators, dealers, and writers are added. Architects, designers, photographers, and practitioners of the applied arts are not the subjects of main entries unless they were also significant as painters, sculptors, printmakers, or draftsmen. There are 28 entries for artists of Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean; most spent significant parts of their careers in Europe or the U.S. Wherever possible, all biographical entries now include places and exact dates of birth and death. Nonbiographical entries cover museums and galleries; academies, schools, and other institutions; exhibitions and prizes; styles, groups, and movements; materials, tools, and techniques; and miscellaneous terms.

Other recent one-volume dictionaries of similar scope, size, and readability and with an emphasis on Western art include *The Penguin Concise Dictionary of Art History* (Penguin, 2000) and *The Yale Dictionary of Art and Artists* (Yale, 2000). The former includes brief quotations by or about the artist for each artist entry.

Neither these nor *The Oxford Dictionary of Art* is illustrated. *The Thames and Hudson Dictionary of Art and Artists* (Thames and Hudson, 1994), though shorter and less recent, includes 426 black-and-white illustrations and ventures more into non-Western cultures. All of these volumes are recommended for high-school, public, and academic libraries, though none is as up-to-date as *The Oxford Dictionary of Art*. *Craig Bunch*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Eric Hough:**

The e-book with title The Oxford Dictionary of Art includes a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of gain after read this book. That book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world today. That is important to you to understand how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you with new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

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#### **Jack Scala:**

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