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IMAGE RESEARCH: HOW TO ANALYSE AND RESEARCH A VISUAL ARTS IMAGE

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Learning outcomes
After completing this learning tool, you should be able to:
– Identify key elements to analyse a visual arts image
– Identify key library sources to research a visual arts image
  o Search Oxford Art Online to find basic background facts
  o Search the Catalogue to find books on the artist/subject/period/work
  o Search using CrossSearch to find articles and other scholarly resources on the artist/subject/period/work

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HOW DO I ANALYSE A VISUAL ARTS IMAGE?
There are a number of important elements to consider when you want to analyse a visual arts image. Here are some suggested criteria to use:

- **Who created the work?**
  Who is the artist, the designer, the architect, the producer, etc.?

- **When was the work created?**
  Time of the work, historical context, period, contemporaries, the style or movement

- **What is the Subject of the work?**
  Subject, Iconography, Story

- **Describe the work**
  Media, Material, Size, Location

- **Who is the work created for?**
  King, critic, church, market, audience

- **What is the work designed to do?**

- **What is the social and cultural significance of the work?**

These criteria are listed on the:
University of Sydney Library Home page > Subject Guides > Contemporary Art and Design > Art Research > Image Research

HOW DO I RESEARCH A VISUAL ARTS IMAGE?
Key elements can be researched using resources and links from the Library Home page:

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<th>Task</th>
<th>Resource</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Begin at University of Sydney Library Home page</td>
<td><a href="http://sydney.edu.au/library/">http://sydney.edu.au/library/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Find basic background facts on the artist / subject / period / work</td>
<td>Use Online Reference resources such as:</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Oxford Art Online</strong>: Library Home page &gt; Catalogue &gt;</td>
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<td>Oxford Art Online &gt; Search by Artist’s name</td>
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