



iResearch

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UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY LIBRARY: 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:

<p>Begin at University of Sydney Library Home page</p>	<p>http://sydney.edu.au/library/</p>
<p>Find basic background facts on the artist / subject / period / work</p>	<p>Use Online Reference resources such as:</p> <p>Oxford Art Online: Library Home page > Catalogue > Oxford Art Online > Search by Artist's name</p> <p>Oxford Reference Online: Library Home page > Catalogue > Oxford Reference Online > Search by creator, movement</p>
<p>Find Books on the artist / subject / period / work</p>	<p>Use Library Catalogue:</p> <p>Catalogue: Library Home page > Catalogue > Search by Artist's name, art movement, work</p>
<p>Find Journal Articles and other scholarly resources on the artist / subject / period / work</p>	<p>Use CrossSearch:</p> <p>CrossSearch: Library Home page > CrossSearch > Search by Artist's name, creator, work, movement</p>