



Color and Pigments

Most good writing about art begins with careful inspections of works of art themselves, followed by informed library research. Research on artistic media is no exception. The cultural context and descriptions of works in books and journals will be far more meaningful if you have taken advantage of this opportunity. If the project includes the compiling of a bibliography, it will be most valuable if a full range of resources is consulted, including reference works, books, and journal articles. Listing online sources and survey books is usually much less informative.

To find articles in scholarly journals, use indexes such as *Art Abstracts* or, the *Bibliography of the History of Art*. To find books, use keywords in the online catalog. Once relevant titles are located, careful attention to subject headings may lead to other relevant books. Footnotes and bibliographies in books and articles can also lead to other sources.

Sylvan Barnet's, *A Short Guide to Writing About Art*, 10th edition, provides a useful description of the process of looking, reading, and writing. For footnote and bibliography formats, the appendix in Barnet is helpful, as is Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Term Papers*.

For additional research assistance, please contact the library staff. Call 713-639-7325 or e-mail hirsch@mfa.h.org.

For purposes of the bibliography listed below:

Reference books are accessible on the main floor of the library.

Reserve books are accessible on the main floor of the library.

Online resources may be accessed from any computer on the main floor of the library.

For other books, give titles and call numbers to a library staff member, who will retrieve the books for you. Books must be used in the library; they cannot be checked out.

Your assessment of resources used in your research is always welcome.

Listed below are some suggestions for research on the topics of color and pigments.

Reference books

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Dictionary of Art</i> , entry on "Colour" on-line, or in volume 7, pages 626-636. | N 31 .D5 1996 |
| Ball. <i>Bright Earth: Art and the Invention of Color</i> . | N 7432.7 .B34 2003 |
| Batchelor. <i>Colour</i> | N 7432.7 .C63 2008 |
| Gage. <i>Colour and Culture: Practice and Meaning from Antiquity to Abstraction</i> | ND1488 .G34 1999 |
| Gage. <i>Color and Meaning : Art, Science, and Symbolism</i> | ND 1488 .G344 1999 |
| Gage. <i>Color in art</i> | ND 1488 .G345 2006 |
| Bomford. <i>Colour</i> . | ND 1490 .B65 2009 |
| Lamb. <i>Colour: Art & Science</i> | NX 650 .C676 C64 1995 |
| Heifetz. <i>When Blue Meant Yellow: How Colors Got their Names</i> . | QC 494.2 .H45 1994 |
| Boccardi. <i>Colors: Symbols, History, Correlations</i> | QC 495.8 .B63 2009 |

Reserve books

Cole. *Color*. [ND 1490 .C66 1993](#)
Zelanski. *Color*. [QC 495 .Z45 1994](#)

Online resources

“Colour,” in [Encyclopædia Britannica](#)

MIT’s [“A Bibliography of Color and Philosophy”](#)

For articles, check the online indexes: [Art Index Retrospective & Art Abstracts \(H.W. Wilson\)](#) or [Bibliography of the History of Art](#).

Books in Hirsch Library, in order of shelf location:

Pastourea. *Blue: the History of a Color*. [BF 789 .C7 P369 2001](#)
Pastoureau. *Black: the History of a Color* [BF 789 .C7 P3813 2009](#)
Pleij. *Colors Demonic and Divine: Shades of Meaning in the Middle Ages* [BF 789 .C7 P5713 2004](#)
Batchelor. *Chromophobia* [N 7432.7 .B38 2000](#)
Hall. *Color and Meaning: Practice and Theory in Renaissance Painting* [ND 170 .H3 1991](#)
Cennini. *The Craftsman’s Handbook* [ND 1130 .C3822](#)
Kemp. *The Science of Art*. [ND 1475 .K46 1990](#)
Birren. *History of Color in Painting*. [ND 1488 .B574 1965](#)
Burris-Meyer. *Historical Color Guide: Primitive to Modern Times*. [ND 1488 .B95 1938](#)
Chevreul. *The Principles of Harmony and Contrast of Colors*. [ND 1488 .C57 1967](#)
Finlay. *Colour: Travels Through the Paintbox*. [ND 1488 .F56 2002](#)
Itten. *The Art of Color: The Subjective Experience and Objective Rationale*. [ND 1488 .I813 2004](#)
Albers. *Interaction of Color*. [ND 1489 .A43 2006](#)
Thompson. *The Materials and Techniques of Medieval Painting*. [ND 1500 .T5 1956](#)
FitzHugh. *Artists’ Pigments: A Handbook of their History & Characteristics*. [ND 1510 .A77 1986](#)
Walch. *Living Colors: Definitive Guide to Color Palettes Through the Ages*. [ND 1510 .W35 1995](#)
Riley. *Color Codes: Modern Theories of Color in . . . Painting . . .* [NX 650 .C676 R56 1995](#)
Brusatin. *A History of Colors*. [QC 494.7 .B7813 1991](#)
Delamare. *Blue Pigments: 5000 Years of Art and Industry* [QC 495.8 .D4513 2013](#)
Fehrman . *Color: the Secret Influence* [QC 495 .F43 2004](#)
Aach, ed. *Goethe’s Color Theory*. [QC 495 .G4813 1971](#)
Koenig. *Color Workbook*. [QC 495 .K75 2007](#)