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MFA **H** *The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*
Hirsch Library Research Guide



Red-figure Hydria with scene of 3 Women & a Wader Bird
Attributed to the Painter of the Yale Oinochoe, Greek (Attic)

Greek, Classical, 470-460 BC
Terracotta: 13 3/4 x 13 1/4 x 12 in. (34.9 x 33.7 x 30.5 cm)

Museum purchase funded by General and Mrs. Maurice Hirsch

This domestic scene of three women, in the presence of a pet heron, was appropriate for a hydria, a vessel used by women to carry water from the fountain. The artist depicted the women, the drapery folds, and the heron with great naturalism. Herons were kept as pets and were also sacred to the Greek goddess Aphrodite.

Online Resources:

[Hirsch Library Online Catalog](#)

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History](#)

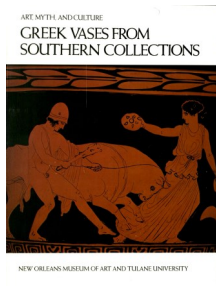
Articles: (full-text access available on-site; off-site access available through your school library or Houston Public Library)

[Oakley, John H. "Greek Vase Painting." *American Journal of Archaeology* 113, no. 4 \(2009\): 599-627.](#)

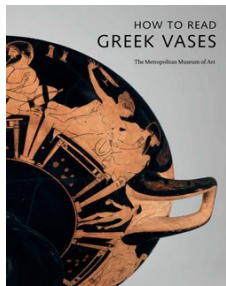
[Sutton, Robert F., Jr. "Family Portraits: Recognizing the 'Oikos' on Attic Red-Figure Pottery." *Hesperia Supplements* 33 \(2004\): 327-350.](#)

[Blundell, Sue, and Nancy Sorkin Rabinowitz. "Women's Bonds, Women's Pots: Adornment Scenes in Attic Vase-Painting." *Phoenix* 62, no. 1/2 \(2008\): 115-144.](#)

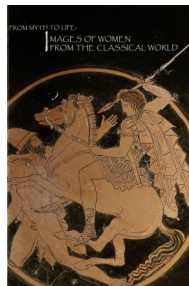
Print Resources:



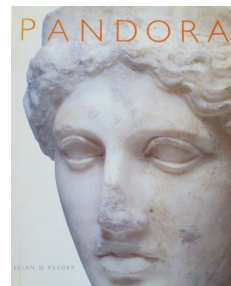
[Art, Myth, and Culture: Greek Vases from Southern Collections](#)



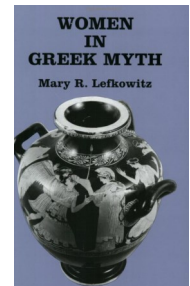
[How to Read Greek Vases](#)



[From Myth to Life: Images of Women From the Classical World](#)



[Pandora: Women in Classical Greece](#)



[Women in Greek Myth](#)

Bibliography

General Surveys of Greek Art

[Gardner, Helen, Fred Kleiner, and Christin J. Mamiya. *Gardner's Art Through the Ages*. 12th ed. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2005. N 5300 .G25 2005 Ref.](#)

[Janson, H. W., and Penelope Davies. *Janson's History of Art: The Western Tradition*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007. N 5300 .J3 2007 Ref.](#)

[Stokstad, Marilyn, and David A. Brinkley. *Art History*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008. N 5300 .S923 2008 Ref.](#)

Greek Art, History and Culture

[Beard, Mary, and John Henderson. *Classical Art: From Greece to Rome*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. N 5610 .B295 2001 Ref.](#)

[Boardman, John. *Greek Art*. Rev. ed. New York: Praeger, 1973. N 5630 .B58 1973](#)

[Boardman, John. *The Oxford History of Classical Art*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993. N 5610 .O84 1993 Ref.](#)

[Kurtz, Donna C., and Brian A. Sparkes. *The Eye of Greece: Studies in the Art of Athens*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982. N 5650 .E9 1982](#)

[Pollitt, Jerome J. *Art and Experience in Classical Greece*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1972. N 5630 .P54 1972 Ref.](#)

[Richter, Gisela. *A Handbook of Greek Art*. 9th ed. Oxford: Phaidon, 1987. N 5630 .R49 1987 Ref.](#)

[Woodford, Susan. *An Introduction to Greek Art*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1986. NB 90 .W66 1986 Reserve](#)

Greek Pottery

[Boardman, John. *Athenian Red Figure Vases, The Classical Period: A Handbook*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 2001. NK 4649 .B624 2001 Reserve](#)

[Boardman, John. *The History of Greek Vases: Potters, Painters and Pictures*. London: Thames & Hudson, 2001. NK 4645 .B62 2001 Reserve](#)

[Cook, Robert Manuel. *Greek Painted Pottery*. 2nd ed. London: Methuen, 1972. NK 4645 .C6 1972](#)

[Lissarrague, François. *Greek Vases: The Athenians and Their Images*. New York: Riverside Book Company, 2001. NK 4645 .L5813 2001 Reserve](#)

[Noble, Joseph V. *The Techniques of Painted Attic Pottery*. London: Faber & Faber, 1966. NK 4645 .N6 1966](#)

[Rasmussen, Tom, and Nigel J. Spivey. *Looking at Greek Vases*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991. NK 4645 .L66 1991 Reserve](#)

[Rouet, Philippe. *Approaches to the Study of Attic Vases: Beazley and Pottier*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. NK 4648 .R68 2001](#)

[Schreiber, Toby. *Athenian Vase Construction: A Potter's Analysis*. Malibu: J. Paul Getty Museum, 1999. NK 4645 .S365 1999](#)

Ancient Mythology

[Aghion, Irène, Claire Barbillon and François Lissarrague. *Gods and Heroes of Classical Antiquity*. Paris: Flammarion, 1996. N 7760 .A3413 1996 Ref.](#)

[Bulfinch, Thomas, and Bryan Holme. *Bulfinch's Mythology: The Greek and Roman Fables Illustrated*. New York: Viking Press, 1979. BL 721 .B84 1979](#)

[Van Keuren, Frances Dodds. *Guide to Research in Classical Art and Mythology*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1991. N 7760 .V3 1991](#)

This reference guide is just the tip of the iceberg on helpful resources in the library's holdings. Many of the suggested resources above have their own bibliographies. Each of these may lead you to another resource that would also be helpful in your research here in the museum or in another library. To find additional resources, use keywords such as "Greek hydria" and "Attic pottery" in the online catalog and in periodical indexes. Once you find a few relevant titles, pay attention to the subject headings to identify similar materials. Examples of useful subject headings are:

Vase-painting, Greek
Vases, Greek
Athens (Greece)—Antiquities
Greece—Antiquities

For guidelines about writing it may be helpful to look at Sylvan Barnet's *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, which includes tips for looking, reading, and writing about art. Ask for it at the reference desk. At every stage of your work, please allow the library staff to help you. Contact us at 713-639-7325 or hirsch@mfa.org