DICTIONARIES

Each of these works includes brief articles about artistic styles, church furnishings and symbols, Biblical characters and events, saints, and Christian artists. The articles in the Oxford Companion are the longest and perhaps the most scholarly. But each work includes topics not in the other two books.


ENCYCLOPEDIC WORKS


In over 41,000 articles, this mammoth work covers the visual arts from around the world from prehistory to the 1990s. Included are articles on painting, sculpture, architecture, graphic and decorative arts, and photography. In addition, influences on the production of art such as religion, trade, geography, history and politics are fully addressed.


Lengthy articles by subject specialists on “architecture, sculpture, and painting, and every other man-made object that, regardless of its purpose or technique, enters the field of esthetic judgment because of its form or decoration.” The second half of each volume consists of plates illustrating the articles in the first half of the volume.
[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 841 .N44 2003]

The major English-language encyclopedia on Catholic topics, this work contains some 17,000 articles, each with a bibliography. There is an article entitled “Art, Articles on” which provides an overview of the encyclopedia’s artistic content and identifies several hundred entries relating to the visual arts. Unfortunately many of the articles in the 2003/online edition are reprints from the 1967 edition without any updating.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – N 7830 .S3513]


[Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library – E-10/3661, 3662, 3667, 4175]

Each volume considers how the saints and blessed are represented in the paintings of a particular area of Italy. Many illustrations.

[St. Michael's 2nd Floor – N 7830 .R28]

Volume 1 includes introductory articles about Christian symbolism. The articles in volume 2 (parts 1 and 2) consider the representation of various biblical stories and characters. The articles in volume 3 (parts 1, 2, and 3) consider the representation of Christian saints. Each article includes a list of major works of art and a very specific bibliography.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BV 150 .L4]

This work is similar to Reau's Iconographie de l'Art Chretien - but it is more a work of reference with longer bibliographies and lists of major works of art. The articles in volumes 1 to 4 consider the representation of particular biblical characters, events, and symbols. The articles in volumes 5 to 8 consider the representation of particular Christian saints, but with very little explanation. Many black-and-white illustrations.
HANDBOOKS OF SYMBOLS

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – N 7830 .F37]

Fourteen chapters on the Christian symbolism of animals, flowers, the human body, angels, biblical characters, saints, colours, and religious objects.

**Church Symbolism.** By F. R. Webber. Cleveland, OH: Jansen, 1938.  
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BV 150 .W4 1938]

An explanation of the more important symbols of the Bible and the Church. Includes symbols for God (e.g. the triangle) and the saints. Illustrated with pen drawings.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BL 603 .L5413 1991]

Brief descriptions of approximately 1,500 ideograms used in the Western world.

**Symbols.com**  
[Available online: http://www.symbols.com/]

An online encyclopedia of Western signs and ideograms with information on over 2,500 common symbols. Symbols can be looked up using a word index or a graphics search engine.

OTHER USEFUL WORKS

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – N 7832 .A7213 1982]

Chapters on Byzantine, Romanesque, and Gothic art, including architecture, sculpture, and painting. Highly illustrated with line drawings.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – N 7793 .W65 A66 1996]

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – ND 1288 .B47]

The stories of 850 common painting subjects drawn from classical mythology, ancient history, the Bible, and lives of the saints. Quotations and summaries from the Bible and from ancient, medieval and Renaissance writers tell the stories as the painters themselves might have known them.
Instead of relating the stories of particular biblical or mythological characters, this work treats the themes of these stories (e.g. abandonment, abduction, adultery). Numerous Christian themes are included: annunciation, apocalypse, baptism, communion, damned souls, death, dreams, grieving, judgment, light, logos, martyrdom, peace, penitence, sacrifice, shepherds, temptation.

**FINDING JOURNAL ARTICLES**

**Art Abstracts and Art Index Retrospective.**  
[Available online (1984 – present) for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]  
[Available online (1929 – 1984) for UofT use only: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]

Bibliographic citations and abstracts to articles from over 260 art journals. Includes the fields of archaeology, architecture, art history, city planning, crafts, graphic arts, industrial design, interior design, landscape architecture, museology, photography, and film.

**Bibliography of the History of Art.**  
[Available online (1973 – present) for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca. Search “E-resources” for History of Art.]

The most comprehensive and up-to-date art history bibliography available worldwide, covering European and American art from late antiquity to the present. Includes art-related books, conference proceedings, dissertations, exhibition and dealer's catalogs, and articles from more than 2,500 journals.

**Catholic Periodical and Literature Index (CPLI).**  
[Available online (1981 – present) for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]  

Over 200,000 bibliographic citations to Catholic books, book reviews, and journal articles from more than 160 Catholic magazines.

**ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials.**  
[Available online (1949 - present) for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]

Over one million bibliographic citations to journal articles, essays in books, and book reviews in the field of religion.

It is possible to search the **ATLA Religion Database** and the **Catholic Periodical and Literature Index** at the same time: when you are using one or the other index, click on the blue “Choose Databases” tab at the top of the webpage, place checkmarks against both indexes, and then click on the “Continue” tab.

Both the **ATLA Religion Database** and the **Catholic Periodical and Literature Index** include links to many full-text electronic journal articles.
**Index of Christian Art.**  
[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]

Princeton University's index provides information on Christian artwork from the eastern and western churches from the apostolic era to medieval times. The approximately 200,000 records in this index provide bibliographic information and, in many cases, photographic reproductions of the artwork.

**IMAGE GALLERIES**

**FADIS.**  
[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]

Over 30,000 images of painting, sculpture, and architecture.

**Web Gallery of Art.**  
[Available online: http://www.wga.hu]

Over 10,000 images of European painting and sculpture from 1150 to 1800.

**Art Concordance.**  
[Available online: http://www.textweek.com/art/art.htm]

An index to images on the web on biblical and liturgical subjects.

**WebMuseum.**  
[Available online: http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint]

Image galleries of famous paintings from the thirteenth to the twentieth centuries.

**Christus Rex et Redemptor Mundi.**  
[Available online: http://www.christusrex.org]

Image galleries of famous religious paintings and churches.

**Art History Resources on the Web.**  
[Available online: http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHLinks.html]

Web links maintained by Chris Witcombe at Sweet Briar College. Includes the "Gateway to Art History" with web links compiled for use with the book *Gardner's Art Through the Ages.*

**ArtServe (Australian National University).**  
[Available online: http://rubens.anu.edu.au]

Over 80,000 images of art and architecture.

This research guide is maintained by Noel S. McFerran (noel.mcferran@utoronto.ca). It was last updated February 2012. The latest version is available online: http://stmikes.utoronto.ca/kelly/research_guides/christianity_visual_arts.asp