

CMA/CWRU Joint Program in Art History & Museum Studies  
Ingalls Library Orientation  
Friday, August 23, 2013

A Suggested Methodology for Answering your Question

Search for the answer to your assigned question utilizing a monograph, an encyclopedia, a serial or an auction catalogue, a biographical dictionary, or an electronic resource from the Ingalls Library collection. Keep a list of titles you consulted, and note if they were helpful in your search.

How many members of the Abstract Expressionists studied with Hans Hofmann? How many were members of the American Abstract Artists Group? Who were they?

1. Using *Oxford Art Online* (<http://www.oxfordartonline.com>) search for the entry on **Hans Hofmann** in *Benezit's Dictionary of Artists*

Entries in *Benezit* include biographical information, as well as bibliography, auction records, and if available, a signature. Read about Hofmann's art school and look for any key names mentioned as American Abstract Expressionists. Search the bibliography.

Search *Grove's Dictionary of Art*, (<http://www.oxfordartonline.com>) also part of the *Oxford Art Online* series, for **American Abstract Artists**

Compare the results between this and *Benezit*. Entries here will begin to mention names of founding members of AAA, including Lee Krasner, Willem De Kooning, Balcomb Greene and others. Search the bibliography.

2. Search the library catalog for **American Abstract Artists Group (title words search)** (<http://library.clevelandart.org/catalogs/>).

Find the following publications cited in *Oxford Art Online*:

Larsen, Susan C. *The American Abstract Artists Group: A History and Evaluation of its Impact upon American Art*. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University, 1975.  
N6512.5 .A2 L37 1975

*American Abstract Artists, Three Yearbooks (1938, 1939, 1946)* (New York, 1969)  
N11 .A44 1938 1939; N11 .A44 1938 1946

All of these publications contain lists of artists associated with the Hans Hoffman School and the American Abstract Artists Group.

3. Search the library catalog (<http://library.clevelandart.org/catalogs/>) for artist clipping files using artist names. Clipping files are not assigned call numbers; instead, they are filed alphabetically by the artist's surname and shelved in the reference area. Artist clipping files are an exceptionally useful resource that include newspaper clippings, small exhibition catalogues, gallery announcements, etc. Clipping file records are usually the last entry in the record set for any artist search. The Hans Hofmann files contains a wealth of information:

000000842

Record Format Monograph

OCLC Number 120878 DYNIX\_\_120878

Main Entry ■ [Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966.](#)

Title Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966.

Subjects ■ [Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966.](#)

Library Holdings [Reference Collection / Regular loan](#)  
[CLIPPING FILE](#)

4. Search Artbibliographies Modern (<http://search.proquest.com/artbibliographies/advanced>) using the search terms "**American**" and "**abstract**" and "**artists.**" Select entries #2 and #4.

Stahl, Joan. "American Abstract Artists Tackle the Big Question." *American Art*, 12(1) (1998) 89-91.

A20 S664a

Larsen, Susan C. "The American Abstract Artists: A Documentary History, 1936-1941." *Archives of American Art Journal*, 14(1) (1974) 2-7

A20 A673a

5. Search JSTOR ([www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)) to determine whether or not these two articles are available. Both articles are available in JSTOR. If the articles were not available, it would have been necessary to have the journal (s) pages from the library stacks.

You can also search for additional articles on Hans Hofmann and/or American abstract artists in JSTOR.

