



Guide to Research at Hirsch Library

Red Figure Hydria with Women Sorting Wool

By the Painter of the Yale Oinochoe. Greek, Attic, Early Classical, c. 470-460 B.C. 34.9 x 33.7 x 30.5 cm., 80.95.
Gift of General and Mrs. Maurice Hirsch.

Before researching a work of art from the MFAH collection, the work should be viewed in the museum, if possible. The cultural context and descriptions of works in books and journals will be far more meaningful if you have taken advantage of this opportunity. Most good writing about art begins with careful inspections of the objects themselves, followed by informed library research. 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 on-line 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*. Exhibition catalogs and books about the holdings of other museums may contain entries written about related objects that could also provide guidance and examples of how to write about art. To find books, use keywords in the on-line catalog. Once relevant titles are located, careful attention to how those items are cataloged will lead to similar books with those subject headings. Footnotes and bibliographies in books and articles can also lead to other sources. University libraries will usually offer further holdings on a subject, and the Electronic Resources Room in the library can be used to access their on-line catalogs.

Sylvan Barnet's, *A Short Guide to Writing About Art*, 6th 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*, which is available at the library's reference desk.

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

For purposes of the bibliography listed below:

Resources that are annotated *Ref.* or *Reference* are accessible on the main floor of the library.

Ready Reference books are kept behind the information desk.

For other books, give the titles and call numbers to a member of the library staff, who will retrieve the books for you.

Books must be used in the library; they cannot be checked out.

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

Below are some suggestions of resources in the Hirsch Library for reading about Classical Greece and its arts, about the medium and technique of vase painting, and about the story, or subject, the scene on the vase depicts. To appreciate the materials and technique of vase construction and painting, a review of more general books, beginning with Archaic and Geometric period works and proceeding through the High Classical period may be appropriate. That kind of review should help clarify how pottery is constructed, the options a painter had, and how later art historians organize the several styles of vase

painting. A consideration of how the shape of the vessel relates to function, and how the painted scene relates to that shape or that function could also be an interesting study.

(For clarification of periods and places, like “Archaic,” “Classical,” and “Attic,” abbreviations like *c.* or *ca* [for “circa”], or B.C., A.D., B.C.E., and C.E., or the artist called the “Painter of the Yale Oinoche,” please ask at the reference desk)

Publications about MFAH collections

<i>A Permanent Legacy: 150 Works from the Collection</i> , p. 82.	Ready Ref.
<i>MFAH Visitor Guide</i> , page 40.	Ready Ref.
<i>Learning Through Art: A Teacher’s Guide</i> , vol. 2, page 103.	N362 .L42 1994

Surveys of art history

Sources on the development of Greek art, particularly important for the development of red figure painting.

Gardner’s <i>Art Through the Ages</i> , chapter 5.	N5300 .G25 1991 Ref.
Marylin Stokstad. <i>Art History</i> , chapter 5.	N5300 .S923 1995 Ref.
Janson’s <i>History of Art</i> , chapter 5.	N5300 .J3 1991 Ref.
Honour & Fleming, <i>The Visual Arts: A History</i> , chapter 4.	N5300 .H68 1999 Ref.

Books on ancient Greek art, history and culture

“Greece, Ancient” in the <i>Dictionary of Art</i> , volume 13.	N31 .D5 996 Ref.
Giesela Richter. <i>Greek Art</i> .	N5630 .R49 1969
John Boardman. <i>Oxford History of Classical Art</i> .	N5610 .O84 1993 Ref.
Mary Beard & John Henderson. <i>Classical Art: From Greece to Rome</i> .	N5610 .B295
J.J.J. Pollitt. <i>Art and Experience in Classical Greece</i> .	N5630 .P54 1972
John Boardman. <i>Greek Art</i> .	N5630 .B58 1973
D. Kurtz and B. Sparkes, edd. <i>The Eye of Greece: Studies in the Art of Athens</i> .	N5650 .E9 1982
Susan Woodford. <i>An Introduction to Greek Art</i> .	NB90 .W66 1986

Books on Greek pottery

John Boardman. <i>The History of Greek Vases</i> .	NK4645 .B62 2001
Robert Cook. <i>Greek Painted Pottery</i> , 3 rd ed. 1997. Hirsch has 1972 ed.	NK4645 .C6 1972
François Lissarrague. <i>Greek Vases: The Athenians and Their Images</i> .	NK4645 .L5813 2001
Tom Rasmussen & Nigel Spivey. <i>Looking at Greek Vases</i> .	NK4645 .L66 1991
Toby Schreiber. <i>Athenian Vase Construction: A Potter’s Analysis</i> .	NK4645 .S365 1999
John Boardman, <i>Athenian Red Figure Vases</i> , <i>The Classical Period: A Handbook</i> .	on order
Martin Robertson. <i>Art of Vase Painting in Classical Athens</i> .	on order
J.V. Noble. <i>The Techniques of Attic Painted Pottery</i> .	on order
Philippe Rouet. <i>Approaches to the Study of Attic Vases</i> .	on order

Books on ancient mythology

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| Thomas Bullfinch. <i>Bullfinch's Mythology: The Greek and Roman Fables.</i> | BL721 .B84 1979 |
| Irene Aghion. <i>Gods and Heroes of Classical Antiquity.</i> | N7760 .A3413 1996 |
| Francis Van Keuren. <i>Guide to Research in Classical Art and Mythology.</i> | N7760 .V3 1991 |

Usually, the Web is of little use for this kind of research. On this subject, however, Tufts University has created an extraordinary site on Greek archaeology, mythology, and literature, at perseus.tufts.edu