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@mfah.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**

Reserve books

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:
Delamare. *Blue Pigments: 5000 Years of Art and Industry* QC 495.8 .D4513 2013