

# Newark Public Library

## ART IDENTIFICATION FORM

Available to members of the New Jersey Library Network.

For best results, we ask that *librarians* complete this form.

Transmit the form

--by CD&L (Newark Public Library is #1539)

--by mail to

The Newark Public Library

5 Washington Street

Newark, NJ 07102

--by fax to 973-733-5648 (if no image of the item can be obtained)

--by email to [reference@npl.org](mailto:reference@npl.org) (attached scanned images of the art work and signature are appreciated)

(Phone inquires: 973-733-7820 or 973-733-7840)

Date:

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Library:

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Reference librarian:

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Phone: ( )

Fax: ( )

Email:

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Name of patron:

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*Please note: Librarians are not authorized to give financial appraisals, as art appraising is a separate, highly skilled profession. Printed prices and database information, however, will be sent when pertinent.*

***When you can include a snapshot of the work of art, we are often able to retrieve better information. A snapshot of the artist's signature and/or mark also often proves invaluable to this research.***

1. Most essential: What specifically does the inquirer want to know?
2. Who is the artist? (If the work is signed in any way, please send a snapshot of the signature, if possible.)
3. Provenance: when and where was the work acquired (and the history of who has owned it, if possible)?
4. If not owned by the inquirer, where did he/she see or hear about the artist or work?

5. Medium, if known (e.g., oil, watercolor, bronze, plaster):
  
6. Title of work, if known:
  
7. Date of execution or approximate period (century or style/school/period), if known:
  
8. If the work is a print, please provide any signature, symbol, or numbering:
  
9. Please provide any biographical information about the artist learned by you (the librarian) and/or the inquirer.
  
10. Please provide any other information seen on the back of the frame or on the base of the sculpture or decorative piece.
  
11. Please provide the dimensions (height x width for 2-dimensional works; height x width x depth for 3-dimensional works).
  
12. What is the subject, if any, of the work?
  
13. Please provide any known information about the subject (e.g., portrait of whom, notable place or building, historic event).
  
14. Sources checked by inquirer and local librarian: Please indicate edition/date and use a check mark for positive results, a zero for titles yielding nothing of use for this question:

INTERNATIONAL:

- Allgemeines Künstler Lexicon.*
- Benezit.*
- Bryan. Dictionary of Painters and Engravers.*
- Champlin. Cyclopedia of Painters and Paintings.*
- Contemporary Artists.*
- Davenport's Art Reference and Price Guide.*
- Encyclopedia of World Art.*
- Grove Dictionary of Art.*
- Havlice. Index of Artistic Biography.*
- Mallett. Index of Artists.*

\_\_Saur.  
\_\_Thieme-Becker.  
\_\_Vollmer.  
\_\_other:

UNITED STATES:

\_\_Baigell. *Dictionary of American Art.*  
\_\_Cummings. *Dictionary of Contemporary American Artists.*  
\_\_Fielding. *Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors, and Engravers.*  
\_\_Groce. *The NY Historical Society's Dictionary of Artists in America...*  
\_\_*Who Was Who in American Art.*  
\_\_*Who's Who in American Art.*  
\_\_other:

INDEXES AND DATABASES:

\_\_*Art Sales Index*  
\_\_*ArtFact.com*  
\_\_*ArtPrice.com*  
\_\_*ArtQuest.*  
\_\_*Biography & Genealogy Master Index.*  
\_\_Chicago Art Institute. Ryerson Library.  
\_\_*DIALOG* (please specify files):  
\_\_*Wilson Art Index.*  
\_\_other:

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES GUIDES:

(any titles by Kovel, Lyle, Miller, Warman; *Antique Trader's Collector Magazine*; Collector's Information Bureau, etc.)

INTERNET SITES (please list URL's):

OTHER SOURCES:

15. Please provide any additional clues/comments you may have uncovered in your reference interview or in your sources.