

## Artists--Biographical Sources

### Using the VSC Library Catalog

Search for books, videos and other materials using *author* (or artist) and *subject* searches. Enter *last name, first name* for works by or about an artist.

For example the search *Lin, Maya* yields these results:

*Boundaries*, a book by Maya Ying Lin

*Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision*, a videorecording about the artist's work

For reference works and other titles that may include information on an artist, use

***Library of Congress Subject Headings*** such as:

Art, American—20<sup>th</sup> century

Artists--United States--Biography

Arts, Modern--20th century

Artists—Biography

Women artists—United States—Biography

### Selected Reference Sources

Online titles marked with an asterisk \* are reserved for JSC students, faculty and staff.

Login with your JSC ID and password.

***Contemporary Artists***, 5th ed. R/709.222/C767/2001/2 vols. JSC Library also holds 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> editions.

Coverage in the fifth edition is limited primarily to major artists who were living after 1990. Each profile includes achronological listing of exhibitions, bibliography of sources, and a critical essay of the artist's work.

***Dictionary of Art*** R/703/T854d/1996/34 vols.

Heralded as the most significant art publishing event since the *Encyclopedia of World Art* (1959), this source contains over 20,000 biographies.

***Dictionary of Women Artists*** (1997) R/709.22/D561/2vols.

This source focuses on the life and work of over 600 women artists from the Middle Ages to the time of publication. A general bibliography and introductory surveys precede the artist entries which contain a biography, a bibliography, and critique of the artist's work.

***World Artists 1950-1980: An H.W. Wilson Biographical Dictionary*** R/709.22/M342w

International coverage of influential artists for this time period in art history.

### Indexes and Abstracts (Print and Online\*)

***Art Index*** 1929-- R/700.016/Ar75

This is the essential index to periodicals, museum publications, catalogues raisonné, exhibitions and book reviews in all aspects of the arts, including the fine arts, photography, interior design, graphic arts, computer graphics, crafts, landscape architecture and more. Search by artist, museum, or subject.

***Biography in Context***\*

Sources in this database include obituaries, interviews, essays, speeches, periodical articles, and reference books. Online from the Library [Databases A-Z](#) page.

***Credo Reference Collection\****

Link to art dictionaries, images and more in the [Credo Reference Collection](#) database.

***Index to Artistic Biography. R/709.22/4298i/2 vols. and supplement***

Keep in mind that the original volumes were published in 1973 and the supplement followed in 1981. Thus you will locate biographies of Ben Shan and Matthew Brady, but not Mapplethorpe or other artists whose work fall beyond the scope of coverage. Still, this is considered "a valuable index to biographies of about 70,000 artists representing all time periods and geographic regions, covering 64 art publications." (Blazek)

***Multidisciplinary Databases\****

Start your research in *Academic Search Premier (ASP)* or *Expanded Academic ASAP (EAA)*. These databases index thousands of journals and magazines where you will find full text for many of the articles you locate. Online from the Library [Databases A-Z](#) page.

**\*Online databases** are located on the Library Web site in the *Databases by Subject* and in the [Databases A-Z](#) pages.