

THE  
LONDON  
LIBRARY

# A guide to the Art collections

## General Information

The Library's books on fine and applied art are housed in the Art Room, up the short flight of steps leading from the main Issue Hall. Periodicals on art and related subjects are kept in the Library's general sequence, with current issues available from the Reading Room and earlier bound volumes shelved in the Periodicals section in the basement.

The Art Room comprises books on two levels, with a third level in TS Eliot House, and a reading room in the middle. The sequence starts on the ground floor with quarto sized books and continues on the gallery above, where the quarto sequence ends. Art then continues with the octavo sized books in TS Eliot House, on the mezzanine floor directly above (Floor M). Small folio sized books are in the adjacent Central Stack, mezzanine floor, at the end of the octavo sequence.

## The Collections

The Library continues to acquire books and exhibition catalogues on major artists and architects, art history, criticism and theory. The main strength is in European art from 1500 to the 1960s. Catalogues raisonnés of major artists acquired whenever possible. Art of the Americas, Asia and Africa are also represented. The emphasis is on English language publications, with some works in other major European languages also included. Film, photography, fashion and crafts are all located in the Art collection.

## Understanding shelfmarks

The collection is divided into broad subject areas (History, Literature, Topography, for example) and then into smaller areas, arranged alphabetically. Within each section, books are generally arranged by author name but edited titles are filed under the book title instead. Check the Catalyst record for the 'shelved under' information.

In order to make the most effective use of space, the collection is also shelved by size. Check the end of shelf marks for the notations 4to (quarto), Folio and Folio Extra Large that may indicate a different place to look for the books.

	<p>BOOK</p> <p><b>London uprising : fifty fashion designers, one city</b></p> <p>Fares, Tania, editor.; Mower, Sarah, editor.</p> <p>2017</p> <p><b>Shelved Under:</b> London uprising :</p> <p> <a href="#">Available at London Library Art (A. Dress, 4to.) &gt;</a></p>
---	---

Above is an example of a book record from the catalogue. Here you can see that the book is shelved under the title rather than the author's name, as it is an edited work, and that it is available (i.e. on the shelf) in the Art section (A.), in the sub-section 'Dress' of the 4to sequence, and then shelved under London.

Books may be requested and put aside for ready for collection, but we would always encourage members to browse the shelves for themselves and discover the books they did not know they needed. Items from the Library's Special Collections that cannot be borrowed, can be consulted in the Library under supervised conditions with 72 hours' notice.

### Shelfmarks

The Library's catalogues indicate an Art Room location by the prefix A. (for Art). The collection is then subdivided into the following categories:

Aesthetics	Enamel	Needlework
Art (General)	Engraving	Ornament and Decoration
Architecture	Etching	Painting
Artistic Anatomy	Fans	Papiermaché
Brasses	Finger-rings	Pewter
Bronzes	Furniture	Photography
Caricature	Gems	Portraits
Carpets	Glass	Pottery
Cave Painting	Gold and Silver Work	Sculpture
Christian Art	Illumination of Manuscripts	Shoemaking
Cinema &c	Ivory	Snuffboxes
Clocks	Jade	Tapestry
Collage	Lace	Vases
Colour	Lithography	Weaving
Drawing	Majolica	Woodcarving
Dress	Metalwork	
Embroidery	Mosaics	

Please note that some of these categories cover a very large number of books (e.g. A. Art (Gen.) and A. Painting), while others are very small, possibly containing only one or two books each.

To avoid confusion over alternative spellings of artists' names, please note down shelfmarks exactly as they appear in the Library catalogue, Catalyst.

## Shelf Mark Locations

### ART ROOM GROUND

A. Aesthetics, 4to. → A. Painting, Kiff, 4to.

### ART ROOM GALLERY

A. Painting, King, 4to. → A. Wood Carving, 4to.



### TS ELIOT HOUSE Floor M

A. Aesthetics → A. Christian Art, Soloukhin

### CENTRAL STACK Floor M

Christian Art, Stefanescu → A. Wood Carving &c.  
Art Small Folio

N.B. Ask at Issue Desk for Art Folio.

## Shelving Arrangements

Books are shelved in separate sequences according to size: octavo, quarto (4to.), small folio or folio. The larger size indicators appear at the end of the shelf-mark in the Library's catalogue entries, such as:

Architecture, 4to.

Cinema, &c, sm. Folio

Engraving, folio.

If there is no size indicator, the volume is octavo size.

Within each size sequence, the subject categories are arranged alphabetically. A detailed floor plan for the Art Room is available from the Issue Desk.

The ground floor Art Room houses 4to. material, and begins on the far left of the room on the shelves immediately next to the lift. The 4to. sequence runs clockwise around the outer wall to the glass door and then continues in a clockwise direction on the left side of the inner arc of shelves in the centre of the room. The sequence then continues on the outer shelves of the inner arc running anti-clockwise back to the free standing shelves directly facing the lift. The remainder of the 4to. sequence is shelved on the balustrade on the gallery running anti-clockwise from the top of the stairs.

The octavo sequence is housed on the Mezzanine, easily reached by the TS Eliot House stairs or lift from the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. It continues on the Mezzanine of the Central Stack, up four steps from TS Eliot House. The small folio sequence is located next to the end of octavo, in the Central Stack.

Art folio should be requested at the Issue Desk.

If the Library holds a significant number of books about a single artist, including critical works, the name of the artist appears as part of the shelf-mark in the catalogue entry:-

- A. Painting, Picasso
- A. Artistic Anatomy, Stubbs

### **Catalogues of collections and exhibitions**

Catalogues of works from a single gallery are shelved alphabetically under the name of the gallery, within the appropriate subject category:-

- A. Painting, A. Sculpture, etc for exhibitions covering works in a single medium, or
- A. Art (Gen.) for exhibitions including works in more than one medium.

Loan exhibition catalogues (i.e. with works from a number of collections) are shelved alphabetically by title of the exhibition. Catalogues from exhibitions of a single artist, however, are treated as standard monographs and shelved under the name of the artist, within the relevant subject category (e.g. A. Painting), and then alphabetically by author or by gallery.

Always check the Library catalogue carefully for the 'shelved under' information which will help you locate the book within the shelfmark sequence.

### **Periodicals**

The Library holds several periodical titles that complement the religion collection. Some of these titles are either no longer subscribed or are defunct but the Library retains back issues in its collection. Titles include:

Apollo, 1925-  
Ars Orientalis\*, 1954-  
Art Bulletin, 1918-  
Art History, 1978-  
Art Journal, 1960-  
Art Monthly, 1976-  
Art Newspaper, 1983-  
Art Review, 1949-  
Artibus et Historiae\*, 1980-  
British Art Journal, 1999  
British Journal of Aesthetics, 1961-  
Burlington Magazine, 1903-  
Ceramic Review, 1970-  
Church Monuments, 1985-  
Crafts, 1973-  
Dumbarton Oaks Papers\*, 1941-  
Furniture History, 1965-  
Georgian Group Journal, 1991-  
Irish Arts Review Yearbook\*, 1984-  
Journal of Glass Studies, 1959-  
Master Drawings, 1963-  
Modern Painters, 1988-  
Oxford Art Journal, 1978-  
Print Quarterly, 1984-  
RA: the Royal Academy Magazine, current year  
Regional Furniture, 1987-  
The Sculpture Journal, 1997-  
Silver Society Journal, 1990-  
Textile History, 1968-

Current issues of titles marked \* are not displayed in the Reading Room racks: please enquire at the Issue Desk. Earlier issues of most titles are available for loan in bound volumes, from the main Periodicals and Societies sections in the Basement or in our off-site storage; please check the catalogues for precise shelfmarks.

## Online Sources

The Library subscribes to a number of online resources useful for readers and researchers in art, as well as newspaper archives and other generic services that cover art:

Art History Research Net, Country Life Archive, International Bibliography of Art, Oxford Art Online.

All are available within the Library and remotely. Access is via the Library website, using your email address and your password.

