

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

## RESEARCH GUIDES

THE ART AND ARTISTS OF CALIFORNIA



[VISIT US](#)

*California History Section  
900 N Street Room 200  
9:30-4 Monday-Friday*

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Are you a fan of California-based art, or by chance a Golden Coast artist yourself? Perhaps you are researching the past of a particular work, or intrigued by an exhibition that came to be in the 31st State? If your interests range from the countless art movements that began in California, to the people and pieces that visually define the west, you will want to pore over the [California History Section's](#) rich collections!

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ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH!

## DIGITIZED RESOURCES FOR CALIFORNIA ART

There are a number of online resources provided by the California History Section and other repositories that you can explore related to the art of California!



### [Digitized Images](#)

We have digitized a portion of our extensive photograph collection, including images featuring the sculptures and paintings Panama-Pacific International Exposition, a 1915 world's fair held in San Francisco. You can see them on Calisphere!



**URL:** <https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/>

**Type in Subject Box:** Art\* OR Artist\*



### [Digitized Publications](#)

A few years ago we digitized some of our more fragile California art resources. You can see them on Internet Archive!



**URL:** <https://archive.org/>

**Type in Search Box:** Art\* OR Artist\*

**AND collection:** (californiastatelibrary)



### [Bancroft Library Pictorial Collection](#)

UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library is home to 9.2 million pictorial items, both photographic and non, including paintings, prints, drawings, posters, and advertising memorabilia.



**URL:** <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/libraries/bancroft-library/pictorial-collection>

DIGITIZED RESOURCES FOR CALIFORNIA  
ART

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**[Getty Open Content Program](#)**

The Getty website maintains over 100,000 publicly available images from the J. Paul Getty Collection. Included are the museum's paintings, drawings, and sculptures, as well as over 72,000 images from the Getty Research Institute's Foto Arte Minore Archive.



**URL:** <https://search.getty.edu>

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**[Los Angeles County Museum of Art](#)**

The LACMA has made over 80,000 items in the museum's collection accessible to view online, including 20,000 images that are in the public domain and available for download.



**URL:** <https://collections.lacma.org/>

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**[The Huntington Art Collections Catalog](#)**

The Huntington Library provides a wealth of online information on thousands of paintings, drawings, sculptures, and other works of art from their collections, starting as far back as the 15th century .

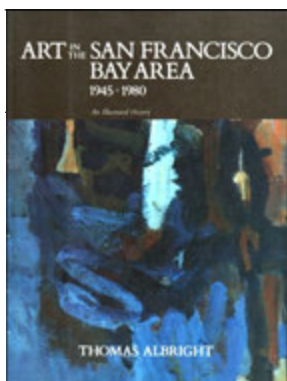


**URL:** <http://emuseum.huntington.org/collections>

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## BOOKS

Unsure about where to start? Consult a book! These texts provide both images and overviews of art history in California.



### [Albright, Thomas \(1985\). Art of the San Francisco Bay Area.](#)

As an essential survey of Bay Area artists, this book profiles the seminal painters, sculptors, and photographers that made up the San Francisco Art scene from the mid-century era through the 1970s.



**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

[vid=01CSL\\_INST:CSL&sortby=rank](https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank)

**Search by:** Title



### [Dailey, Victoria \(2003\). LA's Early Moderns: Art/Architecture/Photography](#)

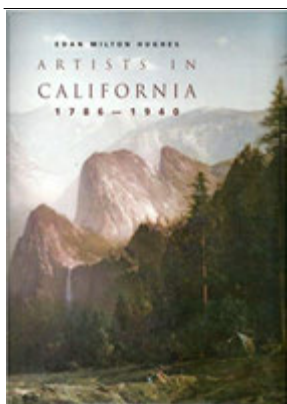
John Cage, Anais Nin, and Frank Lloyd Wright are among the famous names that made up the group of “modernist pioneers” of art and architecture in Los Angeles Art history in the 20th century.



**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

[vid=01CSL\\_INST:CSL&sortby=rank](https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank)

**Search by:** Title



### [Hughes, Edan Milton. \(2002\). Artists in California: 1786-1940, Sacramento, CA : Crocker Art Museum](#)

Locally based art historian Edan Hughes put over 10 years of work into this massive 2 volume set, using many resources from the California State Library to make up what has been called the “most useful reference book about early California art”



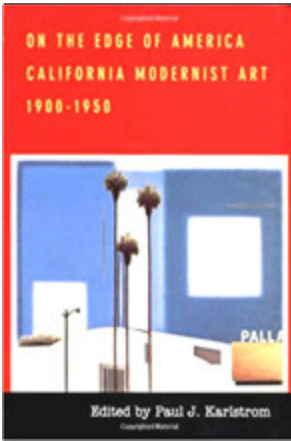
**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

[vid=01CSL\\_INST:CSL&sortby=rank](https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank)

**Search by:** Title

## BOOKS

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### [Karlstrom, Paul J. \(1996\). On the Edge of America: California Modernist Art, 1900-1950.](#)

Featuring essays and images revolving around California's role as a cultural hub, this book highlights the evolution and impact of Hollywood along with the rest of west coast on American art history from the early 1900s into the 50s

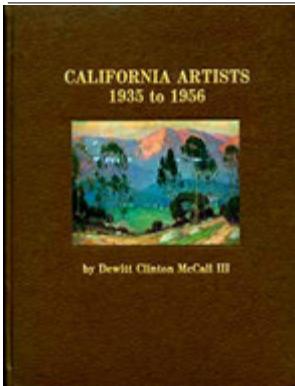


**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

vid=01 CSL\_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

**Search by:** Title

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### [McCall, Dewitt Clinton III\(1981\). California Artists 1935-1956](#)

A near-comprehensive list of almost 1,500 California artists with information on their careers covering a 20 year period



**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

vid=01 CSL\_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

**Search by:** Title

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### [Moore, Sylvia \(1989\). Yesterday and Tomorrow: California Women Artists](#)

An informative look at the contributions of women artists throughout California history, from the landscapes capturing the state's beginning to the modern works of today



**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

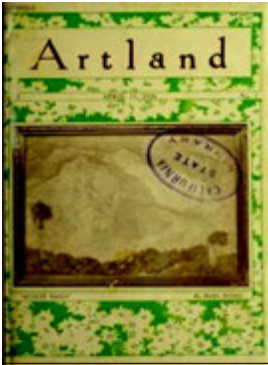
vid=01 CSL\_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

**Search by:** Title

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## PERIODICALS

Want something shorter than a book? In addition to mounted photographs in historical journals, you can read about past and current art world events in our collection of California magazines!



### [Artland \(1926-1928\). Los Angeles: Artland Club](#)

A classic periodical that centered on the arts in the Los Angeles area in the mid 1920's



**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

vid=01CSL\_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

**Search by:** Title



### [The San Francisco Illustrated Wasp \(1877-1928\)San Francisco, Calif. : Wasp Pub. Co.](#)

From political cartoons to social commentary, This is a glimpse into the early world of the illustrated news



**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

vid=01CSL\_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

**Search by:** Title



### [ARTWEEK. \(1972-2009\). Oakland, Calif. : Artweek.](#)

A monthly magazine documenting modern and contemporary art events, exhibits and commentary out of California.



**URL:** [https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL\\_INST:CSL&sortby=rank](https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank)

**Search by:** Title



## SPECIALIZED ARCHIVAL RESOURCES

In addition to periodicals we have several manuscript collections that focus specifically on California artists. Here are some selected collections at the State Library.



### [Southern California Artists , 1908-1975](#)

Materials relating to a number of Southern California Artists, including Fritz Kocher, Louis Pinkney Sooy, Frank Montague Moore, and Ella Jensen Moore. Collection includes correspondence, awards and certificates, photographs, and exhibit materials.



**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

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**Search by:** Title



### [Maynard Dixon poetry, catalog, and drawing, 1896-1904.](#)

Maynard Dixon (1875-1946) was one of the premier illustrators, painters, and muralists of his time, concentrating largely on the Indians and deserts of the Southwest. This collection contains three books of poetry hand-written by Maynard Dixon, a Dixon drawing, and a catalog of his work.



**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

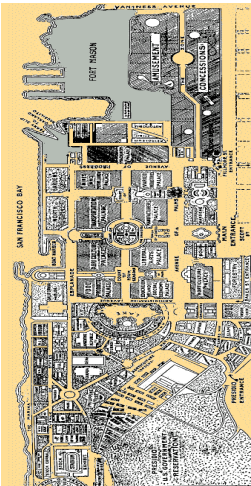
`vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank`

**Search by:** Title

## PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION COLLECTION MATERIALS

We have a vast collection of materials in a variety of formats from one of the largest showcases of international art on the west coast in the 20th century, the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition held in San Francisco, California. From ephemera, photographs, and first-hand accounts, get immersed in the excitement and visual splendor of this time-honored tradition of cultural and artistic exchange.

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### MAPS

From drafted plans to official exhibit layouts, the California History Room has maps spanning the event's evolution



**URL:** [https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/  
discovery/search?](https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?)

`vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank`

**Search by:** PPIE, Limit by Resource Type: Maps

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### PROGRAMS & REALIA

Among the memorabilia from the exhibition are programs and catalogs, as well as realia like souvenirs



**URL:** [https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/  
discovery/search?](https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?)

`vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank`

**Search by:** PPIE, Limit by Resource Type: Journals,  
Realia, Other

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# PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION COLLECTION MATERIALS

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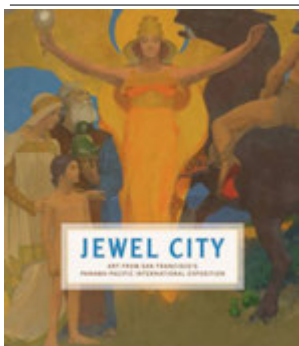
## MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

We have a handful of manuscript collections with items from or associated with the Panama Pacific International Exposition, including letters from attendees.



**URL:** [https://cs1.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?](https://cs1.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank)  
vid=01CSL\_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

**Search by:** PPIE **Limit by Resource Type:**  
Manuscripts



## BOOKS

We have 100+ books related to the exhibition, including reviews and historical records.



**URL:** [https://cs1.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?](https://cs1.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank)  
vid=01CSL\_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

**Search by:** PPIE **Limit by Resource Type:**  
Books



## PHOTOS

There are hundreds of photos surrounding the events at the PPIE, searchable online or in-person through our photo card catalog



**URL:** [https://cs1.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?](https://cs1.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank)  
vid=01CSL\_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

**Search by:** PPIE **Limit by Resource Type:**  
Images

## GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

While many of our materials are online, even more are only in hard-copy. You can use the following resources to learn about our books, articles, and manuscripts on art

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### Catalog

If you are looking for images, books and articles on art, your best source is our [catalog](http://catalog.library.ca.gov).



**URL:** [catalog.library.ca.gov](http://catalog.library.ca.gov)

**Type in Subject Box:** ( Art\* OR Artist\*)

**Limit:** By place



### California Information File II

Sometimes the catalog doesn't provide as much detail as you might like. This is why we created the California Information File II. In this resource, you can find catalog records on individual articles, pamphlets and more.



**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCalinfo.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm)

**Type in Subject Box:** Art\* OR Artist\*

**For a narrower search:** Add a place or specific tribe to your keyword search

## GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

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The screenshot shows a search interface titled "City and County Directories". It includes a search box with a tip: "Enter one or more search terms. The more terms you enter, the fewer results you will get." Below the search box is a tip: "To search for a range of years, type a colon between the years, e.g., 1945-1950." The form contains several input fields: "County", "City", "Year", "Title", "Author", "Publisher", and "Material type". Each field has a small "x" icon to its right. At the bottom, there are "Search Query" and "Search" buttons, and a question mark icon.

### City Directories

Looking for a person? You can trace this information via our city directories! See what we have by checking our specialized database.



**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCityDir.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm)

#### **Type in Search Box:**

1. Location



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Telephone Directories". It includes a search box with a tip: "Type in the city or county. If you get too many results, add the year to your search." Below the search box are two input fields: "Locations-White Pages" and "Locations-Yellow Pages", each with a small "x" icon to its right. Below these is a tip: "To search for a date range, type a colon between the first and last years, e.g., 1945-1950." The form contains several input fields: "Year" and "Material type", each with a small "x" icon to its right. At the bottom, there is a tip: "Request for items at the Information Desk." Below this are "Search Query" and "Search" buttons, and a question mark icon.

### Telephone Books

Are you not finding what you need in our city directory collection? No worries, you might find it in our telephone book collection. See what we have by checking our phone book database.



**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryPhonebk.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm)

#### **Type in Search Box:**

1. Location

## SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Art has a long and distinguished history in California! Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this

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Type	Residents
<a href="#">Maps</a>	<a href="#">Vitals</a>
<a href="#">Books</a>	<a href="#">African Americans</a>
	<a href="#">Chinese Americans</a>
	<a href="#">German Americans</a>
<a href="#">Images</a>	<a href="#">Irish Americans</a>
<a href="#">Manuscripts</a>	<a href="#">Italian Americans</a>
<a href="#">Periodicals</a>	<a href="#">Japanese Americans</a>
	<a href="#">Jewish Americans</a>
	<a href="#">Latin Americans</a>
	<a href="#">LGBTQ</a>
	<a href="#">Native Americans</a>
	<a href="#">Women</a>
<b>Subject</b>	
<a href="#">Agriculture</a>	
<a href="#">Birds</a>	
<a href="#">Business</a>	
<a href="#">Cooking</a>	
<a href="#">Education</a>	
<a href="#">Environment</a>	
<a href="#">Fiction</a>	<a href="#">Politics</a>
<a href="#">Folklore</a>	<a href="#">Shipping</a>
<a href="#">Geology</a>	<a href="#">Railroads</a>
<a href="#">Highways</a>	<a href="#">Religion</a>
<a href="#">Horse Racing</a>	<a href="#">Restaurants</a>
<a href="#">Legislature</a>	<a href="#">Taxes</a>
<a href="#">Migration</a>	<a href="#">Water</a>
<a href="#">Mining</a>	<a href="#">Wildflowers</a>
<a href="#">Music</a>	<a href="#">Wildlife</a>
<a href="#">Oil</a>	<a href="#">Wine</a>
<a href="#">Poetry</a>	<a href="#">1960's</a>

A map of California showing its county boundaries and names. The counties are labeled with their names, such as San Bernardino, Los Angeles, San Diego, and many others. The map is oriented vertically on the page, with the top of California at the top of the image.

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## RESOURCES BY COUNTY

Check out our resources by county to learn more about the local and regional history of art and artists in California!

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[Alameda](#)

[Alpine](#)

[Amador](#)

[Butte](#)

[Colusa](#)

[Contra Costa](#)

[Fresno](#)

[Humboldt](#)

[Los Angeles](#)

[Marin](#)

[Mariposa](#)

[Mendocino](#)

[Merced](#)

[Monterey](#)

[Napa](#)

[Nevada](#)

[Orange](#)

[Placer](#)

[Riverside](#)

[Sacramento](#)

[San Bernardino](#)

[San Diego](#)

[San Francisco](#)

[San Joaquin](#)

[San Luis Obispo](#)



[San Mateo](#)

[Santa Barbara](#)

[Santa Clara](#)

[Santa Cruz](#)

[Shasta](#)

[Siskiyou](#)

[Solano](#)

[Sonoma](#)

[Ventura](#)

[Yolo](#)

[Yuba](#)

## ON-SITE RESEARCH RESOURCES

Our collection predates computers and so do some of our access points! If you are in the library, be sure to check the following analog files for leads on more resources.

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### **California Information File**

In the library? Check the California Information File before you do anything else! This file indexes over 130 years of California articles, books, and manuscript collections related to individuals active in California.



#### **Subject Headings:**

- Art (various subdivisions)
- Artists: Individual Names



### **Photographic File**

Sometimes a picture is worth a 1000 words and not all of our pictures are online. To check the rest of the collection, search our picture file.



#### **Subject Headings:**

- Artists
- Portraits: Individuals by Name



## OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about any information related to art in the following files:

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### Vertical Files

Our massive collection of vertical files covers a wide variety of topics including art. You can check them for information on organizations, event pamphlets and more.



#### Subject Headings:

Art: General

Art/Artists

Museums: By County

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### Postcard Files

Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of art and artist-related images. Most are not online.

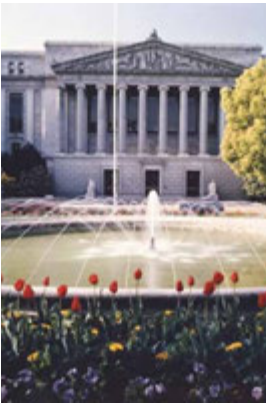


#### Subject Headings:

- **Card File:** Postcards
  - **Online Catalog:** Photographic Postcards  
AND art\*, Limit by Material Type:  
Images
-

## OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

Of course the California History Section doesn't have everything, so we suggest that in addition to looking at our collections, you contact the following organizations



### Other California State Library Sections

[Government Publications Section](#)

[Witkin Law Library](#)

[Sutro Library](#)

[General Information](#)



#### URLs:

- <http://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/law/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/services>



### Other Government Agencies

[California State Archives](#)

[California Arts Council](#)

[California Museum](#)

Local California libraries or archives



#### URLs:

- <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/>
- <http://www.arts.ca.gov/>
- <http://www.californiamuseum.org/>



### Other Organizations

[Center for the Arts \(Northern CA\)](#)

[California Arts Advocates](#)

[California Art Education Association](#)



#### URLs:

- <https://thecenterforthearts.org/>
- <https://californiaartsadvocates.org/>
- <https://www.caea-arteducation.org/>

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CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY  
CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

*California History Section*  
900 N Street Room 200  
Sacramento CA 95814

Phone: (916) 654-0176  
E-mail: [cslcal@library.ca.gov](mailto:cslcal@library.ca.gov)  
Hours: 9:30-4 Monday-Friday

This guide is also available online at:  
<http://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/research-guides/>