

» Finding Books

Use the online library [catalog](http://library.risd.edu/) at <http://library.risd.edu/> to search for books found in both the RISD Library and the Providence Athenaeum Library. Remember to use an asterisk (*) to truncate words for more results.

Example: paint* = paint, painter, painting, painterly, etc.

Keyword searches return the most results. Most (but not all) results will be relevant.

Examples of keyword searches:

- [artist* statement*](#)
- [artist* sketchbook*](#)
- [artist* interview*](#)

Examples of subject headings:

- [artists writings](#)
- [artists as authors](#)
- [aesthetics --see 51 related subjects](#)
- [art criticism -- authorship](#)
- [art appreciation](#)
- [art --philosophy](#)

To find books primarily showing an artist's work, think of the ARTIST as AUTHOR of his or her artwork.

Examples of author searches:

- [Whiteread, Rachel](#)
- [Buren, Daniel](#)

» Scan the [List of RISD Master Theses available in the Library](#) (shelved in RISD Reference & Special Collections)

» Using Reference Books for Supplemental Information

For additional facts, definitions, guides to practice, and references to further sources, consult the Reference Collection.

[Artspeak : a guide to contemporary ideas, movements, and buzzwords, 1945 to the Present](#)

RISD REFERENCE N6490 .A87 1990

More than 115 entries explain the who, what, when, and where of art since 1945. Entries discuss specific art movements, concepts, as well as describing various media and approaches to art-making.

[Encyclopedia of aesthetics](#)

RISD Reference BH56 .E53 1998, 4 volumes

Surveys the full breadth of critical thought on art, culture, and society—from classical philosophy to contemporary critical theory – Featuring 600 original articles, it is a comprehensive survey of major concepts, thinkers, and debates about the meaning, uses, and value of all the arts.

[Modern arts criticism: a biographical & critical guide to painters, sculptors, photographers & architects from the beginning of the modern era to the present](#)

RISD REFERENCE N40 .M63, 4 volumes

M.A.C. includes examples of artist statements from all phases of an artist's career. At the end of each entry a Further Reading section lists supplemental writings by the artist.

[Twentieth-century artists on art : an index to writings, statements, and interviews by artists, architects, and designers](#)

RISD Reference NX456 .R59 1996

An international index to artist writings which covers 5,000 artists

» Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Thesauri

[Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus](#) (online)

Provides terminology and other information about the objects, concepts, artists, and places important to various disciplines that specialize in these subjects - begin with a combined scope note and term search.

[Grove Art Online](#)

Grove Art is a comprehensive and authoritative guide with extensive surveys, artist's biographies, and in-depth articles on the history of art. This online version of the Grove Dictionary of Art provides external image links to museums, galleries, & art collections around the world. (Also available in print – RISD REFERENCE N31 .D5 1996, 34 volumes)

[Encyclopedia Britannica Online](#)

a full-text, illustrated encyclopedia

[Oxford English Dictionary Online](#)

The OED traces the usage of words through 2.5 million quotations from a wide range of international and English language sources. Each entry includes a pronunciation key, variant spellings, etymology, quotations, & date chart.

» Finding Artist's Statements in Journals and Magazines

[Art Full Text/Art Retrospective](#) Art Full Text Art Retrospective

Check boxes for both indexes to search 1929 to the present. Search using the phrase, "artist statement*". Combine with an artist's name or other keywords.

The four CSA databases may be searched simultaneously. Use the keyword search phrase, "artist's statement*" or the subject, *artists writings*. Combine with an artist's name or other keywords.

[Art Bibliographies Modern](#)

[Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals](#)

[Bibliography of the History of Art](#)

[Design and Applied Arts Index](#)

Search by the phrase, "artist's statement" in these cross-disciplinary journal indexes:

[Academic Search Premier](#)

[JSTOR](#)

[Project Muse](#)

» Writing Guides

[A short guide to writing about art](#)

RISD Reference N7476 .B37 2005 c.2

RISD Reserve Desk N7476 .B37 2005

This guide offers several approaches to organizing one's ideas when writing art criticism.

[Visual literacy: writing about art](#)

RISD Main N7476 .T83 2002

Visual Literacy acquaints the reader with the critical issues that shape the discipline of art and teaches them to write about art from a variety of scholarly and rhetorical perspectives. It includes tips on how to approach assignments by the formal analysis of a work of art, a contextual analysis, and an analysis of an exhibition.

[Words fail me: what everyone who writes should know about writing](#)

RISD Main PN147 .O27 1999

Words Fail Me is a very readable guide to the process of writing. Topics include: defining one's subject & audience, getting organized, making revisions, and finishing.

» Writing Formats – Style Manuals

[Chicago manual of style](#) (15th edition)

RISD Reference PN147 .C48 2003

[MLA handbook for writers of research papers](#) (6th edition)

RISD Reference PN147 .G5 2003

[A manual for writers of term papers, theses, and dissertations](#) (Turabian)

RISD Reference & RISD Main PN147 .T8 1996