



Left to Right: *Mosaic Spandrel of an Arch* (33-663), *Postcard*, 1940s, *Laurence Sickman in Luoyang, China*, 1932

Library Guide

The History of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

Resource List | 2021

When the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art was founded, the trustees and their advisors created an encyclopedic museum collecting art from different periods of time and cultures from around the world. The history of the museum and the collection has been extensively documented in various sources. This bibliography, presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Origins: Collecting to Create the Nelson-Atkins*, includes titles that explore the history of the museum including, collection handbooks and catalogs, information about the Western Gallery of Art, William Rockhill Nelson's collection of art copies and casts, as well as documentation from the museum's archives.

If you have questions, please contact the reference staff at the Spencer Art Reference Library (telephone 816-751-1216). Library hours and services are listed on the Museum's website at <https://nelson-atkins.org/library/>

Selected by:

Roberta Wagener | *Specialist, Access Services*

Western Gallery of Art

Catalogue of Reproductions of Works of Art in the Western Gallery of Art. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Art Association, 1897.
Call No. N582. K29 A6

Cowdrick, Charles. "The First Nelson Gallery," *Pitch Weekly* no. 454, (January 23, 1997): 10-13.
Available at Spencer Art Reference Library Reference Desk.

Ehrlich, George. "The Visual Arts in Early Kansas City." *Missouri Historical Review* 93, no.3 (April 1999): 277-292.

Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Valley Special Collections, "Western Gallery of Art," Accessed June 22, 2021.
<https://kchistory.org/islandora/search/western%20gallery%20of%20art?type=edismax>

Histories of the Museum

Churchman, Michael and Scott Erbes. *High Ideals and Aspirations: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 1933-1993*. Kansas City: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 1993.
Call No: N582 .K3 H5 1993

Simpson, Clarence W. *A History of the Founding and First Forty Years of the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art and the Mary Atkins Museum of Fine Arts*. Kansas City University Trustees, W.R. Nelson Trust, 1976.
Call No: N582 .K3 S55 1976

Wolferman, Kristie C. *The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: A History*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2020.
Call No: N582 .K3 W65 2020

Wolferman, Kristie C. *The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: Culture Comes to Kansas City*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1993.
Call No: N582 .K3 W66 1993

Google Arts and Culture. "Generations: Women in the Early History of the Nelson-Atkins," Accessed May 28, 2021.
<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/generations-women-in-the-early-history-of-the-nelson-atkins/VgJiYuavsnNtKw>

Opening of the Museum

William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art and the Mary Atkins Museum of Fine Arts. *A Loan Exhibition of American Paintings Since 1900: Held at the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, December 1933*. Kansas City: The Museum, 1933.

Call No: N582 .K3 W5 1933a

Online: [A Loan exhibition of American paintings since 1900 : held at the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, December 1933 : William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art and Mary Atkins Museum of Fine Arts : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](https://www.nelson-atkins.org/fpc/)

Google Arts and Culture, "Ready for Art: The 933 Opening of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art," Accessed May 28, 2021.
<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/ready-for-art-the-1933-opening-of-the-nelson-atkins-museum-of-art/sAIy-9KvKmRRJQ>

"The William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art Special Number," *Art News* 2, no. 10 (December 9, 1933): entire issue.
Call No: Serials

"The William R. Nelson Gallery of Art and The Atkins Museum of Fine Arts." *The Teachers College Scout* 5 no. 1 (April 1934): entire issue.
Call No: Reference Desk N582 .K3 T4 1934

Collection Handbooks

Scott, Deborah Emot, Marc Wilson. *The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: A Handbook of the Collection*. Kansas City: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2008. (Handbooks were also published in 1933, 1941, 1949, 1959, 1973, and 1993)
Call No: N582 .K3 W5 2008

William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art and the Mary Atkins Museum of Fine Arts. *Handbook of the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art*. Kansas City: The Joseph D. Havens Co, 1933.
Call No: N582 .K3 W5 1933
Available Online:
<https://archive.org/details/nama1933handbook>

DeGalan, Aimee Marcereau, ed. *French Paintings and Pastels, 1600–1945: The Collections of The Nelson-Atkins Museum*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2020. Accessed June 22, 2021.
<https://nelson-atkins.org/fpc/>

Conrads, Margaret C., et al. *American Paintings to 1945: The Collections of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2007.
Call No: ND205 .A673 2007 v. 1-2

Dunbar, Burton, et al. *German and Netherlandish Paintings, 1450–1600*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum in association with the University of Washington Press, Seattle, 2005.
Call No: ND635 .N45 2005

Rowlands, Eliot W. *Italian Paintings, 1300–1800*. Kansas City: Trustees of the Nelson Gallery Foundation, 1996.
Call No: ND614 .N38 1996

McKenna, George L. *Prints, 1460–1995*. Kansas City: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, in association with the University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1996.
Call No: NE53 .K36 N4 1996

Torrence, Gaylord and Marjorie Alexander. *Continuum: Native North American Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2020.
Call No: E98 .A7 T68 2020

Masteller, Kimberly. *Masterworks from India and Southeast Asia: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, in association with University of Washington Press, Seattle, 2016.
Call No: N7301 .N45 2016

MacKenzie, Colin and Ling-en Lu. *Masterworks of Chinese Art: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2011.
Call No: N7342 .N45 2011

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. *Bloch Galleries: Highlights from the Collection of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2016.
Call No: N6757 .N45 2016

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. *Ceramics: Highlights from the Collection of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2016.
Call No: NK3730 .K36 N456 2016

Other Information about the Collection

Boström, Antonia, et al. *A Labyrinth for the Park: Celebrating the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Donald J. Hall Sculpture Park*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2014.
Call No: NB1278 .N45 2014

Churchman, Michael, ed. *Laurence Sickman: A Tribute*. Kansas City: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 1988.
Call No: N406 .S5 C58
Available Online:
<https://archive.org/details/laurencesickmantribute/page/n1/mode/2up>

Kipnis, Jeffrey. *Stone & Feather: Steven Holl Architects: The Nelson-Atkins Museum Expansion*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; New York: Prestel, 2007.
Call No: HOLL NA737 .H56 K57 2007

Mallon, MacKenzie. "A Refuge from War: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the Evacuation of Art to the Midwest during World War II." *Getty Research Journal* no. 8 (2016): 147-160.
Call No: N582 .K3 M25 2016

Masteller, Kimberly. "Arthur Upham Pope and Collecting Persian Art in Kansas City." In *Arthur Upham Pope and a New Survey of Persian Art*, edited by Yuka Kadoi, 266-289. Leiden: Brill Publishers, 2016.

Pentecost, Lee and Deborah Emont Scott. *50 Years of Collecting: The Friends of Art at the Nelson: A Retrospective Exhibition, December 15, 1984–January 15, 1985: An Unofficial Catalogue*. 1984.
Call No: Reading Room N582 .K31 1984 no. 11

Wood, Toni and Ann Slegman. *Bold Expansion: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Bloch Building*. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; London: in association with Scala Publishers, 2007.
Call No: N582 .K3 H56 2007

Youmans, Joyce. "African Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art." *African Arts* 33, no. (Winter 2000): 40-61.
Call No: Serials

Archival Collections – Early Museum History

Selected by:
Christain Hartman | *Archives Assistant*

Note: All collections in the Museum Archives document the history of the museum in some way. The following are selected highlights from the collection.

Archives Photograph Collection (Series II), Ephemera, 1901-2013. Record Group 70. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Archives. Kansas City, Missouri.

Scrapbooks Collection, 1926-2001. Record Group 72. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Archives. Kansas City, Missouri.

Historical File (including plantings, early acquisitions, cooperative agreement for public use,

etc.). Vertical Files. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Archives. Kansas City, Missouri.

“A History of its Founding and [the] First Forty Years,” by Simpson, Clarence W. Vertical Files. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Archives. Kansas City, Missouri.

The Western Gallery. Vertical Files. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Archives. Kansas City, Missouri.

Google Arts and Culture, “Ready for Art: The 1933 Opening of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art,” Accessed July 15, 2021.

<https://g.co/arts/kuthVjL5BYG32oUv6>

Google Arts and Culture, “Generations: Women in the Early History of the Nelson-Atkins,” Accessed July 15, 2001.

<https://g.co/arts/MvN5x6gvQpUU4uAD8>

Image Captions

From banner image first page:

Mosaic Spandrel of an Arch (33-663) installed at the entrance to the Persian Gallery, from the 1933 handbook.

Postcard, 1940s, Ephemera Collection, RG 70, Museum Archives.

Laurence Sickman in Luoyang, China, 1932, Laurence Sickman Papers, MSS 001, Museum Archives.

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