

How to Research an Author/Artist

There will be times when the students find the work of an artist and they would like to know more about them.

Name:

Genre:

The kind of information relevant to arts based practice is contextual. This is why we search out information about artists. People interested in art wish to know what has influenced the artist and why his or her work developed the way it did. There for researchers look for the kind of information that will place the artist chronologically and situationally.

Age or Years: lived from... to

Historical Detail:

Where lived (place) worked (place)

This information can also give the art detective information about the influences that would have surrounded the artist at that time. Such as the [lead up](#) to the Wall Street Crash and the Great Depression effecting the Flapper Style of the 1920's.

When looking at a great work such as the Great Gatsby and the dance style of that era we are not only looking at the age, and the place but also the events that influenced what was happening.

Accomplishments:

We also take into account accomplishments that the artists has achieved such as winning the [Archibald Prize](#) or being selected to perform at the Opera House.

Main Point of Note:

Is there one thing in particular that this artist is noted for. [Jackson Pollock](#) for example was attributed with invention of action painting. (Perhaps) Is there controversy surrounding the life of the artist? Was their art rejected such as Yoko Ono? If so why?

Comments:

Do you have your own commentary? Did you learn something in particular from this artist that you would like to share.

References:

What book, movie, or other technique such as interview did you use to find out the information as you have presented it? Be sure to reference this in the style your school prefers.

Answer these questions and you will have presented the "background" of the artist.