Create a MyMet account to save images and information about the items you want to add to your exhibition.

You can search The Collection Online, using keywords related to the objects, themes, artists, cultures, or time periods you wish to find. There is a search feature that allows you to Show only artworks on display, which you can use to discover objects which will be on display during your visit to the museum next week. The additional search limiters can help you target your search to a particular type or source of objects.

Most images of objects in the Metropolitan Museum of Art collection are paired with information about the object, but the amount of information varies. You will often see Label text and Object Information including the artist, maker, and/or culture, the object type and material, and its geographic location and time period. If a Catalogue Entry, Exhibition History, or References are available for the object, they will be located under Object Information.

When available, use the References to discover additional information sources about an object. Books, articles, and exhibition catalogs may be cited. You will need to decode these citations to figure out how to access the cited material. Search for books in the library catalog, and try Snowden Super Search to search for articles in our collection. Snowden Library has a few exhibition catalogs in our collection; you can try to search for these in the library catalog as well. We have a lot of resources you might not expect, so try it out!

Not all of the References will be right for you. Some may be a bit more scholarly than you need, and others may be in another language. Read the list of citations and decide which appear most likely to be helpful.

You will sometimes see Related Objects listed in the entry for your object. These are often works by the same artist, culture, time period, or material. Think of these as suggestions – you do not have to use them, and they may or may not fit in with your idea for your exhibition.

Sometimes you will also see Online Resources. These are general publications from the museum, including webpages, exhibition catalogs, and books. Some are available online for free; if the resource you want is not, you can search for it in our library’s collection.

Also check out the Current Exhibitions feature of the Met site – it might inspire you!
Reference Resources

General Reference Resources

The Encyclopedia of Visual Art

The Dictionary of Art (Grove)

Encyclopedia of World Art
Ref. N31 .E533 vols. 1-17

McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Art

The Oxford Companion to Art
Ref. N33 .O9

The Oxford Dictionary of Art
Ref. N33 .O93 2004

Praeger Encyclopedia of Art

Reference Resources for Symbolism

Encyclopedia of Comparative Iconography

Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art
Ref. 7560 .H34 2008

The Dent Dictionary of Symbols in Christian Art
Ref. N7825 .S68 1994

Reference Resources for Specific Cultures or Time Periods

The Oxford Companion to Western Art

The Prestel Dictionary of Art and Artists of the 20th Century
Ref. N33 .P74 2000

Renaissance Art: A Topical Dictionary
Ref. N6370 .E27 1987

The Grove Encyclopedia of American Art
Ref. N6560 .G76 2011

Dutch Art: An Encyclopedia

Art and Architecture of the World’s Religions
Ref. N7790 .R67 2009

Library of Congress Call Number Ranges

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