

Artistic and Visual Works J 210

BACKGROUND: *Visual works are perceived through the sense of sight and are created, rather than naturally occurring. Visual works may be created for purely aesthetic or artistic reasons, or may serve an informational, educational, etc., purpose.*

Art is a subset of visual works, and specifically refers to objects, environments, or experiences that are created for aesthetic or artistic reasons through the use of skill or imagination. It encompasses both fine and decorative arts.

The terms for artistic and visual works are primarily intended to provide access to resources in general libraries that collect some visual and artistic works. Only high-level terms are established for this reason. Art museums or libraries choosing to use LCGFT may find that the terminology is not specific or granular enough for their purposes, and they are encouraged to use a vocabulary dedicated to visual materials instead of, or in addition to, LCGFT. Examples of other vocabularies include the Getty Research Institute's Art & Architecture Thesaurus and the Thesaurus for Graphic Materials, published by the Library of Congress' Prints and Photographs Division.

1. General rule. Assign genre/form terms to visual and artistic works in accordance with J 110 and the special provisions below.

2. Original works. Assign genre/form terms to original artistic and visual works. *Examples:*

Title: Photographs of American and Australian soldiers in Australia and New Guinea, World War II.

Term: Documentary photographs.
[Resource is a collection of original photographs]

Title: Study for Bellevue, Ohio, Post Office mural.

Term: Watercolors.
[Resource is an original watercolor drawing]

Title: Artist's selects from the Marilyn Church collection of courtroom art.

Term: Courtroom art.
[Resource is a collection of original drawings]

3. Reproductions. Assign genre/form terms that represent the form and/or genre of the reproduction, or of the larger work that includes the reproductions. Do not assign genre/form terms that represent the original work of art. *Examples:*

Title: Van Gogh and the colors of the night.
Term: Exhibition catalogs.
[not Paintings.]
[Resource is an exhibition catalog that features reproductions of Van Gogh's paintings]

Title: Marble bust sculpture of Theodore Roosevelt by artist James Fraser.
Term: Photographs.
[not Sculptures.]
[Resource is a photograph that depicts the sculpture]

Title: 24 photographs of Poland.
Term: Postcards.
[not Photographs.]
[Resource is a collection of postcards that reproduce photographs of Poland]

4. Establishing new terms. In general, follow the guidelines in J 120. Prefer to assign high-level terms that are already established rather than establishing terms for highly specific forms and genres. For example, mezzotint is an intaglio printmaking process. Assign **Intaglio prints** to a mezzotint rather than establishing a narrower term for mezzotints.