

# ARTSTOR

ARTSTOR INTERDISCIPLINARY

## ARTSTOR RESOURCES IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

The ARTstor Digital Library is a visual resource of value to scholars, teachers, and students across the arts, humanities, social sciences, and beyond. This handout is part of a growing series designed to highlight ARTstor's relevance to a variety of fields of study.

### ARTSTOR COLLECTIONS RELEVANT TO AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES



Several ARTstor collections will be of interest to scholars, teachers, and students in the field of African American Studies, as well as to those interested in learning more about the experiences, traditions, and dynamics of people of African descent throughout American history. The Image of the Black in Western Art collection, which comes from the famous archive of the same name at the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University, will ultimately contain approximately 30,000 images. Roughly one fourth of this projected total has already been released in ARTstor, providing examples of the representation of black people in Western art, from pre-history to the present. A small subset of this important photographic archive was reproduced in the prize-winning, four-volume series of the same name. Another photographic archive of note from Harvard University is the Schlesinger History of Women in America Collection, from the Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. This collection contains 36,000 images, depicting the history of women in American History, including historical photographs of African Americans in a variety of contexts, whether in domestic or professional settings, or as participants in political movements, from suffrage to civil rights.

ARTstor's encyclopedic Image Gallery also documents the history of African Americans, illustrating the tragic legacy of slavery and ongoing forms of racial discrimination. Portraits of key artistic, literary, political, and religious figures – from Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman to Martin Luther King and Malcolm X – abound. The artistic contributions of African Americans are richly represented, including artists associated with the Harlem Renaissance, such as William H. Johnson and Jacob Lawrence, as well as more contemporary artists, such as Adrian Piper and Faith Ringgold.

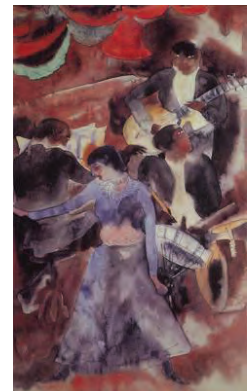
## HELPFUL SEARCH TIPS

Keyword searches are likely to be most successful. Truncating your search term (e.g. slave\* or discrimin\*) in order to retrieve terms with variant endings will enlarge your search results. For more precise searches, you can search for phrases in quotation marks (“...”), or use the Advanced Search feature to limit your searches by date or geographic region.

- ❖ A search for “african americans” yields over than 1000 results
- ❖ Searching for “racism” produces more than 400 results
- ❖ “civil rights” will return more than 200 images

## HELPFUL BROWSING CATEGORIES

ARTstor’s collections may be browsed in a number of ways. For instance, the Schlesinger History of Women in America Collection may be browsed thematically, by subject, organization, or individual, such as “Portrait Collection,” “United States Women’s Bureau,” or “Brown, Charlotte Hawkins, 1883-1961.” Other collections may be browsed by geography or object classification. For example, you can browse the ARTstor Slide Gallery to view the “History and Other Social Sciences” category. To find historical photographs that document African American history, expand this category and select “United States” from the controlled list of country names. Once you have expanded the browsing category, you may also search within the displayed thumbnails to further refine your search set – e.g. searching for “lynching” within “ARTstor Slide Gallery - History and Other Social Sciences – United States” yields 50 images out of a much larger set.



### Image Credits:

- 1) Failure of Sylvester, 1914 | Robert Henri, American, 1865-1929 | The Image Gallery
- 2) Jar: det.: One of Memnon's Negro Squires, 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. | Grecian | The Image Gallery
- 3) Busy Bee, 1875 | Winslow Homer, American, 1836-1910 | The Image Gallery
- 4) Head of a Young Man, 1884/97 | Augustus Saint-Gaudens, American, 1848-1907 | The Image Gallery
- 5) Mess Boy Asleep, 1867 | American | The Image Gallery
- 6) Negro Jazz Band, 1916 | Charles Demuth, American, 1883-1935 | The Image Gallery