

ARTSTOR

ARTSTOR INTERDISCIPLINARY

ARTSTOR RESOURCES IN 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 AMERICAN STUDIES



The ARTstor Digital Library has special strengths in the art, architecture, material and visual culture of the Americas, and several ARTstor collections will be of interest to scholars, teachers, and students in the field of American Studies. Especially noteworthy is the Carnegie Arts of the United States collection, a body of images that has been widely used in slide form by instructors in the fields of American Art and Architectural History. Digitized from well-preserved, large-format archival negatives, these images provide a solid basis for the study and teaching of American Studies, comprising canonical works, as well as a selection of Native American Art, Design and Decorative Arts, Stage and Theater Decoration, Folk Art, etc. A more specialized collection is the Native American Art and Culture collection from the National Anthropological Archives at the Smithsonian Institution, which contains more than 10,000 historic photographs of Native American subjects. These include studio portraits of tribal delegations summoned to Congress in the late 19th century, tribal and ceremonial scenes captured by the Bureau of American Ethnology, and nearly 2,000 Plains Indian “ledger drawings.”

Other relevant specialized collections include:

- ❖ The Hartill Archive of Architecture and Allied Arts, which is particularly strong in its coverage of North American architecture and decoration, from colonial times through the present, both in the United States and Canada.
- ❖ The Architecture and Design Collection from the Museum of Modern Art illustrates modern American design, including graphic design, architectural drawings and models, furniture, design objects, etc.
- ❖ The Schlesinger History of Women in America Collection, an extensive archive of historical photographs of American women, as well as photographs produced by female photographers in the U. S. and abroad. The collection documents the history of women in the United States with images related to suffrage and women's rights, women in advertising and popular culture, and women in a variety of professional roles (doctors, teachers, writers, etc.).

All of these specialized collections are complemented by the encyclopedic Image Gallery, which is rich in images related to American art and culture. Ranging from studio portraits of American artists and writers to photographs of early New England gravestones, from 19th century landscapes of the Hudson River School to works by Andy Warhol, from silver tea services to hunting decoys, from regional vernacular architecture to contemporary designs for American art museums, the Image Gallery is an endless resource of images relevant to American Studies.

HELPFUL SEARCH TIPS

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

- ❖ A search for “frank lloyd wright” yields over 900 images
- ❖ Searching for “sitting bull” produces more than 170 results
- ❖ “new orleans” or “philadelphia” will both return more than 1000 images each

HELPFUL BROWSING CATEGORIES

ARTstor’s collections may be browsed in a number of ways. For instance, the Carnegie Arts of the United States collection may be browsed by stylistic period and medium – e.g. “Painting – Federal Period and 19th Century” or “Costume Design.” By contrast, the Native American Art and Culture collection is organized by tribal group. You may also browse across all of ARTstor’s collections by geography or object classification, so that those specializing in specific areas within American Studies may access images relevant to their primary interests. For example, you can browse ARTstor for “Architecture and City Planning” and then expand that browsing category to narrow the set down to “United States.” Alternatively, you can start by browsing geographically first, such as selecting “Canada” from a controlled list of countries, and then choosing the category for “Sculpture and Installations.”



Image Credits:

- 1) Pennsylvania Railroad Station. Interior [of] main concourse, 1906 | McKim, Mead & White, American Firm, 1879-1910 | The Carnegie Arts of the United States
- 2) Fight or Buy Bonds, Third Liberty Loan | Howard Chandler Christy, American, 1873-1952 | The Carnegie Arts of the United States
- 3) Portrait (Front) of Kiyō-Kaga (One Who Moves About Alert)..., 1868 | Antonio(n) Zeno Shindler | National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution
- 4) Young women holding a sign which reads, 'Self Supporting Women.' Several other women grouped near the banner are holding balls, 1914 | The Schlesinger History of Women in America Collection
- 5) Give It Your Best!, 1942 | Charles Coiner, American, 1898-1989 | The Museum of Modern Art