Collection Development in a Global Context:
Documenting the Contemporary Art of Asia, Latin America, and Africa
The Clark’s Mellon Initiative - Scope and Scale
Establishing initial parameters

• **Who**  Key artists, movements, scholars

• **What**  “What” material type? “What” subject matter?

• **Where**  Sweeping geographical areas or very specific locations

• **When**  Broad or narrowly focus time frame

• **How**  How are you going to find first the titles and then the material?
Keys to successful collection development
General works

Third Text: Third World Perspectives on Contemporary Art & Culture

Universes in Universe - a website focusing on the visual arts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America
Biennials in an age of internationalism

Havana biennial

Dak’Art - Biennial in Dakar

Documenta -- Kassel

Biennial of Contemporary Art of Seville

Venice biennial
Johannesburg biennials

Essential publications from a defunct biennial.

Africus (1995)  
Trade Routes (1997)

[NB: This slide was not included in the ARLIS presentation in Atlanta]
Key Institutions - Institute of International Visual Arts

“inIVA creates exhibitions, publications, multimedia, education and research projects, designed to bring the work of artists from culturally-diverse backgrounds to the attention of the widest possible public.”

“Our publications, library and website offer wide-ranging voices and viewpoints that present the cross-cultural aspects of the visual arts in a wider perspective.”
**Key Institutions: Asia Art Archives**

“The Asia Art Archive (AAA) is the first ever non-profit research centre in Hong Kong dedicated to documenting the recent history of visual art from the region within an international context.”

“To ensure continued support for and promote understanding of contemporary Asian art, the Archive believes that it is of the utmost importance to acquire, collate and catalogue material in this area and make its holdings easily accessible.”
Key Institutions: The Japan Foundation (Tokyo)

“The Japan Foundation carries out all types of arts exchange programs in its endeavors to deepen mutual understanding between Japan and other countries of the world. Emphasis is placed on the introduction of the traditional and contemporary arts of Japan overseas and the introduction of overseas arts in Japan.”
Timezone 8 publications are distributed in the United States by D.A.P.
Auction catalogs
Key Institutions - Museum of Modern Art

- Online Latin American bibliography (not currently available)
- Extensive holdings listed and fully searchable via MoMA’s library database, DADABASE
- Houses the Survey of Archives of Latino and Latin American Art
Libros Latinos Newsletter
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Dear Colleagues:
Due to the delay and expense of printing and mailing catalogues we will now be sending advance catalogues by email months before we are able to mail them to you.

Special Sale of Caribbean Items

We are very interested in reducing our Spanish Caribbean Book holdings. We are granting a 30% discount on the books in these catalogues.

Our sale catalogues, CUBA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND PUERTO RICO, can be reached through the links provided below. The links will get you to an html document which can be downloaded, printed, or copied and pasted in whole or in part into a document of your own. If you have any questions, please call us at the number below.

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• Covers all of Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean
• Electronic lists of mainly new receipts by country
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- Based in California
- Long-time ARLIS members
Cuban Art -- Consejo Nacional de las Artes Plásticas
Essential serials - Latin America

Artes: la revista especializada en arte caribeño

Artecubano: la revista de artes visuales
Key Institutions - National Museum of African Art
Smithsonian Institution

- Expert bibliography
- Evolving work created by Janet Stanley, librarian for the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution
- Descriptive annotations
- Covers all of Africa
Sample page -- Kenya

Modern African Art: A Basic Reading List

Eastern Africa
Kenya


Certain East African artists have developed personal philosophies toward their art and toward life in general, based on beliefs about God and Christianity. Among these are artists Elimo Njau (whose favorite maxim is "Do not copy. Copying puts God to sleep"), Jak Kadarkawe, and John Nyenga (aka Wanyi Brush). Such personal philosophies do not necessarily translate themselves into Christian or biblical themes in their art, but rather serve as inspiration or motivation to create.

Many artists, however, depict Christian or biblical subjects in their painting or sculpture. Several examples of Christian-related art are discussed, including works of Kennedy Wesonga, Juma Baraka Saf, and Hezron Owiti. A third trend in contemporary religious art in East Africa is the depiction of traditional religious practices and worship scenes of the so-called independent churches. Joeli Oswoogo is prominent among the artists who choose these themes.


Soapstone sculpture as a large commercial enterprise is unique to the Gusii (Kisii) of western Kenya and the Inuit of Quebec province, Canada. The coming together of these widely separate carving traditions for a 1988 exhibition was itself a unique occasion.

Gusii soapstone sculpture is a modern art form, an art of acculturation, it did not grow out of an older tradition. Its origins, development and evolution are set within the rapid social and economic changes that have transformed Gusii society in recent decades. The transmission of skills, how children learn carving, the questions of innovation and imitation, how the market shapes the production, are all elements in defining this art form. In common with the Inuit experience, the Gusii sculpture draws on oral traditions and the natural environment for themes and subject matter. Wild animals are quite common as are depictions of daily life, especially women at work and mother-and-child figures. Unlike Inuit sculptors, a few of the Gusii sculptors, such as Elkana Ongesa and his brother John Masese, have moved toward abstract forms of expression.
Essential serials -
Africa and the Diaspora
Clarke’s Bookshop Art Books welcomes you to our new website where we list books on Southern African Art.

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Where are we?
Our shop in London’s Covent Garden area has closed during the Africa Centre’s planned three-year redevelopment. We are now operating solely as a mail order bookseller, but you are welcome to browse the stock in person by appointment.

Contact: Africa Book Centre Ltd, Preston Park Business Centre, 36 Robertson Road,
More than a gallery -- Axis Gallery (NYC)

- Experts in their field; knowledgeable and helpful
- Represents all of Africa
- Bookstore maintains lists of current and out-of-print publications
More than a gallery - Bell-Roberts (Cape Town)

“Bell-Roberts is one of South Africa’s leading art galleries and bespoke publishing houses. The Gallery has played host to emerging and established contemporary artists for the last six years while the publishing house has produced important books on contemporary visual arts and culture with titles on art, design and architecture.”
More than a gallery – David Krut (Johannesburg & NYC)

David Krut Publishing focuses on books and publications on contemporary South African art, architecture, design and culture that raise awareness of the wealth of creative talent in South Africa.

All of the authors of the books and educational supplements are South African writers, and this represents part of an ongoing programme to encourage local writing on a range of subjects.
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