

## American Watercolors

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American Watercolors is a free research portal for the study of American watercolors created by the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA). Produced in conjunction with the physical exhibition *American Watercolor in the Age of Homer and Sargent* and its accompanying catalogue by Kathleen A. Foster

(2017), the site is one of ten LibGuides at the museum library and provides resources on seven watercolor societies active from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in New York City and Philadelphia.

The site is a comprehensive and well-organized repository for its subject. It is discoverable via a simple Google search. The overall quality is high, as exemplified by its clean layout, as well as its concise and clearly described navigation system. The user can use the tabs for each society, or browse the listing in the homepage body that shows the time periods of the societies' catalogues. Bibliographic information about the exhibition catalogue by Kathleen Foster is also conveniently located on the homepage and includes a link to WorldCat, allowing the user to find the item in their nearby library. Additional resources are available as well, including the PDFs of the chronology of American Watercolor Movement and other full publications about the materials and techniques of watercolors.


When the user clicks on any specific society's page via one of the tabs at the top of the guide, they will find the content coherent and intuitive to use, thanks to its consistent structure throughout the site. Each society's page opens with a brief overview of the history and contents of the catalogues. Links to catalogues are found on the right side of the page; when the user selects a catalogue from a specific year, they will be prompted to an external site - the Internet Archive. In addition to the catalogues, other resources are available. The American Watercolor Society page boasts the most extensive resources, as it features the chronology of American



 Illustrated Catalogue of the Forty-Fifth Annual Exhibition of the American Water Color Society, at the American Fine Arts Galleries

by American Water Color Society




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Catalogue of the annual exhibition of the American Water Color Society (aka American Society of Painters in Water Colors, or the American Watercolor Society). It lists the titles, owners, and prices of the watercolor paintings exhibited, occasionally with line illustrations, and the names and addresses of exhibiting artists and Society members.

61 Views

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American Watercolors is especially suitable for art historians, curators, visual art students and faculty, K-12 school art teachers, and interested researchers. It is highly versatile because of its placement within the museum's website. The user can expand their search beyond this LibGuide to other guides created by the library through breadcrumb navigation. While other art museums have online collections of American watercolors, such as the Smithsonian American Art Museum Watercolor and the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, the PMA's LibGuide provides a more centralized, structured, and methodical way for the user through the portal's search capacity. In sum, with the strategic design and effective use of the platform, the portal offers excellent and unique resources for users to enjoy.