

# ARTstor

## A Digital Archive of Art Images for Study & Research

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Anyone who has studied art history, even in recent years, probably recalls spending a lot of time searching for images of artwork in books, in journals, or in an art department's slide library. But increasingly, it is not only the art history researcher who needs images of art and architecture. Students and faculty members in diverse fields, ranging from music to food studies to medicine, frequently find that they also need images.

A new archive of digital art images, ARTstor, holds great promise for anyone searching for

high quality images of art and architecture. NYU is among the first to gain access to this exciting resource, along with thirteen other museums and libraries.

### WHAT IS ARTSTOR?

ARTstor is a non-profit organization that began as an initiative of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to provide access to collections of digital images from contributing cultural and educational institutions. ARTstor's mission is to promote scholarship, teaching, and learning in the arts through the distribution

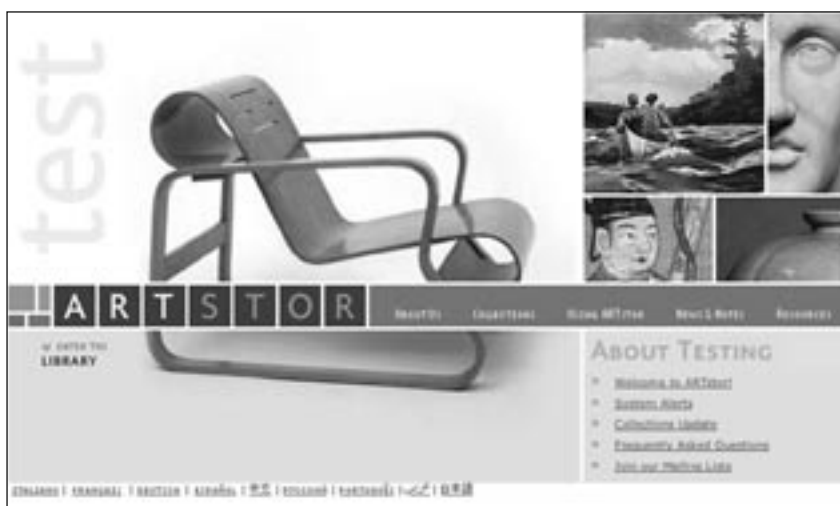
of a library of digital images and related information that serves the needs of researchers, teachers, and students. This is accomplished by working closely with both providers and users of content from around the world to construct a non-profit, public utility.

ARTstor's origins can be traced to the Foundation's creation of JSTOR, a comprehensive archive of scholarly journal literature containing over 13 million pages, from over 350 journals. In 2000, the Foundation made a grant to the Digital Library Federation, a not-for-profit program of the Council of Library and Information Resources, to explore ways of creating digital image collections, with a special focus on the needs of art history faculty and students.

The result was the creation of a web-based application which accesses the discrete collections from a database of combined content provided by ARTstor's participating institutions.

### HOW DOES ARTSTOR WORK?

ARTstor utilizes Macromedia Flash Player technology to provide a web browser-based interface that is both intuitive and contextual. This enhanced interface provides



*The main page of the ARTstor test website.*



*The ARTstor interface simplifies the process of browsing large art collections.*

access to each of ARTstor's collections through either a keyword search or an advanced, more highly-focused search. Browsing the entire collection is also an option. The advanced search allows Boolean<sup>1</sup> searching of each of the 12 indexes.

ARTstor also allows searching of the free text note fields, which can include personal-, instructor-, and student-created notes. This is especially useful for academic applications where instructors have attached classroom lecture notes to the images for their students.

ARTstor offers another useful tool, the "Image Group," which enables each user to create a folder containing images from selected collections. Creation of these image groups can greatly enhance the learning process by allowing students and instructors to group images together by lectures or by concept.

Finally, art history classroom teaching very often requires side-by-side projection of two images for contrast/compare discussions. ARTstor's interface allows the

faculty member to not only continue this traditional practice, but to greatly enhance it with ARTstor's ability to display details of the work "on-the-fly".

#### **THE ARTSTOR COLLECTIONS**

ARTstor currently includes images from the following collections:

- The Image Collection—A deep and broad collection of images of world art, architecture, and visual art;
- Art History Survey Collection—Key monuments of world art;
- Carnegie Art of the United States—American art, architecture, and visual culture from the Colonial era to the 20th Century;
- The Illustrated Bartsch—European prints from the Renaissance to the 19th Century;
- Museum of Modern Art Architecture and Design Collection—20th Century Design;
- Mellon International Dunhuang Archive—Rich documentation of the important Buddhist cave

shrines at the Dunhuang Oasis site on the ancient silk route.

#### **TRY ARTSTOR!**

ARTstor is in a testing phase for the 2003/2004 academic year, after which it will be made available for site-wide licensing by non-profit institutions, beginning in the US. NYU community members are qualified to use the ARTstor site during this test phase. To do so, visit <http://test.artstor.org> from a computer that is connected to the NYU network.

If you have questions about ARTstor, please contact NYU's ARTstor beta-testing coordinator:

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1. A search strategy that allows the use of operators such as "OR," "AND," or "NOT," along with keywords to help refine search results.