

### Methodology Worksheet 1

#### Using Historical Context and Biography as Methodologies

Historical Context - considers significant historical events and important ideas of a period of time, usually when the artwork was made

Our definition of “art” and the notion that it should be studied is a fairly recent phenomenon. Giorgio Vasari’s Lives of the Most Excellent Italian Architects, Painters, and Sculptors, written at the height of the Renaissance in 1550, is considered to be the first art history book. However, it wasn’t until the modern era, and the development of more advanced methods of printing text and image together, that art history became a field of study. Before the development of modern printing methods, art scholars had to study works of art in person, which meant extensive travel and access to private collections. Museums, and the idea that art collections should be available to the general public, did not begin to emerge until the French Revolution. And, while even Vasari’s text included a discussion of a female artists work, more formal his-tories thereafter notoriously excluded women’s contributions.

Art history as a discipline combines the study of art and the context under which it was made. The terms listed in the box below are items that the viewer must consider when using **historical context** to better understand a work of art. Define these terms using [www.artlex.com](http://www.artlex.com).

Term	Artlex Definition
Artist	_____ _____
Chronology	_____ _____
Period	_____ _____
Style	_____ _____
Provenance	_____ _____

