

Attribution Qualifiers for Artists' Names

Qualifiers such as “School of,” “Pupil of,” and “After” are commonly used by art historians to associate a work by an unknown artist with the name of a known artist whose oeuvre is stylistically similar or otherwise related to the work at hand.(1) The terms in this list are intended to provide a controlled vocabulary for conveying attribution information about art works. The list was developed by the Cataloging Advisory Committee of the Art Libraries Society of North American (ARLIS/NA) in collaboration with the Data Standards Committee of the Visual Resources Association. Comments on the list or additional terms are most welcome.

Term	Definition	References	Source
After	A copy by an unknown artist of a known work of the artist NOTE: The same term is also used for a work by a known artist that is a copy of another artist's work (e.g. a drawing by Jan de Bisschop, after a painting by Anthony van Dyck). When used in this way, the term should not be considered an anonymous attribution qualifier.		Sotheby
Assistant to		Use “Workshop of”	BHA
Associate of	Use when an association between the anonymous creator and a known creator is explicitly understood as an association. This term should generally not be used as an anonymous creator qualifier; use other terms in this list to describe more distinctly the relationship between an unknown and known artist.		VRA
Atelier of		Use “Workshop of” or “Studio of”	CDWA
Attributed to	Use to express uncertainty when the attribution of a work to a known artist or architect is in question.		CDWA
Circle of	A work by an as yet unidentified but distinct hand closely associated with the named artist but not necessarily his pupil. The term is nearly synonymous with "School of", but can imply a broader, less formal association.		Sotheby, VRA
Copyist of		Use “After”	CDWA

Follower of	Use for an artist who works in a master's style but who is not closely associated with him and who may not actually be contemporary with him.		BHA
Manner of		Use "Style of"	
Manufactory of		Use "Workshop of"	
Office of	Indicates authorship by an unknown individual working directly for the named master, probably under his supervision. Most commonly used to refer to architectural firms.(2)	See also "Workshop of"	CDWA, VRA
Pupil of	Indicates authorship by an unknown individual working directly for the named master, probably under his supervision. The term implies a closer association with a master than the more collective "Workshop of" or "Studio of," describing an individual whose work is readily identifiable but whose name has not been recorded.		CDWA, VRA
School of	Use for an artist who is closely associated with a master and who works in his style but who is not necessarily his pupil.		BHA
Student of		Use "Pupil of"	
Studio of	Refers to a system common in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, when master artists took on pupils rather than apprentices.(2)	See also "Workshop of"	CDWA
Style of	Indicates an influence of (or an outright copy of) the style of the named master, but carries the connotation that the named artist had little or nothing to do with the actual work at hand.		CDWA
Workshop of	Indicates authorship by an unknown individual working directly for the named master, probably under his supervision. The distinction between "workshop of", "studio of," and "office of" typically depends upon the historical period in question and the type of art work being produced. "Workshop of" is used for groups of artists working under a master's name, generally in a system of apprenticeship common from ancient times until the nineteenth century.(2)	See also "Office of" and "Studio of"	CDWA

(1) Examples of this data element are the “creation-creator-qualifier” in Categories for the Description of Works of Art, the “Creator. Attribution Qualifier” in Cataloging Cultural Objects, and subfield \$j, Attribution qualifier, defined for the X00 (Personal Name) fields in the MARC 21 bibliographic, authority, classification, and community information formats.

(2) The term should not be used to record the relationship between an identified, named artist and his workshop, office, or a stylistic "school"; in these cases the office or workshop should be listed as a separate "corporate" creator and the nature of the activity of the individual recorded as a role.

Key to sources for terms:

BHA BHA: Bibliography of the History of Art/Bibliographie d'histoire de l'art.
Los Angeles, California: J. Paul Getty Trust; Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy, France: Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Institut de l'information scientifique et technique; 1991- Also available online by subscription.

CDWA Categories for the Description of Works of Art [on line]. Edited by Murtha Baca and Patricia Harpring. Los Angeles, California: J. Paul Getty Trust and the College Art Association, 2000. http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/standards/cdwa/4_categories/index.html (accessed April 8, 2005)

Sotheby “Glossary of terms” used in Sotheby’s catalogues (issue consulted:
London, Dec. 11, 2003, Old Master Paintings, p. 306)

VRA Definition supplied by Data Standards Committee of the Visual Resources Association