

## Selected Reference Materials on Health and Safety in the Visual Arts.

Compiled and annotated by Ted Rickard, MLS, M.Ed, CRSP – May 2004

**ACTS FACTS.** Arts, Crafts and Theater Safety (ACTS). Monona Rossol, Editor. 181 Thompson St, #23, New York, NY 10012. Useful and wide-ranging 4-page monthly newsletter on art hazards.

Clark, Nancy; Thomas Cutter, and Jean-Ann McGrane. **Ventilation: a Practical Guide.** New York. Nick Lyons Books, 1984. 111 pp. ISBN: 0-941130-44-4. An excellent instruction manual for the lay person on how to build ventilation systems. Currently out of print, but worth searching for.

Kroemer, Karl H., and Etienne Grandjean. **Fitting the Task to the Human.** London: Francis & Taylor, 1997. 384 pp. ISBN: 0-7484-0664-6. An excellent textbook on ergonomics (the science of designing the workplace to fit the person).

McCann, Michael. **Art Safety Procedures: a Health and Safety Manual of Art Schools and Art Departments.** New York: Center for Safety in the Arts, 1992. 109 pp. Useful information, much of it based on data sheets published by the now-defunct Center for Safety in the Arts, based on years of experience inspecting art schools for hazards.

McCann, Michael. **Artist Beware, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn.** New York: Lyons & Burford, 1992. 564 pp. ISBN: 1-55821-175-6, now in paperback with ISBN: 1-58574-211-1. The 'Bible' on the subject written by an expert. If you do not have any reference material on health hazards in the arts, make sure you buy this one.

McCann, Michael. **Lights ! Camera ! Safety !: a Health and Safety Manual for Motion Picture and Television Production.** New York: Center for Safety in the Arts, 1991. 98 pp. A useful basic guide to health and safety in movie production.

Qualley, Charles. **Safety in the Artroom.** Worcester, MA: Davis Publications, 1986. 116 pp. ISBN: 0-87192-174-X. Perhaps a little more readable than McCann's **Artist Beware**, although not as authoritative or comprehensive. Useful for art teachers.

Rossol, Monona. **The Artist's Complete Health and Safety Guide, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn.** New York: Allworth Press, 1994. 335 pp. ISBN: 1-880559-18-8. An excellent and authoritative book, clearly laid out and easy to read. Another "must buy" for the professional artist's bookshelf.

Rossol, Monona. **The Health & Safety Guide for Film, TV & Theater.** New York: Allworth Press, 2000. 233pp. ISBN: 1-58115-071-7. An important, updated safety manual for the performing arts. Authoritative and chock full of information.

Rossol, Monona. **Stage Fright: Health and Safety in the Theater.** New York: ACTS (Arts, Crafts and Theater Safety), 1987. 123 pp. ISBN: 0-944519-00-8. Available from ACTS. Much general useful information on health hazards in the arts with the addition of specialized subjects such as theatrical makeup, lighting and theatrical fogs.

**The Safer Arts.** Ottawa: Health and Welfare Canada, 1988. 39 pp. ISBN: 0-662-16091-6. Also a set of nine posters with the same title, and some of the same text, are available while quantities last. All free of charge from Health and Welfare Canada, Communications Directorate, Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2 Canada (613) 957-2991. General advice plus a couple of pages of specialized information on the health hazards of each of the following areas: painting and printmaking; dyes and fibres; pottery and ceramics; stained glass and glassblowing; metalworking; jewellery, holloware and enameling; sculpture; wood; photography. An excellent resource for schools.

**Art Teacher, Be Aware.** Ottawa: Health Canada, 1994. 24 pp. ISBN: 0-660-15435-9. A rehash of the same information as used in **The Safer Arts** above.

Shaw, Susan and Monona Rossol. **Overexposure: Health Hazards in Photography, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn.** New York: Allworth Press, 1991. 320 pp. ISBN: 0-9607118-6-4. An authoritative and important reference book which every serious darkroom photographer should have on the professional bookshelf - and should consult.

Spandorfer, Merle; Deborah Curtiss, and Jack Snyder. **Making Art Safely.** New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1993. 255 pp. ISBN: 0-442-23489-9. A lavishly illustrated book about the safe methods of drawing, painting, printmaking, illustration and photography. Unfortunately contains some misinformation (and has a whole page of bibliography omitted by the printer), but on the whole is well laid out and very readable.

Tell, Judy (ed.) **Making Darkrooms Saferooms.** Durham, MN. National Press Photographers' Association, 1989. 72 pp. Reports of health and safety problems amongst professional photographers, with suggestions for improving working conditions. See [www.nppa.org/default.cfm](http://www.nppa.org/default.cfm).

**What You Need to Know About the Safety of Art & Craft Materials.** Boston, MA: The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. 1994. Twelve page booklet on the approval seals of the ACMI voluntarily used by members of this non-profit trade association of manufacturers of art, craft and creative materials. Includes basic safety tips and toxicology information connected with art materials. Free from The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc, 1280 Main St, P.O. Box 479, Hanson, MA 02341. Tel: (781) 293-4100, Fax: (781) 294-0808.

[www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)

Ontario Statutes and Regulations online.

See here the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. Click on the “+” sign beside it to see all the Regulations which apply, including:

Construction Projects, Critical Injury – Defined, Designated Substance – Asbestos on Construction Projects, Industrial Establishments, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), etc.

**Further specific information is available from the following sources:**

*Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety*

*250 Main St. East, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 1H6*

*Inquiries Dept: (905) 572-4400, 1-800-263-8466.*

*custserv@ccohs.ca*

*<http://www.ccohs.ca>*

*Publishes and sells a large variety of health and safety literature, although not specifically on the arts.*

*Education Safety Association of Ontario*

*4950 Yonge St, Suite 1505*

*Toronto, Ontario M2N 6K1*

*[tbyng@esao.on.ca](mailto:tbyng@esao.on.ca)*

*<http://www.esao.on.ca>*

*A health and safety resource for universities, colleges, school boards, museums, art centres and libraries, ESAO offers materials for purchase and a very useful “forum” on their website where you can ask questions and receive answers from their field representatives or your colleagues in your sector.*

*Lectures and supplies information on health and safety in the arts.*

*Monona Rossol*

*ACTS (Arts, Crafts and Theater Safety)*

*181 Thompson Street, Suite 23, New York, NY 10012*

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*<http://www.caseweb.com/ACTS>, also [www.artscraftstheatersafety.org](http://www.artscraftstheatersafety.org)*