



How-To Guide: Image Citation

Students at the Academy of Art University (AAU) follow the Modern Language Association (MLA) format for research papers. This How-To guide provides explanations and examples based on the ***MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed.***, which is available at the AAU Library under the call number **LB2369.G53 2009**.

The intention of this guide is to help students follow MLA format and appropriately credit creators of works of visual art used in their research. This not only helps authors avoid plagiarism and copyright infringement, but also helps readers successfully locate the same resource.

Image citations can be confusing at times, so just keep in mind:

- ***The citation of an original work of visual art differs from the citation of an image/reproduction from a secondary source, such as a book or a website.***
- ***You may not always be able to find each source detail mentioned in the format guidelines. Just do your best to provide as much information as possible in your citations.***
- ***Instructors may have specific requirements for each class. Always check with your instructors early in the assignment to confirm their expectations for your final work.***

An Original Work of Visual Art

To cite an original work of visual art (a lithograph, painting, photograph, sculpture, etc.) in an institution such as a museum or in a private collection, follow this format:

Artist's last name, first name. *Title of artwork*. Year. Medium. Name of institution/private collection housing artwork, city where institution/private collection is located.

Examples:

Evans, Walker. *Penny Picture Display*. 1936. Photograph.
Museum of Mod. Art, New York.

Heckman, Albert. *Windblown Trees*. N.d. Lithograph on paper.
Private collection.

Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn. *Aristotle with a Bust of Homer*.
1653. Oil on canvas. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New
York.

Seurat, Georges. *Man Leaning on a Fence*. 1880-81? Graphite on
paper. Collection of André Bromberg, n.p.

**For more information, see section 5.7.6, "A Work of Visual Art,"
in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed.**

An Image/Reproduction of a Work of Visual Art from a Print Source

To cite an image/reproduction of a work of visual art from a print source, follow this format:

Artist's last name, first name. *Title of artwork*. Year. Name of institution/private collection housing artwork. *Title of print source*. Author/editor's first name last name. Publication city: Publisher, year. Page/plate number. Medium of reproduction.

Examples:

Eakins, Thomas. *Spinning*. 1881. Private collection. *Thomas Eakins*. Ed. Darrel Sewell. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Museum of Art in assn. with Yale UP, 2001. Plate 91. Print.

Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939. Museo de Art Moderno, Mexico City. *Gardner's Art Through the Ages: The Western Perspective*. 12th ed. Ed. Fred S. Kleiner, Christin J. Mamiya. Vol. 2. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth, 2006. 774. Print.

Moholy-Nagy, Lászlò. *Photogram*. N.d. Museum of Mod. Art, New York. *The Contest of Meaning: Critical Histories of Photography*. Ed. Richard Bolton. Cambridge: MIT P, 1989. 94. Print.

For more information, see section 5.7.6, "A Work of Visual Art," in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed.

An Image/Reproduction of a Work of Visual Art from the Web

To cite an image/reproduction of a work of visual art from the Web, follow this format:

Artist's last name, first name. *Title of artwork*. Year. Name of institution/private collection housing artwork. *Title of database or website*. Publisher/sponsor of database or website. Medium consulted. Date of access.

Note about publisher/sponsor: When known, include if it is not related to the housing institution/collection; is a parent entity of the database or website; or offers the source in additional formats.

Examples:

Braun, Adolphe. *Flower Study, Rose of Sharon*. c. 1854. Metropolitan Museum of Art. *Grove Art Online*. Oxford University Press. Web. 2 June 2011.

Currin, John. *Blond Angel*. 2001. Indianapolis Museum of Art. *IMA: It's My Art*. Web. 9 May 2007.

Eggleston, William. *Memphis*. c. 1969. Museum of Mod. Art. *Academy of Art University Collection, LUNA*. Academy of Art University. Web. 27 Apr. 2011.

Lange, Dorothea. *The Migrant Mother*. 1936. Prints and Photographs Div., Lib. of Cong. *Dorothea Lange: Photographer of the People*. Web. 9 May 2007.

For more information, see section 5.6.2.d, "A Work on the Web Cited with Publication Data for Another Medium Besides Print," in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed.

About URLs

URLs are now an optional component of a citation, but it is still recommended to include this information if the reader will not be able to locate a resource without it, or it is part of an instructor's requirements.

When providing a URL, enclose the complete address in angle brackets following the date of access, period, and a space. End the entire entry with a period after the closing angle bracket:

Artist's last name, first name. *Title of artwork*. Year. Name of institution/private collection housing artwork. *Title of database or website*. Publisher/sponsor of database or website. Medium consulted. Date of access. <URL>.

Examples:

Cloix, Emmanuel. *BROUSSAI 2 visu*. 2007. *Wikimedia Commons*. Wikimedia Foundation. Web. 1 June 2011.
<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BROUSSAI_2_visu.jpg>.

Koul, Anirudh. *Golden Gate Bridge – Photographing World's Most Photographed Place*. 2008. *Flickr*. Yahoo! Inc. Web. 1 June 2011.
<<http://www.flickr.com/photos/anirudhkoul/2535955996/>>.

Moore, Albert. *A Garden*. 1869. Tate Britain. *Art Project*. Google. Web. 1 June 2011.
<<http://www.googleartproject.com/museums/tate/a-garden-152>>.

For more information, see section 5.6.1, "Citing Web Publications: Introduction," in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed.*

Image Captions

Captions appear below the image and typically begin with the abbreviation for *Figure* (*Fig.*), then followed by assigned Arabic numerals and a brief description.

An entry in the works-cited list is not necessary if an image caption provides complete information about the source, and it is the only time the source is referenced in the text.



Fig. 1. *North by Northwest*. Cary Grant, scene still. Dir. Alfred Hitchcock. MGM, 1959. *Cinema Image Gallery*. H.W. Wilson. Web. 3 June 2011.

For more information, see section 4.5, "Tables and Illustrations," in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed.

Most Important...

Don't get overwhelmed by the process and details of citations! Just remember that MLA guidelines are designed to be flexible, and the more research and writing you do, the task of building different types of citations will become less daunting. And when you do need help, don't hesitate to contact your instructor or ask any of the AAU librarians for assistance.

If you have questions or comments about this How-To Guide, please contact Abby Dansiger, Visual Resources Librarian, at (415) 618-3761 or adansiger@academyart.edu.