



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, 8th ed.***, which is available at the AAU Library under the call number **LB2369.G53 2016**.

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 or Private Collection Housing Artwork, City Where Institution or 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.

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*. Date
Artwork Created, Name of Institution or Private
Collection Housing Artwork, City Where it is Housed.
Title of Print Source by Author or Editor's Name.
Publisher, page or plate number.**

Examples:

Eakins, Thomas. *Spinning*. 1881, Private collection. *Thomas Eakins*, edited by Darrel Sewell, Philadelphia Museum of Art in assn. with Yale UP, plate 91.

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

Moholy-Nagy, Lászlò. *Photogram*. N.d., Museum of Modern Art, New York. *The Contest of Meaning: Critical Histories of Photography*, edited by Richard Bolton, MIT Press, p. 94.

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*. Date artwork created, Name of Institution or Private Collection Housing Artwork, City Where it is Housed. *Title of Database or Website*, Publisher or sponsor of Database or Website, URL or DOI. Date of access (optional).

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*. 0-www.oxfordartonline.com.llibrary.academyart.edu/subscribe/article/img/grove/art/F019413. Accessed 10 Jan. 2017.

Currin, John. *Blond Angel*. 2001, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis. *Indianapolis Museum of Art*, <http://collection.imamuseum.org/artwork/43494/>. Accessed 9 May 2007.

Eggleston, William. *Memphis*. c. 1969, Museum of Modern Art, New York. *Academy of Art University Collection, LUNA*. Academy of Art University, <http://0-mon.academyart.edu.library.academyart.edu/luna/servlet/s/z437n3>.

Lange, Dorothea. *The Migrant Mother*. 1936, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. *Library of Congress*, <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/fsa.8b29516/>. Accessed 10 May 2014.

About URLs

URL or DOIs are now a required component of a citation. The date of access is optional. End the URL or DOI with a period:

Artist's Last Name, First Name. *Title of Artwork*. Date artwork created, Name of Institution or Private Collection Housing Artwork, City Where it is Housed. *Title of Database or Website*, Publisher or sponsor of Database or Website, URL or DOI. Date of access (optional).

Examples:

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

Koul, Anirudh. *Golden Gate Bridge – Photographing World's Most Photographed Place*. 2008, *Flickr*. Yahoo! Inc., <http://www.flickr.com/photos/anirudhkoul/2535955996/>. Accessed 10 May 2011.

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

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. Metro-Golden-Mayer, 1959, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Alfred-Hitchcock/images-videos>. Accessed 3 June 2011.

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 the Miranda Lindelöw, the Visual Resources Coordinator, at mlindelow@academyart.edu or 415-618-3931.