

Guidelines for MLA Citations and Captions For Images

Overview

If you reproduce an image of a work in the body of your paper, you will need to provide both a caption for it as well as a citation in your Bibliography or Works Cited page. The latter conforms to MLA format (refer to MLA section 5.7.6: A Work of Visual Art).

A *caption* is the text accompanying an image inserted into your paper.
The *citation* is the reference included in your Works Cited page or Bibliography.

Similarities: Both citations and captions include the artist's name, title of the work, date (if available), and owner of the item.

Differences: The caption notes the dimensions and medium, the citation does not. The citation includes more detailed information regarding the source of the image and in the case of Internet resources also documents the date the image was retrieved online (noted by the use of the terms "Print" or "Web" found at the end of the citation).

Usually the caption text is a little bit smaller than the text used in the body of the paper (i.e., you may want to use 10 point type for the caption if using 12 point for the rest of the paper).
Artist name.

Fig #. Name of artist (last name first)
Title of Work of Art, Date of work.
Medium
Size
Owner of the original/right to reproduce image

For more information, consult a member of the LCAD Library staff or these two sources:

Modern Language Association of America. *MLA Handbook*. Modern Language Association of America, 2016. [library call number for the 8th edition: REF LB 2369 .G53 2016]

Hacker, Diana. *A Pocket Style Manual*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015. [library call number: REF PE 1408 .H26 2015]

Citing an Image of a Work of Art from a Website



In a Bibliography/Works Cited:

Gutiérrez, Felipe Santiago. *Indian Woman with Marigold (Mujer indígena con cempasúchil)*. 1876, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, collections.lacma.org/node/1035000.

Caption:

Fig. 12. Gutiérrez, Felipe Santiago
Indian Woman with Marigold (Mujer indígena con cempasúchil), 1876

Oil on canvas

67.95 x 56.52 cm

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA.

The above two examples show a citation and a caption for an oil painting found on the LACMA website. Note that because the source of the image is an online source, the website URL is indicated in the MLA citation for a Bibliography/Works Cited page.

If the image was reproduced in a book, the citation would look like the example below:

Gutiérrez, Felipe Santiago. *Indian Woman with Marigold (Mujer indígena con cempasúchil)*. 1876, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA. *Pinturas que Cantan: Figurative Paintings of 19th Century Latin America*, edited by Fedelina Griego Martinez and Annalea Mestes, HarperCollins, 2017.

The format above is divided into two parts: first, it cites the work of art. Then it cites the publication in which the work was reproduced.

Creating a Caption and Citation for an Image of Your Own Work of Art

In a Bibliography/Works Cited:

Student, Ima Goode. *Canyon Road Twister*. 2012, collection of the artist.

D'artiste, Crystale Vue. *Vending Machine Angst*. 2013, private collection.

Caption:

Fig. 2. Student, Ima Goode
Canyon Road Twister, 2012
Oil on canvas
20 x 30 in.
Collection of the artist

Fig. 3 D'artiste, Crystal Vue
Vending Machine Angst, 2013
Digital drawing
16"x20"
Private collection

Creating a Bibliography/Works Cited Page in MLA Format

A Bibliography or Works Cited page lists the sources you consulted as part of your research. Regardless of the type of resource (e.g., print book, website, interview, film, etc.), all the sources are listed alphabetically by creator or by title if there is not attributable creator name.

Review the example below and see if you can identify the following types of sources:

- Painting by an unidentified artist
- Print book
- Chapter in a printed book
- Photograph found on the Web
- Online newspaper article

Hockney, David. *Secret Knowledge: Recovering the Lost Techniques of the Old Masters*. Penguin Group, 2001.

Libermann, Max. "Imagination in Painting." *Art in Theory*, edited by Charles Harrison and Paul Wood, Blackwell Publishing, 2003, p. 30-33.

López-Rey, José and Odile Delenda. *Velázquez: The Complete Works*. Taschen, 2014.

Rousar, Darren R. *Cast Drawing: Using the Sight-Size Approach*. Velatura Press, 2007.

Stella, Frank. "How Velazquez Seizes The Truth That Is Art." *The New York Times*, 1 Oct. 1989, www.nytimes.com/1989/10/01/arts/how-velazquez-seizes-the-truth-that-is-art.html?pagewanted=all.

Waldo, Evelyn and Warren. *Millerton Memories*. 1987, *Digital Public Library of America*, www.dpla.org/ebw/wfw1920/Millerton/1987.

Wolfflin, Heinrich. *Principles of Art History; The Problem of the Development of Style in Later Art*. Trans. M. D. Hottinger. Dover Publications, 1950.

Zydeco Queen. 2017, Albion County Historical Museum, Catchafall, Louisiana.