

chicago manual of style artwork citation citation chicago

Mastering Chicago Manual of Style Artwork Citation: A Comprehensive Guide

chicago manual of style artwork citation citation chicago is a crucial skill for students, researchers, and anyone aiming for academic rigor when incorporating visual elements into their work. Properly citing artwork in the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) ensures proper attribution, avoids plagiarism, and allows readers to locate the original sources of images. This guide delves deep into the intricacies of CMOS artwork citation, covering everything from general principles to specific examples for various types of visual media, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, and digital images. We will explore the fundamental differences between footnotes/endnotes and the bibliography, providing clear instructions for each. Furthermore, we will address common challenges and offer detailed solutions to help you navigate the nuances of citing visual materials with confidence, making your academic writing both accurate and ethically sound.

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Understanding the Core Principles of Artwork Citation

The Chicago Manual of Style, in its 17th edition, provides comprehensive guidelines for citing all types of sources, including visual art. The fundamental principle behind any citation, including artwork, is to provide enough information for your reader to find the original source. This involves identifying the creator, the title of the work, the date of creation, the medium, the dimensions, the current location, and the specific source where you encountered the artwork (e.g., a book, journal article, or website). Adhering to these principles is paramount for academic integrity and scholarly communication.

Two primary citation systems are supported by the Chicago Manual of Style: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. For artwork, the notes-bibliography system, which uses footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography, is generally preferred due to its ability to accommodate detailed descriptions of visual materials. The author-date system, while less common for art, can be adapted. This guide will primarily focus on the notes-bibliography system, as it offers greater flexibility and clarity for artwork citations.

Footnotes and Endnotes for Artwork Citation in Chicago Style

In the notes-bibliography system, footnotes or endnotes provide the first point of citation when a piece of artwork is introduced or discussed in your text. These notes offer detailed information about the artwork and its source, allowing for immediate reference without disrupting the flow of your prose. While footnotes appear at the bottom of the page, endnotes are collected at the end of the document. Both serve the same purpose: to provide a full citation.

Elements of a Footnote/Endnote for Artwork

A typical footnote or endnote for artwork will include several key components, presented in a specific order. While minor variations exist depending on the source of your image, the core information remains consistent. Precision is key in constructing these notes to ensure clarity and accuracy.

- Creator's full name (first name, last name)
- Title of the artwork (in italics)
- Date of creation (as specific as possible)
- Medium of the artwork (e.g., oil on canvas, bronze, digital)
- Dimensions of the artwork (height x width x depth, if applicable)
- Current location of the artwork (museum, gallery, private collection)
- Information about the source where you accessed the artwork (e.g., book title, publication details, website URL and access date)

Example of a Footnote/Endnote

Consider an example of citing a famous painting. If you are referencing Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, as reproduced in a book, your footnote might look something like this:

1. Leonardo da Vinci, *Mona Lisa (La Gioconda)*, c. 1503–1506, oil on poplar panel, 77 × 53 cm, Musée du Louvre, Paris. In *Masterpieces of the Renaissance*, by John Smith, 45 (London: Art Books Ltd., 2020).

Notice the inclusion of essential details, from the artist and title to the medium, dimensions, location, and the publication where the image was found. The page number within the publication is also critical for pinpointing the image.

Bibliography Entries for Artwork in Chicago Style

The bibliography, located at the end of your paper, provides a consolidated list of all sources cited. For artwork, the bibliography entry is similar to the footnote but with slight structural differences and a focus on providing a complete reference to the source material. The goal is to offer a comprehensive overview of all the visual references you've utilized, enabling further research for your readers.

Elements of a Bibliography Entry for Artwork

Bibliography entries for artwork generally follow a pattern that prioritizes the creator and the work itself, followed by the source information. The structure is designed for easy scanning and identification of sources.

- Creator's last name, first name.
- Title of the artwork (in italics).
- Date of creation.
- Medium.
- Dimensions.
- Current location.
- Source information (book title, publication details, website, etc.).

Example of a Bibliography Entry

Continuing with the Mona Lisa example, the corresponding bibliography entry would be:

Da Vinci, Leonardo. *Mona Lisa (La Gioconda)*. c. 1503-1506. Oil on poplar panel, 77 × 53 cm. Musée du Louvre, Paris. In *Masterpieces of the Renaissance*, by John Smith, 45. London: Art Books Ltd., 2020.

The primary distinction from the footnote is the reversed order of the author's name and the absence of a sequential number. This format facilitates alphabetical sorting within the bibliography, a standard practice in academic writing.

Citing Paintings and Sculptures

Citing physical artworks like paintings and sculptures requires careful attention to detail, particularly regarding their creation and current location. When you reproduce an image of a painting or sculpture in your work, you are citing the reproduction, but you also need to provide information about the original artwork itself. This dual approach ensures that your citation is both accurate and informative.

Artwork in a Museum or Gallery

When citing a painting or sculpture that you have seen in a museum or gallery, or whose reproduction appears in a source that details its museum context, you will include the museum's name as the location. This provides crucial provenance for the artwork.

Footnote/Endnote Example

2. Vincent van Gogh, *The Starry Night*, 1889. Oil on canvas, 73.7 × 92.1 cm. Museum of Modern Art, New York. Image from Wikimedia Commons, accessed October 26, 2023, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Starry_Night.jpg.

Bibliography Example

Van Gogh, Vincent. *The Starry Night*. 1889. Oil on canvas, 73.7 × 92.1 cm. Museum of Modern Art, New York. Image from Wikimedia Commons, accessed October 26, 2023, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Starry_Night.jpg.

Artwork in a Private Collection

If an artwork is in a private collection, and you are citing a reproduction of it, you will note this as the location. This is less common for publicly accessible images but may arise in specialized research.

Footnote/Endnote Example

3. Claude Monet, *Impression, Sunrise*, 1872. Oil on canvas, 48 × 63 cm. Private collection. Reproduced in *Monet: A Retrospective*, by Paul Hayes Tucker, 112 (New York: Thames &

Hudson, 1995).

Bibliography Example

Monet, Claude. *Impression, Sunrise*. 1872. Oil on canvas, 48 × 63 cm. Private collection. Reproduced in *Monet: A Retrospective*, by Paul Hayes Tucker, 112. New York: Thames & Hudson, 1995.

Citing Photographs and Prints

Photographs and prints, whether historical or contemporary, also require specific citation formats within the Chicago Manual of Style. The key is to identify the photographer or printmaker, the title of the work, the date of creation or publication, and the medium. For historical photographs, archival information is often essential.

Photographs

When citing a photograph, the photographer is typically considered the creator. If the photograph is part of a collection or exhibition, this information should be included.

Footnote/Endnote Example

4. Dorothea Lange, *Migrant Mother*, Nipomo, California, 1936. Gelatin silver print. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C. Image from the Library of Congress website, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3g09409/>.

Bibliography Example

Lange, Dorothea. *Migrant Mother*, Nipomo, California. 1936. Gelatin silver print. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C. Image from the Library of Congress website, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3g09409/>.

Prints

For prints, the artist is the creator. If the print is part of a limited edition, this detail can be included if relevant. The medium and dimensions are also important identifiers.

Footnote/Endnote Example

5. Albrecht Dürer, *Melencolia I*, 1514. Engraving, 24.6 × 19.9 cm. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Reproduced in *Dürer and His Time*, by Walter L. Strauss, 158 (New York: Abaris Books, 1988).

Bibliography Example

Dürer, Albrecht. *Melencolia I*. 1514. Engraving, 24.6 × 19.9 cm. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Reproduced in *Dürer and His Time*, by Walter L. Strauss, 158. New York: Abaris Books, 1988.

Citing Digital Images and Online Artwork

The proliferation of digital art and online repositories necessitates specific guidelines for citing digital images. When citing an image found online, it is crucial to provide a stable URL and the date of access, as online content can change or disappear. The source of the digital image (e.g., a museum website, an online archive, a personal blog) should be clearly identified.

Artwork from Museum Websites

Many museums offer high-quality reproductions of their collections online. When citing these, treat the museum's website as the publication where you found the image.

Footnote/Endnote Example

6. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Ram's Head, White Hollyhock—Hills*, 1935. Oil on canvas, 76.2 × 101.6 cm. Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe. Accessed October 26, 2023, <https://okeeffemuseum.org/works/rams-head-white-hollyhock-hills/>.

Bibliography Example

O'Keeffe, Georgia. *Ram's Head, White Hollyhock—Hills*. 1935. Oil on canvas, 76.2 × 101.6 cm. Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe. Accessed October 26, 2023, <https://okeeffemuseum.org/works/rams-head-white-hollyhock-hills/>.

Artwork from Online Archives or Databases

Online archives and databases, such as Artstor or Getty Images, are valuable resources. Your citation should reflect the specific database and any associated accession numbers or collection details.

Footnote/Endnote Example

7. Paul Cézanne, *The Basket of Apples*, c. 1895. Oil on canvas, 73 × 91.8 cm. Art Institute of Chicago. Accessed via Artstor, 2023. <https://www.artstor.org/>.

Bibliography Example

Cézanne, Paul. *The Basket of Apples*. c. 1895. Oil on canvas, 73 × 91.8 cm. Art Institute of Chicago. Accessed via Artstor, 2023. <https://www.artstor.org/>.

Artwork Found on Social Media or General Websites

Citing artwork found on platforms like Instagram, Pinterest, or general blogs requires extra caution regarding copyright and attribution. If you cannot verify the original source or creator, it may be best to find a more authoritative source. If you must cite such an image, include as much information as possible, including the username or website owner and the access date.

Footnote/Endnote Example

8. Artist Unknown, "Surreal Landscape." Instagram post, July 15, 2022. Accessed October 26, 2023, https://www.instagram.com/p/_____/.

Bibliography Example

Artist Unknown. "Surreal Landscape." Instagram post, July 15, 2022. Accessed October 26, 2023, https://www.instagram.com/p/_____/.

Special Cases in Artwork Citation

Beyond the standard categories, certain types of visual materials present unique citation challenges. These can include illustrations within books, artwork created by the author, or works that are part of a larger installation. Addressing these special cases with the appropriate level of detail ensures comprehensive citation practices.

Illustrations within Books

When an illustration is part of a book you are citing, the citation primarily focuses on the book itself, with the illustration identified by its page number. However, if the illustration is a significant artwork in its own right and you are discussing it as such, you may need to include details about the artwork itself.

Footnote/Endnote Example

9. Winslow Homer, *The Gulf Stream*, 1899. Oil on canvas. Reproduced in *American Art: A Survey*, by Henry Adams, 288 (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1995).

Bibliography Example

Homer, Winslow. *The Gulf Stream*. 1899. Oil on canvas. Reproduced in *American Art: A Survey*, by Henry Adams, 288. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1995.

Artwork by the Author

If you have created artwork that you are referencing in your paper, you will cite it as a personal communication or as an unpublished work. This typically involves providing the title, date of creation, and noting that it is your own work.

Footnote/Endnote Example

10. [Your Name], *Untitled Landscape*, 2023. Digital drawing.

Bibliography Example

[Your Name]. *Untitled Landscape*. 2023. Digital drawing.

Artwork as Part of an Installation

Citing art that is part of a larger installation can be complex. You will want to identify the installation, the artist, the individual artwork within the installation if you are focusing on it, and the context of the exhibition.

Footnote/Endnote Example

11. Yayoi Kusama, *Infinity Mirrored Room—The Souls of Millions of Light Years Away*, 2013. Mixed media installation. The Broad, Los Angeles. Photo by Scott Lynch, courtesy of The Broad. Accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.thebroad.org/art/yayoi-kusama/infinity-mirrored-room-souls-millions-light-years-away>.

Bibliography Example

Kusama, Yayoi. *Infinity Mirrored Room—The Souls of Millions of Light Years Away*. 2013. Mixed media installation. The Broad, Los Angeles. Photo by Scott Lynch, courtesy of The Broad. Accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.thebroad.org/art/yayoi-kusama/infinity-mirrored-room-souls-millions-light-years-away>.

Frequently Asked Questions about Chicago Manual of Style Artwork Citation

Q: What is the most important information to include when citing artwork in Chicago style?

A: The most crucial information includes the creator's name, the title of the artwork (italicized), the date of creation, the medium, and the source where you encountered the artwork. For physical artworks, the location is also vital.

Q: Should I cite the artwork itself or the reproduction I am using?

A: You cite the artwork itself, but you must also provide details about the source of the reproduction (e.g., a book, website, or exhibition catalog) so the reader can find it.

Q: How do I cite an artwork if I don't know the artist's name?

A: If the artist is unknown, you can start the citation with the title of the artwork and then indicate "artist unknown" or "anonymous." For example, "Artist Unknown, Title of Artwork..."

Q: What if the artwork is a digital file found online?

A: For digital images, include the creator, title, date, medium, and then the website name or source, followed by the URL and the date you accessed it.

Q: Do I need to include dimensions for all artwork citations?

A: Including dimensions is highly recommended, especially for paintings and sculptures, as it provides a clearer understanding of the artwork's scale. However, it may be omitted if the information is unavailable or not relevant to your discussion.

Q: How do I differentiate between a footnote and a bibliography entry for artwork?

A: Footnotes/endnotes typically start with a number and the creator's first name followed by their last name. Bibliography entries start with the creator's last name followed by their first name and are not numbered.

Q: What if the artwork is part of a larger exhibition?

A: When citing artwork from an exhibition, include information about the artist, artwork title, date, medium, and then the exhibition title, the venue, and the city of the exhibition, along with the publication details of the exhibition catalog if used.

Q: Is there a specific way to cite artwork found in a journal article?

A: Yes, if the artwork is reproduced in a journal article, your citation will first focus on the artwork itself, then specify that it is reproduced in a particular journal article, and finally provide the full citation for that journal article.

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