

# chicago style footnote example artwork

## Understanding Chicago Style Footnotes for Artwork

**chicago style footnote example artwork** serves as a crucial guide for accurately citing visual materials within academic and scholarly writing. Whether you're referencing a Renaissance painting, a contemporary sculpture, or a digital installation, proper attribution is paramount to avoid plagiarism and to give credit to the creators. This article will delve into the intricacies of citing artwork using Chicago style, providing clear examples and explanations for various scenarios. We will cover the fundamental components of a Chicago footnote for artwork, explore how to handle different types of art, discuss variations based on where the artwork is found (e.g., in a museum, a book, or online), and offer best practices for ensuring clarity and accuracy. Understanding these nuances will empower you to confidently integrate visual references into your research papers, essays, and presentations.

### Table of Contents

Understanding the Core Components of a Chicago Style Footnote for Artwork

Citing Artwork from Physical Locations (Museums, Galleries)

Citing Artwork from Published Sources (Books, Exhibition Catalogs)

Citing Artwork Found Online

Specific Considerations for Artwork Citations

Frequently Asked Questions about Chicago Style Footnotes for Artwork

## Understanding the Core Components of a Chicago Style Footnote for Artwork

When crafting a Chicago style footnote for artwork, several key pieces of information are essential to ensure your citation is complete and informative. These elements work together to guide your reader to the exact source of the visual information you are referencing. The goal is to provide enough detail so that someone else could locate the same artwork and understand its context.

### Essential Information in a Chicago Footnote

A standard Chicago style footnote for artwork typically includes the following components, though the order and specific details may vary depending on the source:

- **Artist's Name:** The full name of the artist, usually presented as First Name Last Name.
- **Title of the Artwork:** The full, italicized title of the artwork.
- **Date of Creation:** The year or range of years the artwork was created.
- **Medium:** The materials used to create the artwork (e.g., oil on canvas, bronze, watercolor).
- **Dimensions:** The size of the artwork, usually in inches or centimeters.

- Accession Number (if applicable): A unique identifier assigned by a museum or collection.
- Location: The name of the museum, gallery, or collection where the artwork is housed.
- City of Location: The city where the museum or collection is located.
- Page Number or Figure Number (if referencing in a publication): The specific location within a book or article where the artwork is reproduced or discussed.

## Citing Artwork from Physical Locations (Museums, Galleries)

When you encounter a piece of artwork in a museum or gallery, your citation will focus on its physical presence and institutional context. This allows readers to understand where the original object can be found. The emphasis is on the artwork itself and its custodial information.

### Footnote for Artwork in a Museum Collection

For artwork viewed directly in a museum or gallery, the footnote should primarily identify the artist, title, date, medium, dimensions, accession number, and the institution holding the work. This provides a complete reference to the original object.

Here is a general format:

1. Artist's Full Name, *Title of Artwork*, Year of Creation, Medium, Dimensions, Accession Number, Name of Museum/Gallery, City of Location.

For instance, a footnote for Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa might look like this:

1. Leonardo da Vinci, *Mona Lisa*, c. 1503–1506, oil on poplar panel, 77 cm × 53 cm, Inv. 779, Musée du Louvre, Paris.

It is crucial to include the accession number if it is readily available, as this serves as a definitive identifier for the artwork within the institution's catalog. The dimensions also provide valuable context for understanding the scale of the piece.

## Citing Artwork from Published Sources (Books, Exhibition Catalogs)

Often, artwork is encountered not in person but through its reproduction in books, journals, or exhibition catalogs. In such cases, the citation needs to reflect the details of the publication where you saw the image, in addition to the artwork's original details.

## Footnote for an Artwork Reproduction in a Book

When citing an artwork reproduced in a book, the footnote should include the author of the book, the title of the book, publication details, and the specific page or figure number where the artwork appears. It's also good practice to include the original artwork's details.

The format generally follows this structure:

1. Artist's Full Name, *Title of Artwork*, Year of Creation, Medium, Location of Artwork (if known and relevant), in Author of Book's Full Name, *Title of Book* (City of Publication: Publisher, Year), Page Number or Figure Number.

Example:

1. Vincent van Gogh, *The Starry Night*, 1889, oil on canvas, Museum of Modern Art, New York, in H. Anna Suh, *Van Gogh: The Complete Paintings* (New York: Taschen, 2017), fig. 123.

Note that in this example, the location of the original artwork (Museum of Modern Art, New York) is included for completeness, but the primary focus for the reader's retrieval is the book itself. The figure number (fig. 123) is essential for pinpointing the exact image.

## Footnote for Artwork in an Exhibition Catalog

Exhibition catalogs are particularly important sources for art scholarship. Citations for artwork within these publications should clearly indicate the catalog's editors, title, and specific details about the artwork's inclusion.

A typical format would be:

1. Artist's Full Name, *Title of Artwork*, Year of Creation, Medium, (Original Location if applicable), in Editor(s) of Catalog, *Title of Exhibition Catalog* (City of Publication: Publisher, Year), Page Number.

Example:

1. Frida Kahlo, *The Two Fridas*, 1939, oil on canvas, Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, in Salomon Grimberg and Andrea Kettenmann, *Frida Kahlo: Portraits of an Icon* (New York: Prestel, 2000), 87.

This format prioritizes the exhibition catalog as the source where the artwork is being discussed or reproduced, making it easy for your reader to find that specific reference.

## Citing Artwork Found Online

The digital age presents unique challenges and opportunities for citing artwork. When referencing

an artwork found online, whether on a museum website, an art database, or a digital archive, the citation must reflect the digital nature of the source and provide a stable URL.

## Footnote for Artwork on a Museum Website

Museum websites are increasingly becoming primary sources for accessing and researching artworks. When citing an artwork from a museum's online collection, include the artist, title, date, medium, and accession number, followed by the museum's website name, the specific page URL, and the date of access.

The format is:

1. Artist's Full Name, *Title of Artwork*, Year of Creation, Medium, Accession Number, Museum Name, accessed Month Day, Year, URL.

Example:

1. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Ram's Head White Hollyhock and Little Hills*, 1935, oil on canvas, 48 x 36 in., Accession Number 35.272, Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://okeeffemuseum.org/artworks/rams-head-white-hollyhock-and-little-hills/>.

Including the date of access is vital for online sources, as URLs can change or content can be updated, making it difficult for readers to find the exact information you viewed at a later date. A stable URL is always preferred.

## Footnote for Artwork in an Online Exhibition or Database

When citing artwork from an online exhibition or a specialized art database, adapt the format to accurately reflect the digital platform and the artwork's specific location within it.

A robust format would be:

1. Artist's Full Name, *Title of Artwork*, Year of Creation, Medium, in *Title of Online Exhibition or Database*, Publisher or Organization, accessed Month Day, Year, URL.

Example:

1. Claude Monet, *Impression, Sunrise*, 1872, oil on canvas, in *Impressionism: The Art of Light*, The Art Institute of Chicago, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.artic.edu/collection/catalogue/impressionism-the-art-of-light>.

This example demonstrates how to cite a foundational work within a curated online exhibition. The specific name of the online exhibition and the responsible institution are key identifiers.

# Specific Considerations for Artwork Citations

Beyond the basic formats, several specific situations require careful attention when citing artwork in Chicago style. These nuances ensure that your citations are precise and address the complexities of art historical research.

## Handling Unknown Artists or Dates

In art history, it is common to encounter artworks where the artist or the precise date of creation is unknown or debated. Chicago style provides guidelines for such instances to maintain scholarly integrity.

For unknown artists, use "Unknown Artist" or the name of the culture or period if identifiable. For unknown dates, use "n.d." (no date) or an approximate date range if scholarly consensus exists.

- Unknown Artist, *Portrait of a Noblewoman*, c. 1750, oil on canvas, National Portrait Gallery, London.
- Master of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of recognizable style or school), *Crucifixion*, n.d., tempera on panel, Uffizi Gallery, Florence.

The use of "c." (circa) is important for denoting approximate dates, and scholarly consensus should guide the estimation of date ranges.

## Citing Different Media and Forms

The medium of an artwork is a critical descriptive element. Whether it's a painting, sculpture, photograph, print, or digital art, this detail should be accurately represented in the footnote. For sculptures, you might list materials like bronze, marble, or mixed media. For photographs, specify the photographic process if known (e.g., gelatin silver print).

For artworks that are part of a larger series or installation, ensure that the citation clarifies this relationship. For example, if citing a specific photograph within a series of documentary images, it should be clearly indicated.

The level of detail for the medium can also vary. For a painting, "oil on canvas" is standard. For a sculpture, "bronze" might suffice, or "bronze, cast in 1955" if the casting date is significant.

## When to Use a Bibliography Entry

It is important to remember that Chicago style requires both footnotes (or endnotes) and a bibliography. While footnotes provide immediate citation information, the bibliography offers a comprehensive list of all sources consulted. Artwork cited in footnotes will also appear in your bibliography, though the format may differ slightly, typically omitting page numbers and using the author-date system for book citations where applicable. The core information about the artwork and its source remains consistent.

The bibliography entry for a book reproducing artwork would list the author, book title, publication

details, and potentially the artwork's original details if deemed essential for distinguishing the source. The goal is to allow readers to easily find all the sources you used for your research.

## Frequently Asked Questions about Chicago Style Footnote Example Artwork

### **Q: What is the most critical piece of information when citing artwork in Chicago style?**

A: The most critical piece of information is the clear identification of the artwork, including the artist's name and the title of the work. Without these, the citation is incomplete. Following closely behind are the details that allow the reader to locate the artwork, whether it's the museum it resides in or the publication where it's reproduced.

### **Q: How do I cite a painting I saw in an art history textbook?**

A: You would cite the painting as it appears in the textbook. This involves listing the artist, the title of the artwork, its creation date, medium, and original location (if provided). Then, you would provide the book's author, title, publication details, and the specific page or figure number where the artwork is reproduced.

### **Q: What if the artist's name is not known for a piece of art?**

A: If the artist's name is unknown, you should use "Unknown Artist" in place of the artist's name. If the artwork is identifiable by a specific period or cultural origin (e.g., "Ancient Egyptian"), you can use that information to help identify the work more precisely.

### **Q: How should I format the title of the artwork in a Chicago style footnote?**

A: The title of the artwork should always be italicized in Chicago style footnotes. This distinguishes the artwork's title from the surrounding text and other elements of the citation.

### **Q: Is it necessary to include the dimensions of the artwork in the footnote?**

A: Including the dimensions is highly recommended, especially when citing artwork from a physical location (museums, galleries) or when the size is a significant characteristic of the work. For reproductions in books, dimensions are often omitted unless they are particularly relevant to the discussion.

### **Q: What is the role of the accession number in citing artwork?**

A: The accession number is a unique identifier assigned by a museum or collection to each piece of art in its holdings. It is crucial for citing artwork from physical locations as it provides a definitive

way for someone to locate the exact piece within a large collection.

## **Q: How do I cite artwork found on a museum's website?**

A: When citing artwork from a museum's website, you should include the artist, title, date, medium, accession number, the name of the museum, the specific URL of the artwork's page, and the date you accessed the website.

## **Q: What does "n.d." mean in a Chicago style footnote for artwork?**

A: "n.d." is an abbreviation for "no date." It is used when the date of creation for an artwork is unknown or not provided in the source you are consulting.

## **[Chicago Style Footnote Example Artwork](#)**

Chicago Style Footnote Example Artwork

## **Related Articles**

- [chicago style for journal submission linguistics](#)
- [chicago style essay format template](#)
- [chicago style for film thesis](#)

[Back to Home](#)