Art History – Citing Your Sources in MLA 8th ed

A well-researched essay includes a diversity of resources such as specialized encyclopedias for background information, books and journal articles for in-depth and scholarly discussions.

MLA In-text references
- In-text citations identify the sources of your information within the text of the paper and direct the reader to the full reference entry in your works cited list at the end of the paper.
- In-text citations include the author and page number(s) referenced and are typically in parentheses. Where no page number is available such as online documents, omit the page reference.

Examples
Direct Quotation: Warhol is very explicit in transgressing 'high art and culture'. According to Reed, Warhol’s use of mass-media imagery and mass production methods “flouted the fundamental rules of the American avant-garde, which promoted abstract painting as a unique act of self-expressive individuality indicative of a virile” (162).

Paraphrasing: The Marilyn Diptych poses a clear challenge to ‘high art and culture’. The traditional diptych art form, the large scale size of the work (six feet by nine feet) and the paint handling are explicit references to Christian art history and to the prominence of Abstract Expressionism (Ryan).

Citing Images Included in the Essay

There is no need to repeat the citation in the Works Cited (MLA) if the source is cited directly below each image included. Refer to the artwork by figure number in the body of the essay.

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MLA
In-text reference example: Elvis I and Elvis II (see fig. 2) repeats the same pattern as...


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