

EXPLORE

UNDERSTANDING OBJECT LABELS

Our staff has thoroughly researched the objects on display and made every effort to correctly describe key aspects, from the individual who produced the work to the type of photographic process used in its making.

We have standardized the format of our labels to deliver this information clearly.

Basic Label Components

Maker(s) (Nationality, birth year–death year)

Title, date the image was made

Medium, date the print was made

Credit line, year of accession

Select works receive additional text on the work, which may describe its historical context, cultural significance, or other information regarding the making of the object. This text is written by the museum's curatorial staff so that visitors can develop greater insights about the work on view.

See definitions of label components on reverse.

Visit the Eastman Museum's YouTube channel to view behind-the-scenes videos, such as the *Vault to Wall* series.

Basic Label Components Definitions

Maker: The individuals or group responsible for the concept and making of the object, followed by their nationality and life dates, when available.

Title: A title in italics signifies that the title came from the maker. In most cases, we maintain a maker's original title. Italics are also used for untitled portraits when the subject is known. A title in roman signifies a descriptive title that has been assigned by museum staff. We write descriptive titles when no original title is known, to aid in the searchability and understanding of the object. In rare cases, descriptive titles are also used to replace original titles that include offensive language.

Dates: The date following the title is the date in which the image was made. When the precise date is not known, we include an estimated date with the designation "circa," abbreviated to "ca." If a work is known to have been printed significantly later than the image's creation, that date will follow the medium line.

Medium: The process and/or materials used to make the object.

Credit Line: This signifies how the object entered our museum collection, through purchase, donation, or exchange.

Year of Accession: Many visitors like to know when an object entered our collection. When this information is known, we include the date after the credit line.