

Art History On the Walls: Reading the Text

Artwork on museum walls or on a museum website will have a short snapshot of information called the “tombstone label.” This gives museum visitors and scholars important details to identify who made the artwork, when it was made, the materials used and much more. See the example below:



Hermann Dudley Murphy, *Winter, Mount Monadnock, New Hampshire*, ca. 1909, oil on canvas, Gift of The Morris Family Collection, 1998.16

Let's break it down...

Artist:

Hermann Dudley Murphy



Who made the work?

Title:

*Winter, Mount Monadnock,
New Hampshire*



What is it called?

Year the artwork was finished:

ca. 1909



When was it made?

Medium:

oil on canvas



What is it made of?

Credit Line:

Gift of The Morris Family
Collection



How did it come to the
museum?

Accession Number:

1998.16



How to identify in the
museum's records?
The first four numbers are the
year the work entered the
collection