# PROVENANCE FOR INTERNET ART:
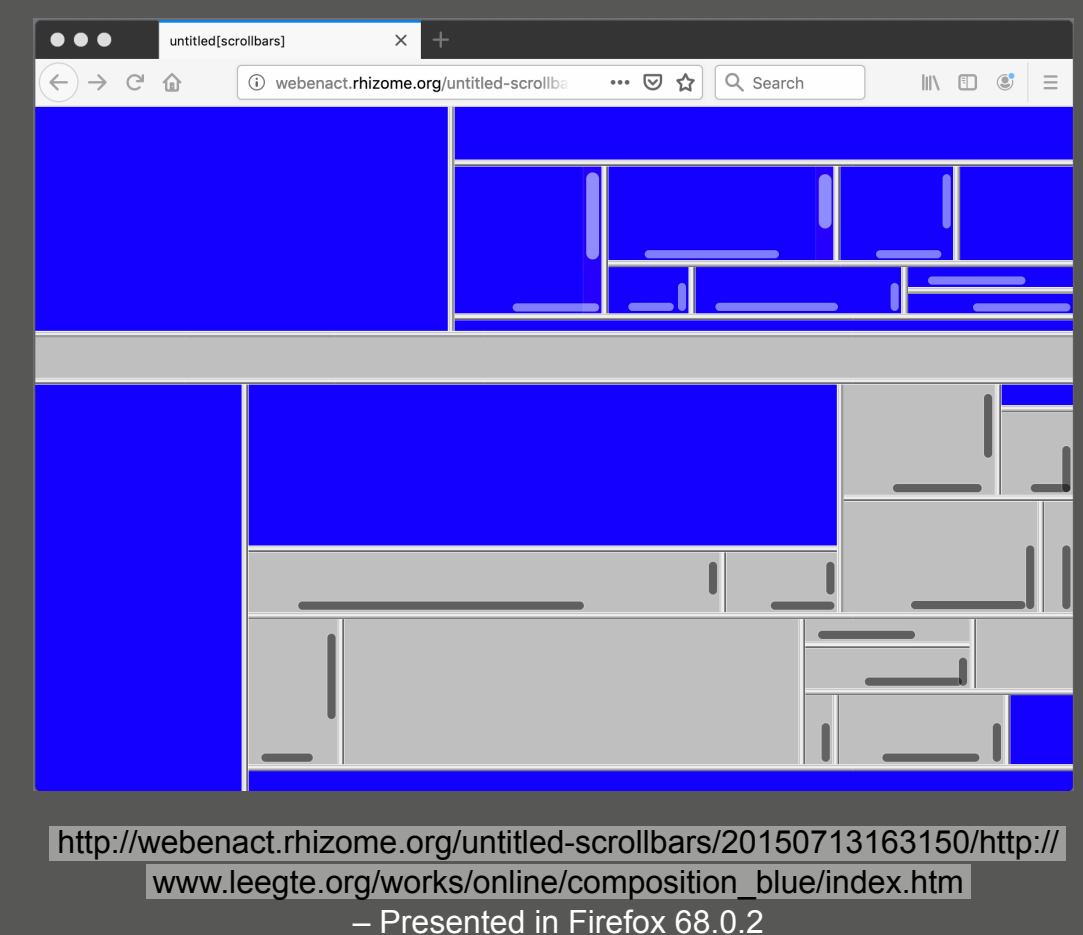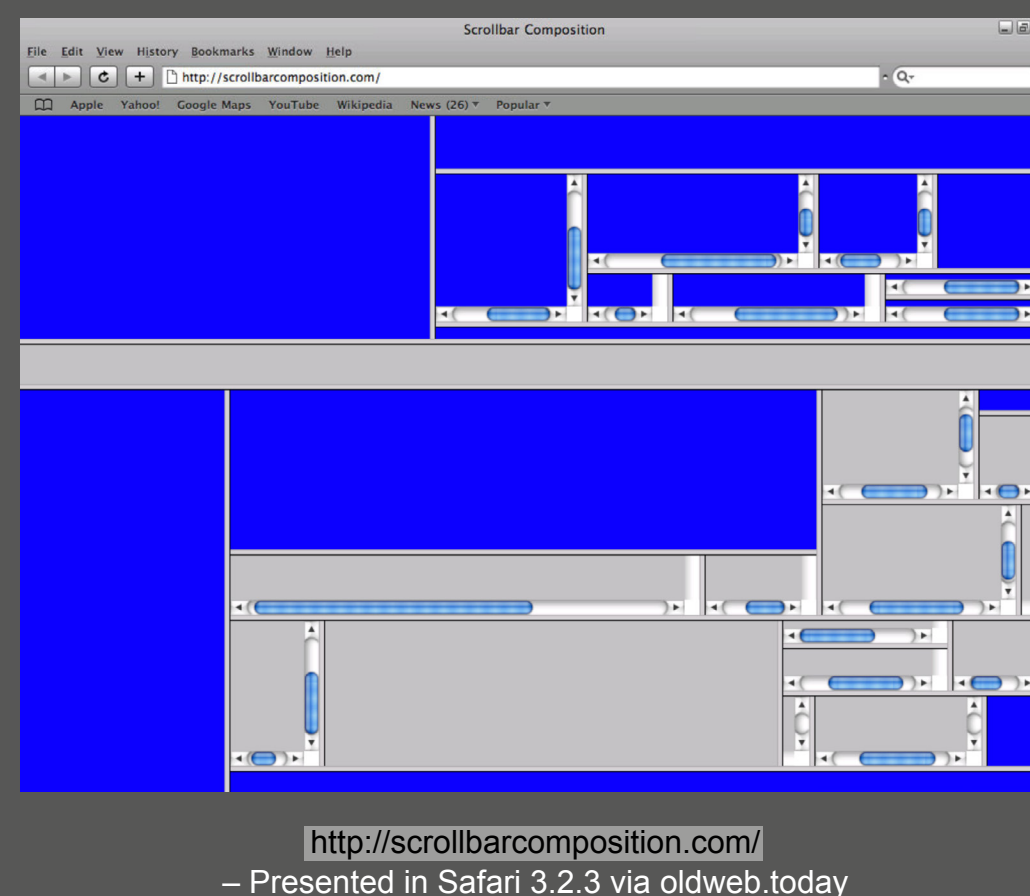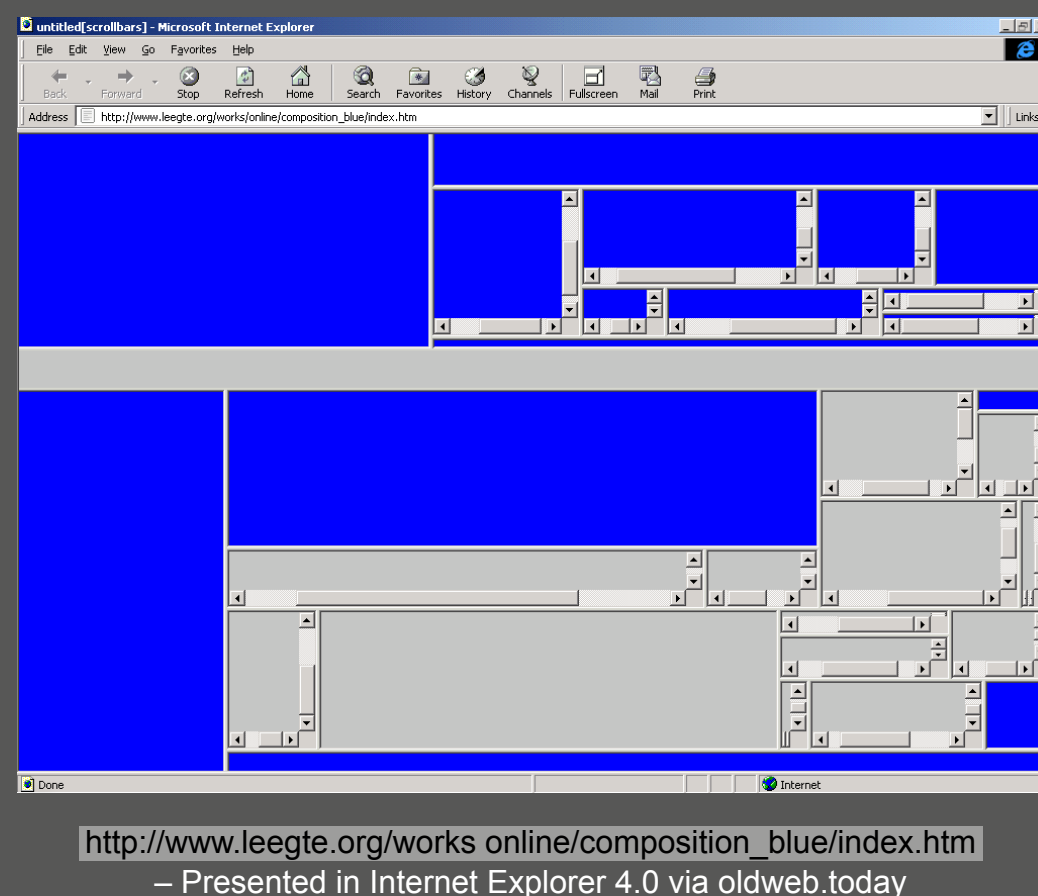# USING THE W3C PROV MODEL IN WIKIBASE

## WHAT IS INTERNET ART?

Internet Art is situated in between fine arts and performing arts: it is based on software artifacts that are meant to be experienced by an online audience. These artifacts often change over time into "variants" – e.g. when modified or copied to a new location, or when accessed via a new technical environment.



http://www.leegte.org/works online/composition_blue/index.htm
– Presented in Internet Explorer 4.0 via oldweb.today



http://scrollbarcomposition.com/
– Presented in Safari 3.2.3 via oldweb.today



http://webenact.rhizome.org/untitled-scrollbars/20150713163150/http://www.leegte.org/works/online/composition_blue/index.htm
– Presented in Firefox 68.0.2

Three variants of the artwork *untitled[scrollbars]* (1997–2000) by Dutch artist Jan Robert Leegte, presented in different browsers.

## WHAT IS PROV AND HOW TO APPLY IT?

PROV is a standard data model and ontology developed by W3C in order to describe the entities, activities, and people involved in producing a piece of data or a thing on the Web. In the case of Internet Art, it can be applied in three "flows":
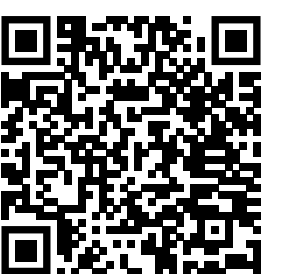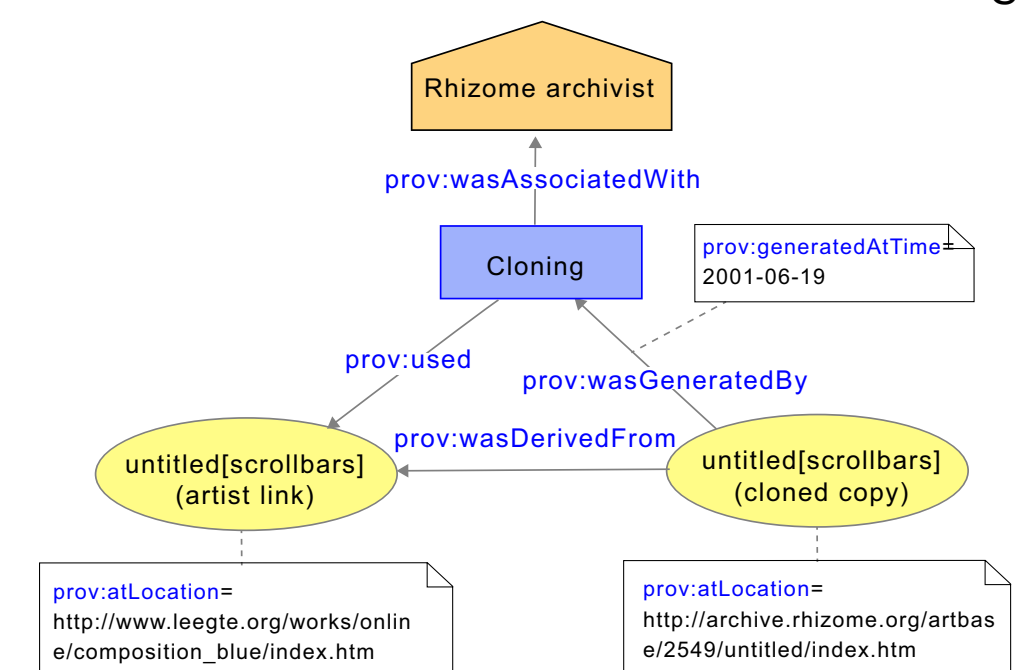
Scan to see full application.
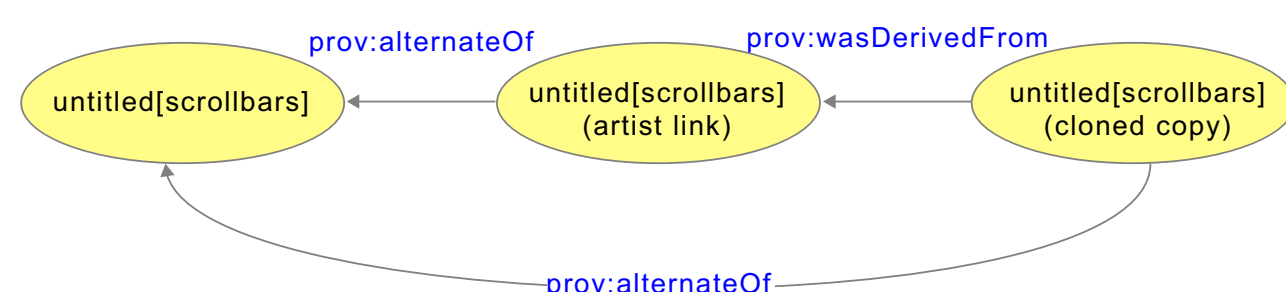


- The **"data flow view"** shows how one variant of an artwork derives from another.
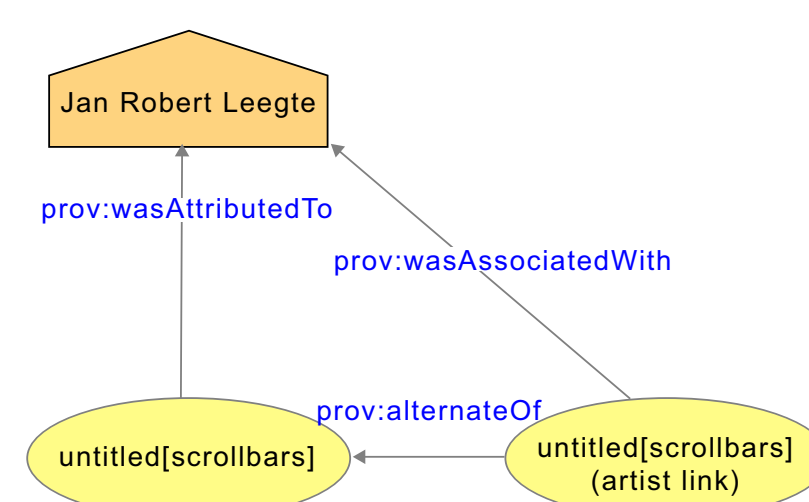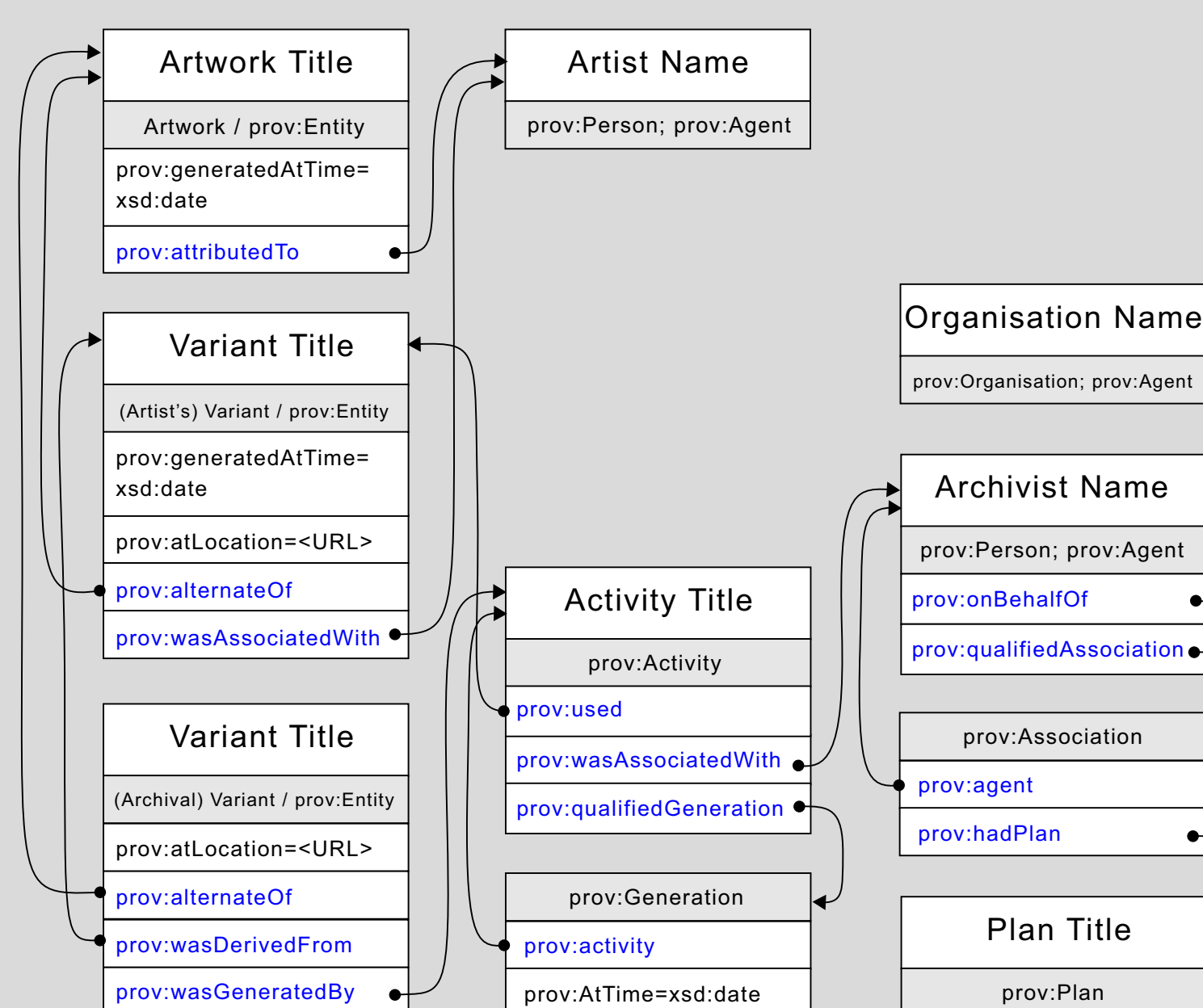
- The **"responsibility view"** shows the agents responsible for different events in the artwork's lifecycle.
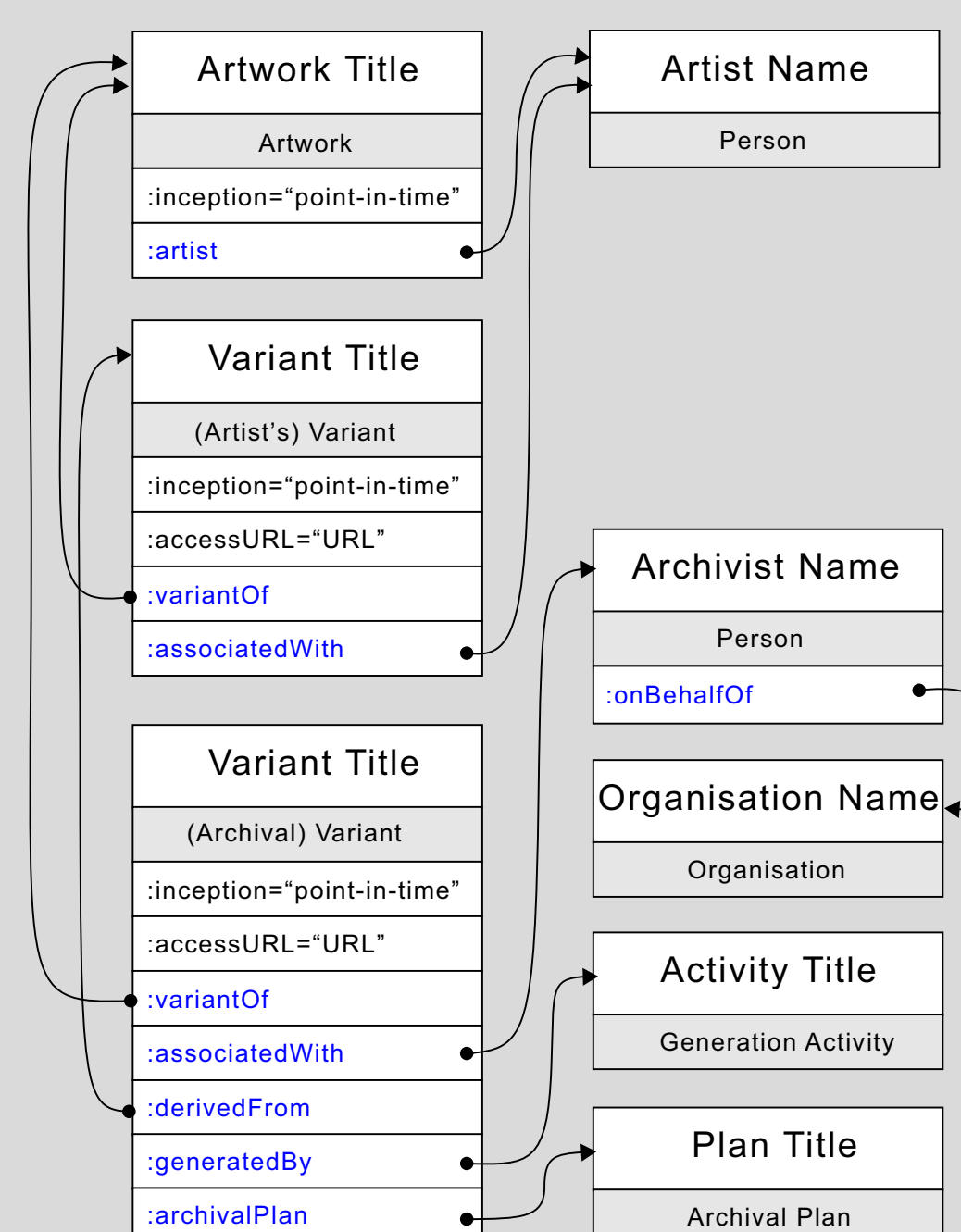
- The **"process flow view"** shows activities, such as the "generation" of an artwork variant, who carried them out and when.

## IMPLEMENTING PROV IN WIKIBASE



**1. PROV application for an internet artwork**

**2. PROV implementation into Wikibase**

- Concepts and properties from the PROV ontology can be **mapped** to custom properties and items in Rhizome's Wikibase.

- The **"data flow"** and **"responsibility"** views can be fully represented in Wikibase via such mapping.

- It is more challenging to fully represent the **"process flow"**, because it relies on an **event-based data model**. In our implementation, this model is flattened.

## CONTACTS

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