

# Tate Art Museum hosts more than 69201 artworks by 3532 artists

## Tate Art Museum Collection Metadata

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### Introduction

When Tate first opened its doors to the public in 1897 it had just one site, displaying a small collection of British artworks. Today it has four major sites and the national collection of British art from 1500 to the present day and international modern and contemporary art, which includes nearly 70,000 artworks.

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### Artists

In 2014, Tate housed works from 3532 artists from all all over the world. Most of these artists came from the United Kingdom (42%) and United States (9%), but many other countries are represented, such as Germany, Spain or Italy. The majority of artists are men (82%) and half of them were born before 1910. The oldest artist, whose work Tate hosts, is Hans Holbein the Younger, a german painter and printmaker born in 1497 who worked in a Northern Renaissance style, and is considered one of the greatest portraitists of the 16th century.

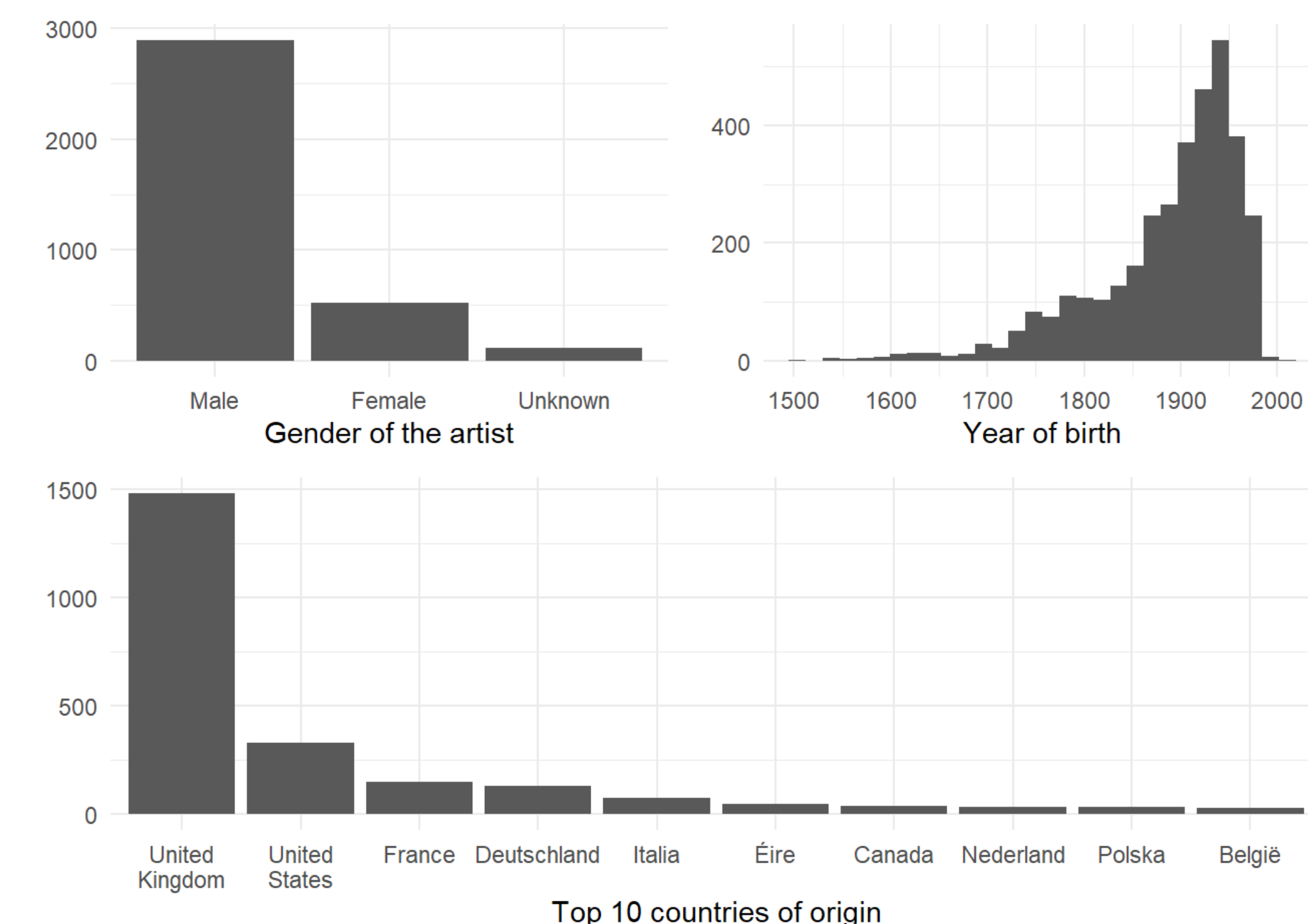


Figure 1: Gender of artists, Year of birth and most common country of birth

### Artworks

As of 2014, Tate Art Museum hosted 69201 pieces of artwork from artists all over the world. The museum has been steadily collecting art pieces since the beginning of the 19th century. The single biggest contribution was the so called Turner Bequest in 1856.

British painter J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851) enjoyed a highly successful artistic career. When he died he bequeathed to the nation a large number of his paintings, including ‘Dido building Carthage’ and ‘Sun Rising through Vapour’. These two paintings came with the condition that they should be displayed alongside Claude’s ‘Landscape with the Marriage of Isaac and Rebecca’ and ‘Seaport with the Embarkation of the Queen of Sheba’ (view paintings).

By linking these paintings together Turner wanted to ensure that his association with the earlier Old Master, Claude, would endure beyond his lifetime. After some of Turner’s cousins contested his will, a settlement was reached which, in the end, resulted in a much larger gift of works of art to the nation.

The entire bequest – most of which is now housed in the Clore Gallery at Tate Britain – comprises nearly 300 oil paintings and around 30,000 sketches and watercolours, including 300 sketchbooks. More details on the this generous gift can be found at the UK National gallery website.

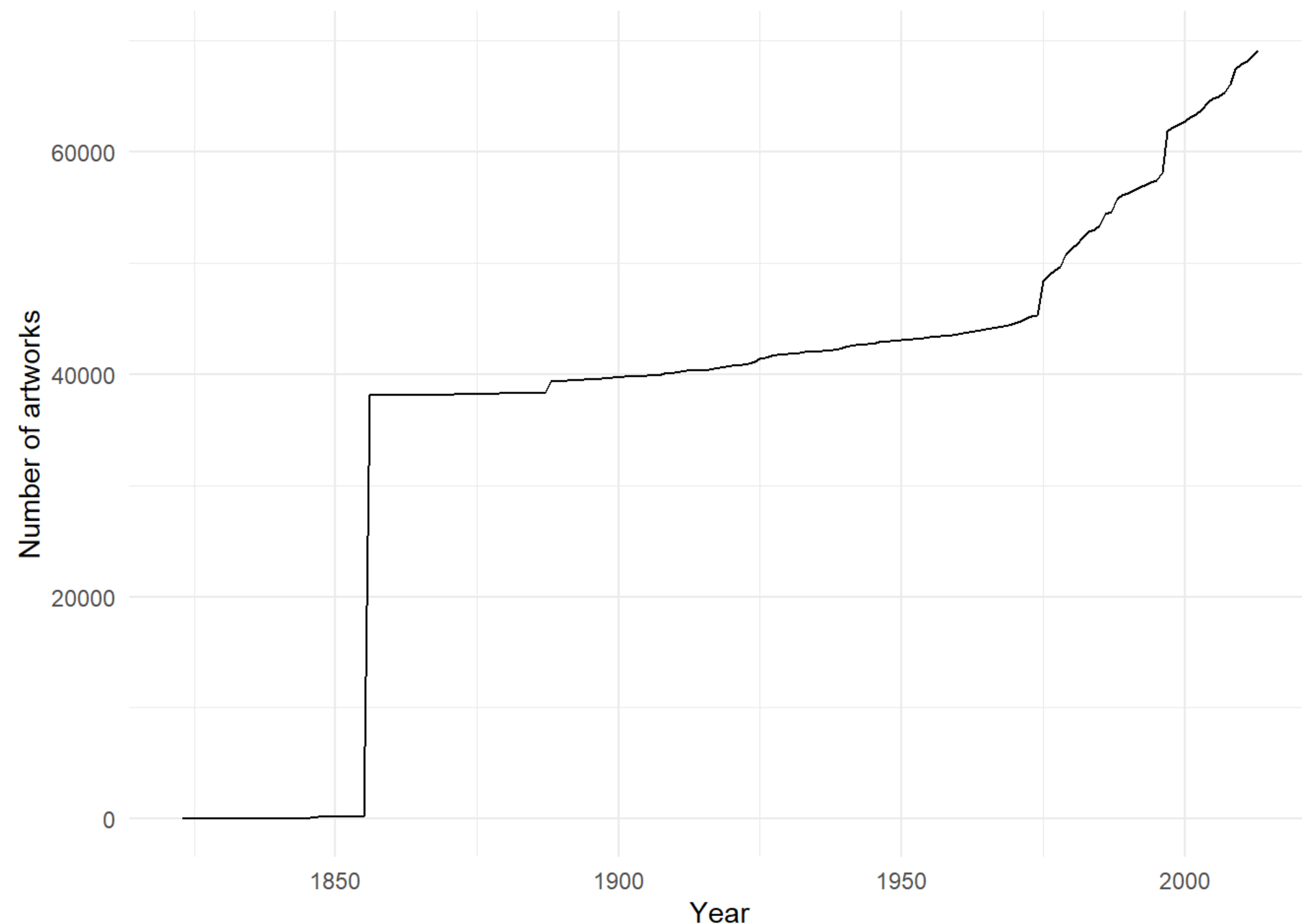


Figure 2: Collection size by year

### From the biggest to the smallest

The Tate art museum offers its visitors a variable collection of art, from pen sketches to statues. By far the most popular mediums are Graphite on paper (26167 pieces), Oil paint on canvas (3383 pieces), Screenprint on paper (2984 pieces), Lithograph on paper (2721 pieces) and Watercolour on paper (1890 pieces). The artwork varies in size as well. The biggest art piece that has to offer is “No Title (Table and Four Chairs)” by Robert Therrien, with a surface area of 1324620 centimeters. It is a multi-part sculpture of a dining room set, enlarged to three times its original size. It consists of five objects: one table and four chairs, which are arranged around the respective sides of the table, drawn out slightly to leave a space in each case between the table edge and chair leg. The colossal sculpture stands over ten feet high, tall enough for viewers to walk easily beneath its vast expanse. Although the sculpture mimics the wooden construction of a typical dining room set, it is created with a mixture of aluminium, steel, wood and plastic.

On the other side of the spectrum Thème de Ballet by E.L.T. Mesens, which is a collage of corrugated paper, pieces of broken knitting needles and other materials on card. This artwork is only 2.37 centimeters in surface.

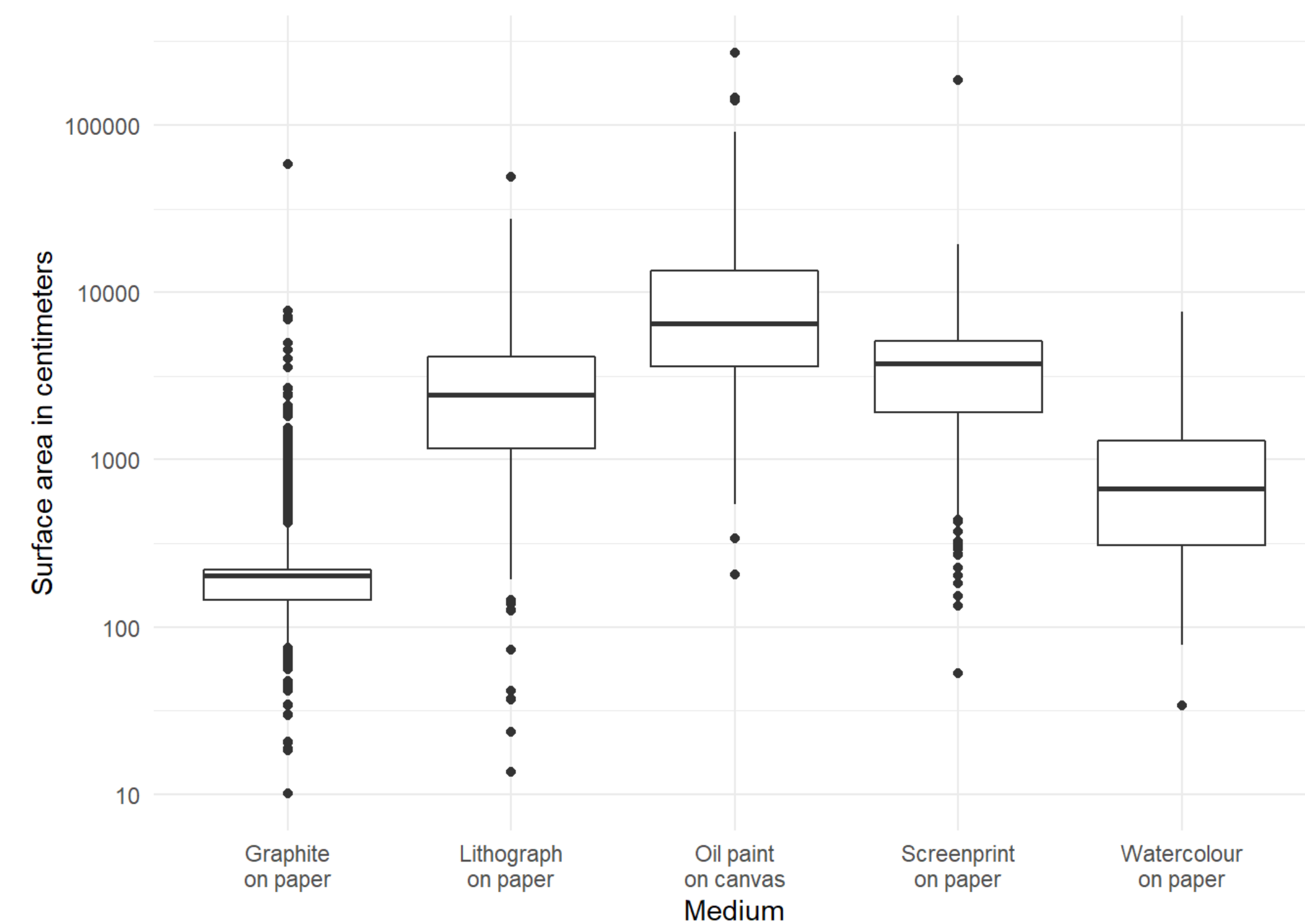


Figure 3: Top 5 most popular mediums and the size of the artworks