

Major Studio 1: Quantitative Assignment, Clare Churchouse

The Met: Modern & Contemporary Art Collection, Artworks by Gender

14,350 Artworks, ranging from undated, 1437 – 2017

Most date from 1850 – 2017

Source: MetObjects.csv, January 2018, spreadsheet shared with The New School.

Spreadsheet contains 14,350 artworks, Object Begin Date, Gender identified by Artist Display Name.

Project: Investigate the Modern and Contemporary Art department collection (ModCont) by gender: find out how many male and how many female artworks are represented in the ModCont. Display total numbers, and year chart showing number of artworks collected each year by object begin date.

- Interested in making gender representation in the ModCont collection available since it is not currently easy to find out, and collections have often not historically been particularly inclusive.

Process: Used csvkit to explore data. Selected all artworks from the ModCont department (one of 17 Met departments); used 'Object Begin Date' column for date of artwork; used 'Artist Display Name' column to identify artists by gender. Many first names are gender specific, used <http://genderchecker.com/> to identify other first names and Met website / wiki for rest.

Total of 14,350 artworks:

- 10,829 male artist (75.46%)
- 2,027 female artist (14.13%)
- 1,318 artist unknown (9.18%) (including many listed with manufacturing companies from around 1900s)
- 128 couple / collaborative with both genders (0.89%)
- 48 named artist but gender not yet identified (0.33%)

(Percentages rounded to 2 decimal points.) Used excel to sort data by year and to do secondary sort by gender.

Charts: Explored visualizations in p5.js:

- 1) Number of artworks by year, color coded by gender. (Spike in 1900: hundreds of artworks have Object Begin Date (and Object End Date) 1900 – largely textiles with unknown designer)
 - a. Decided to use 1850 – 2017 for this chart since only 66 artworks out of 14,350 in the collection either have no date or have an object begin date earlier than 1850.
- 2) Total number of ModCont artworks by gender, wrapped bars. 1 pixel represents 2 artworks. Color code by gender.
- 3) Total number of ModCont artworks by gender, vertical bar chart. 1 pixel represents 2 artworks.

Visualize by artwork, color-coded by gender, semi-transparent. Propose mouseover on chart for pop-up information by year, showing number of male, female artworks. The wrapped bar is a way of graphically describing the differences as are the vertical long bars that you have to scroll down to give effect of relative amounts.

Count is by artwork (on both chart and bars).

Aim: Find out gender information for the ModCont collection that is currently not being tracked in the csv database. Show change over time in the gender of artworks in the collection by year, as well as depict the gender artwork totals in the department to see the relative numbers of artworks by gender.