

## Met Museum: 3 Qualitative Project Ideas February 2018: Clare Churchouse

### Project 1: Gender words – all the women in the Met / 1437 – 2017 as cited in the api of the Modern & Contemporary Art Collection, all the men in the Met

Investigate the Modern and Contemporary Art collection (ModCont) by use of specific gender-related words such as male, female:

- 14,350 ModCont collection, search words in the api which are gender related, e.g.
  - o Male, female, man, men, woman, women
  - o If that doesn't come up with enough options, use she, he, his, her
- Show the whole sentence they appear in. Use:
  - o "webLabel": {"label": "Gallery Label", "text":
  - o "informationBoxes": [{"label": "Catalogue Entry", "text":
  - o "label": "Technical Notes", "text":
  - o "metadata": {"pageTitle": "Albrecht Dürer | Virgin and Child with Saint Anne | The Met", "metaTitle": "", "metaDescription":

Explore context of descriptions, in some ways this might show disproportionate emphasis on men and artwork by male artists but it may also give a qualitative richness around the data. Interested in what this shows about the ways that women and men are discussed, male and female, whether there are things that stand out, or a general sense of framing that comes over with qualitative word mining.

- Run this by object begin date to give a structure and possibly find some sort of progressional flow to the wording choices and framing changing over decades.
- Use rita.js / python alphabet soup and p5.js for layout

Do parallel version of this that swaps out the gender-referenced word for the opposite, so for example, in a sentence which reads, "he was considered a genius in his lifetime" change it to read, "she was considered a genius in her lifetime."

Visualize ongoing descriptions with running text sentences in one block across the screen. Interested in exploring how to create streaming, continuous moving with this piece. Run all the female ones first and then the male and do as a continuous stream.

Aim is to explore ways that women and that men are referred to in the ModCont collection.

### Project 2: The artist / the artist is

Again a word search, this one using the whole db and based on mining for any words that have "the artist" or "the artist is" or "the artist was" – return text streams with the sentence and the corresponding images.

See what the phrase returns, how it is used, how the Met writers / curators have used this phrase and what it returns.

e.g. <https://collectionapi.metmuseum.org/api/collection/v1/object/436210>

"Here the artist presents himself as a learned painter, with a large book and scholarly attire." ("webLabel": {"label": "Gallery Label", "text":

""Portrait of the Artist,\" January 18–March 7, 1972, no. 9.<br/><br/>New York." ("label": "Exhibition History", "text")

"Vol. 1, London, 1829, pp. 34–35, no. 101, states that the artist has depicted himself at about the age of forty; gives provenance information." ("label": "References", "text")

"Portrait of the Artist." ("label": "References", "text")

""Gerrit Dou's Self Portraits and Depictions of the Artist." ("label": "References", "text")

"Zwolle, The Netherlands, 2001, p. 20 [German ed., \"Von der lustvollen Betrachtung der Bilder,\" Leipzig, 2000, pp. 19, 22 n. 27], discusses the pigments that appear on the artist's palette." ("label": "References", "text")

Visualize this as a word tree so start with "the artist" and go to "is" "was" etc. Inspiration

<https://www.jasondavies.com/wordtree/>, <http://hint.fm/>

Aim is to create stream that reveals what kind of patterns there are - how the Met writes and organizes information about "the artist" in the textural information surrounding artworks in the Met.

### Project 3: Image affect: uncertainty and beyond

Uncertainty

?

What

Where

Why

How

Do db search in titles for 'uncertainty' and do a printed matter table of uncertainty images. Do a second table '?' 3<sup>rd</sup> table on 'what', continue with 3 other tables.

Bring a different viewpoint / approach to the db and online collection: look at connections by image affect based on queries / uncertainty around the titling and see what this reveals in terms of image appearance.

Visualize this based on the website <http://www.microtyp.org/> partly overlapping books, can zoom in, click to get info on one piece. Image information would include artist name, object name, date, object type, image url link.

Aim is to approach the works in terms of their uncertain content, uncertain titling, aggregating artwork images by the search term and see what the images convey.

Use the results as another way of entering the collection, by look / feel / emotion of the image (rather than the website collection's categories and classification.)