

Artist Representation in the Museum of Modern Art Collection

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Introduction

“The Museum of Modern Art connects people from around the world to the art of our time. We aspire to be a catalyst for experimentation, learning, and creativity, a gathering place for all, and a home for artists and their ideas.”



Dataset Summary

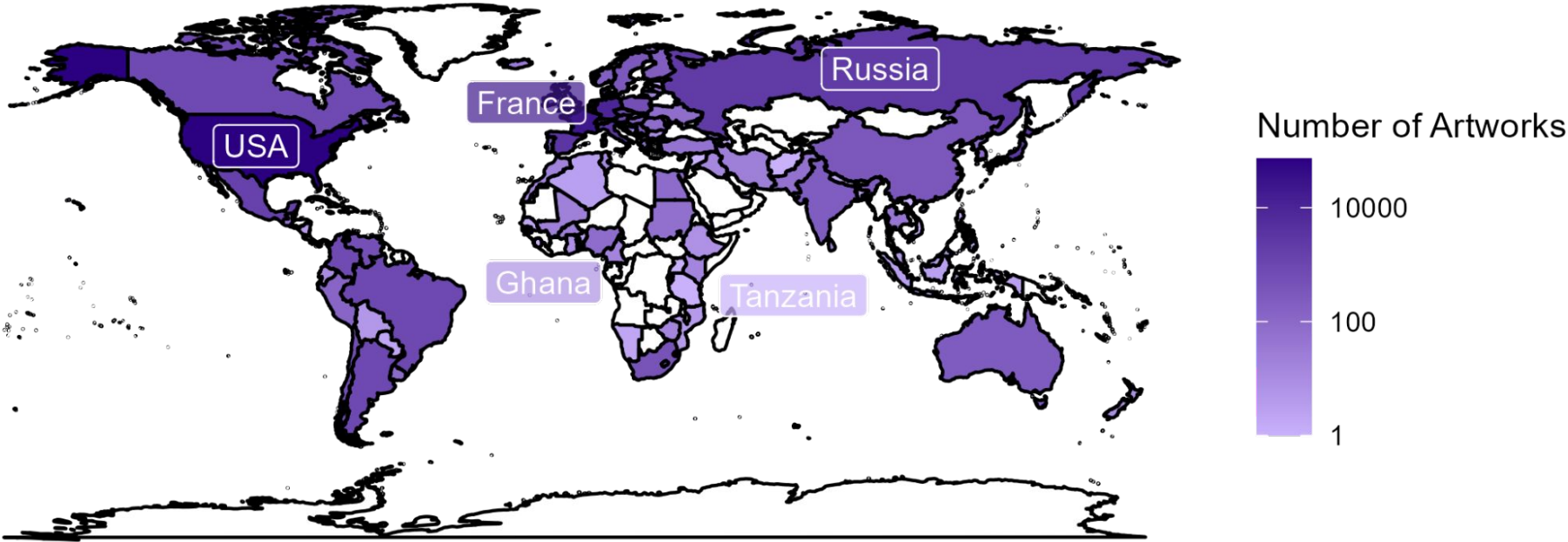
- MoMA's collection database from 1929-2024
- 156,738 artworks and 30 columns
- Artwork Name, Artist Name, Birth/Death Dates, Gender, Nationality, Medium, Dimensions, Acquisition Date, etc
- 141,466 out of 156,738 total artworks included in visualizations (>90%)
 - 7,368 works removed - missing nationality
 - 7,904 works removed - more than one artist nationality
- Mapped country names to nationality
- Merged with world map data from R

Research Questions

What artist nationalities are represented in the MoMA's collection of artwork?

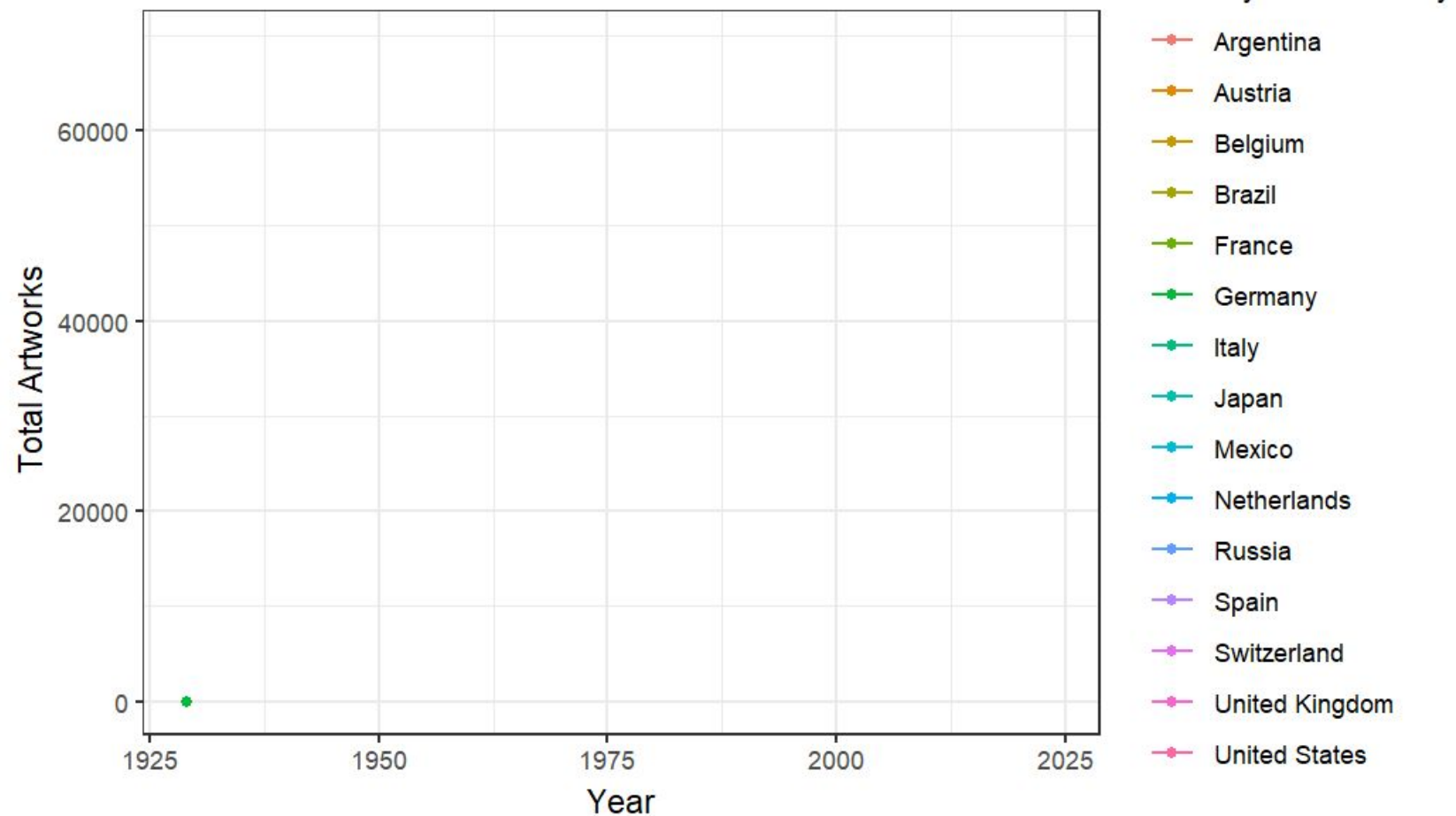
How does this representation change over time? Specifically, over year of acquisition?

Total Artworks per Nationality of Artist



Museum of Modern Art Collection data, 2024

Total Artworks per Nationality of Artist over Acquisition Time



Limitations

- ~10% of collection was not included
- Historic nationalities were mapped to whichever country currently occupies that location
- Only 15 out of 113 countries were included in the second visualization for ease of viewing
- Artist nationality is only one aspect of cultural diversity

Conclusion

The MoMA should continue to strive for diversity in their collections beyond American and European artists, but they should also keep in mind other important factors needed to create an inclusive community.

Sources

“Country Code, ISO and Nationality.” Gist, <https://gist.github.com/zspine/2365808>. Accessed 21 Oct. 2024.

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