Figure 2.4: An example of reification

statement through the properties *subject*, *predicate*, and *object*. In the preceding example the subject of *LocationStatement* would be *BaronWayBuilding*, the predicate would be *location*, and the object *Amsterdam*. We can then refer to the statement in the subject of another triple that defines the creator. Figure 2.4 depicts the resulting graph. Again, the full URIs are not shown for presentation purposes.

This rather cumbersome approach is necessary because there are only triples in RDF; therefore we cannot add an identifier directly to a triple (then it would be a quadruple). Because of the overhead of reification, in newer versions of the RDF standard, the notion of named graphs was introduced. Here, an explicit identifier (again a URL) is given to a statement or set of statements. This identifier can then be referred to in normal triples. This is a more straightforward mechanism for identifying statements as well as graphs. Simply put, a named graph allows one to circle a set of RDF statements and provide these statement an identifier. Section 2.3.1.3 provides an example of the above reified statement using named graphs.