

Project 2 - European Artists through the Ages

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Description:

Our project shows the locations of the 50 most famous European artists from the 13th century to the 21st century. We retrieved our data from an online dataset (<https://www.kaggle.com/ikarus777/best-artworks-of-all-time>) which had the variables of artists, years (which we separated into birth and death date variables), genre, and nationality. We then We thought it would be interesting to plot where the artists were located, so we imported a topoJSON file of Europe to display the shape for the map. Because our original dataset did not include coordinates of the artists, we manually found birthplace and the coordinates for each artist using Wikipedia. Then in order to find artwork, we also imported a famous artwork library and built a new dataset around the artists, their respective genres and artworks. We hand selected one iconic artwork per artist from the library which contained up to 100 artworks per artist. Our code calls both datasets and combines into an array for the rest of the code to use.

Design rationale:

We began with a centered visualization on a neutral colored background. We chose to show when and where artists were working through the years, including their artworks and genres. To do this, we plotted a circle representing each artist at their birthplace (using scaled longitude and latitude). The circles are colored in a bright, distinct color scheme (an array of hex codes) which is labeled in a legend on the right. To avoid completely overlapping points, we added jitter on the circle locations in the data. As the user inputs a year (through the slider) the pertinent circles stay solid while the circles of artists who were not alive in the given year are faded to a low opacity. The slider is labeled with the year the user has selected (current location). Mousing over a circle reveals white pop up boxes which are labeled with the artist's name, the city, and one of their many artworks. We selected iconic artworks for this pop up.

Interactive elements:

As mentioned mousing over a circle reveals white pop up boxes which are labeled with the artist's name, the city, and one of their many artworks. Additionally, a slider allows the user to scroll through the decades from the 13th to the 21st century. Using the slider to select a given year highlights the artists alive in that year. The highlight is conveyed by having all the relevant artists' circles remain opaque while the rest are faded to a low opacity. While the artist circle color opacity changes, we chose to leave all circles' mouseovers active regardless of the year. By doing so, the user can interact with all artists regardless of year and gain a better understanding of which artists were and were not active in a given year. Finally, given how close some of the circles are we chose to add a zoom so that users can better inspect where artists were relatively located. A brief caption at the top lets the user know that they can interact with the visualization through mouseovers, zooming, and the slider.

Team Member Contributions:

1. Andrea Gonzalez-Del-Valle
 - a. Finding Europe JSON file, and displaying it with d3 topoJSON - 1hr
 - b. Cleaning up first dataset by finding coordinates of artists and creating a JSON from CSV - 2 hrs
 - c. Creating circles - 30 minutes
 - d. Creating mouseovers, showing text, and images - 4 hrs
 - e. Fixing legend - 45 minutes
 - f. Styling - 1hr
2. Eunice Ju
 - a. Inputting 25 artists into and building second dataset - 2 hrs
 - b. Integrating two datasets - 2hrs
 - c. Creating and fixing the legend - 1.5 hrs
 - d. Styling and fixing mouseovers - 1 hr
 - e. Write-up - 30 min
3. Yiqing Luo
 - a. Creating the filter slider - 3hr
 - b. Creating zoom - 2hr
 - c. Debugging and styling - 2hr