ULAN and Diversity:
Complexities, Issues, and Potential Solutions
(…plus, an OpenRefine update)

Jonathan Ward
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Getty Research Institute

Getty

ULAN

Union List of Artist Names ®
ULAN = names for people, corporate bodies, biography, relationships,
other data
(e.g., Christopher Wren, Altobelli & Molins, Anp'yŏng Taegun)

ULAN + 30%

ULAN 2020
312,553 records

ULAN 2024
402,227 records

How representative is ULAN for global catalogers and museums?

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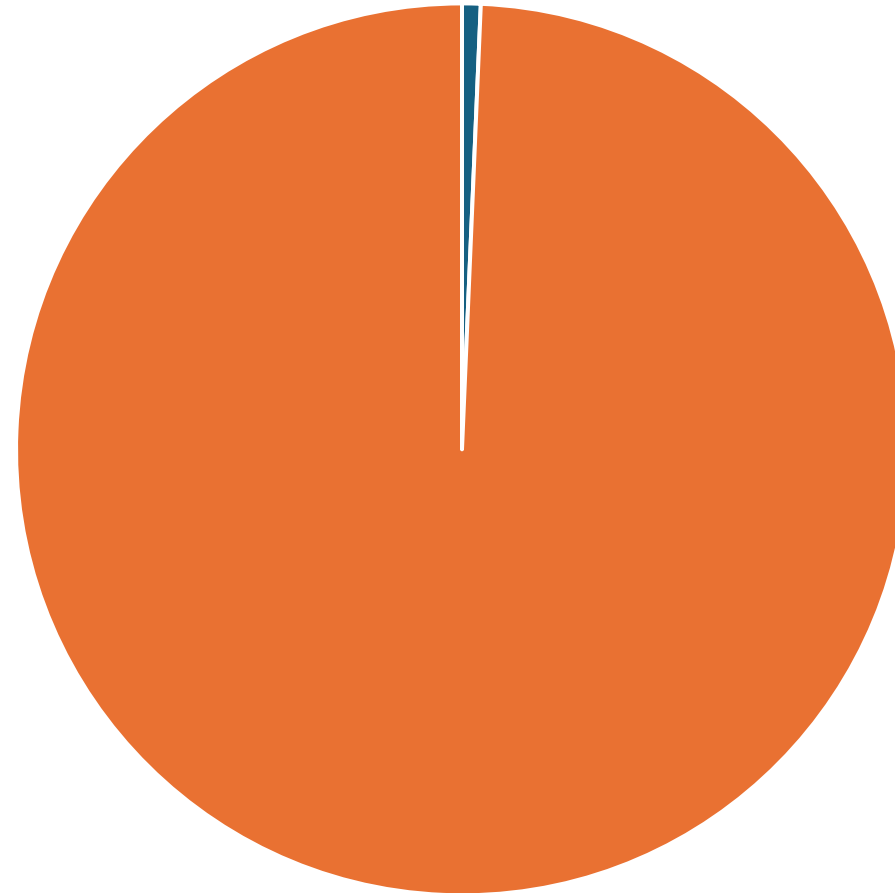**Asia**   **Africa**   **Central America**   **South America**   **Caribbean**

ULAN: AFRICAN ARTISTS

Totals
Rest of ULAN: 402,020
Africa: 2,707 (.07 %)

■ Africa ■ Rest of the world
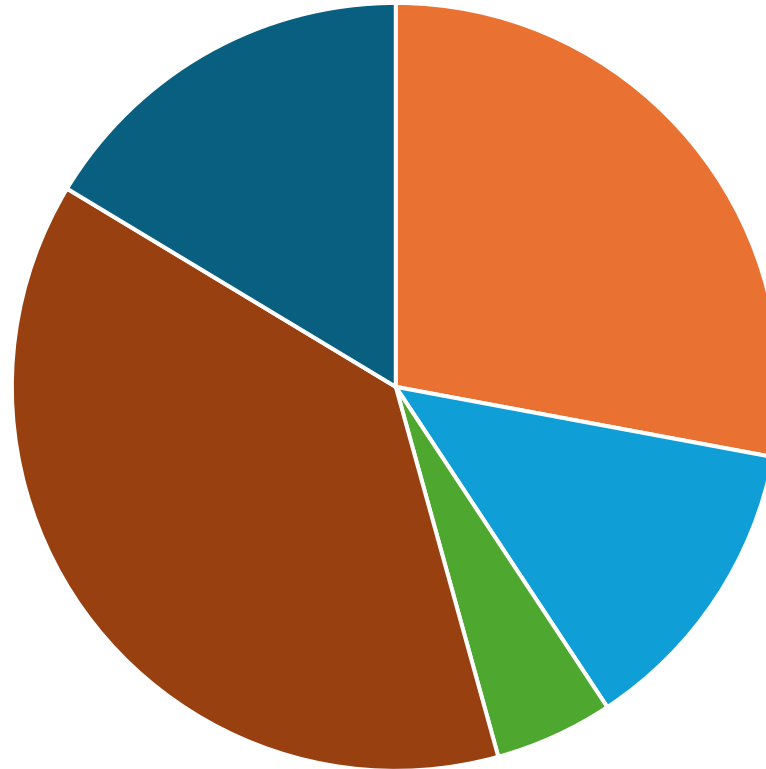
ULAN: AFRICAN ARTISTS BY SUBREGION

Total: 2,707
Southern Africa: 1,027
North Africa: 756
Western Africa: 443
Eastern Africa: 346
Middle Africa: 135

■ North Africa ■ Eastern Africa ■ Middle Africa
■ Southern Africa ■ Western Africa
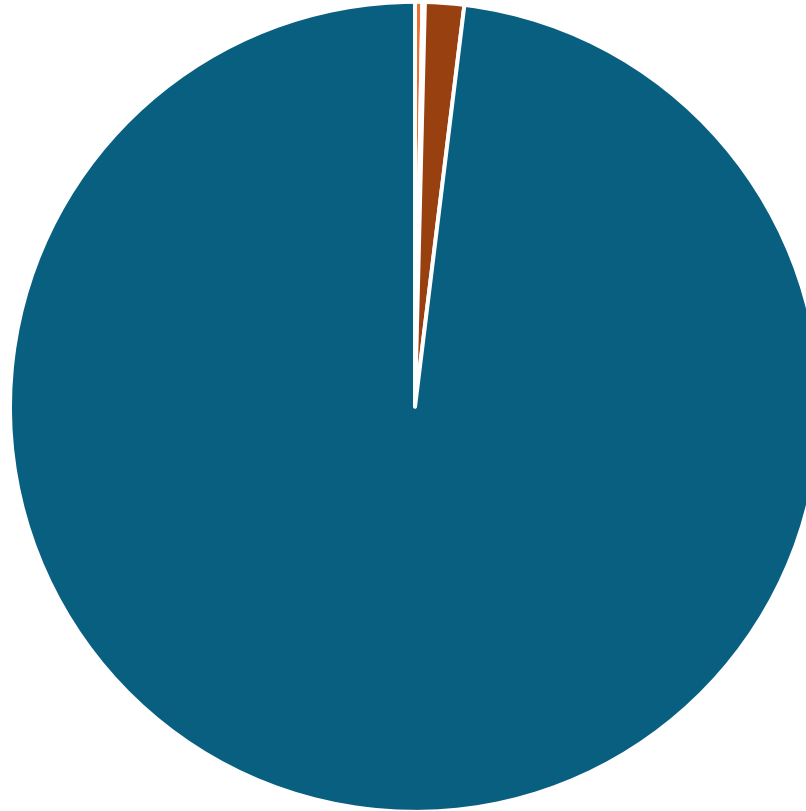
ULAN: ARTISTS IN SUBREGION SOUTHERN AFRICA

Totals
South Africa: 1,007*
Namibia: 16
Botswana: 3
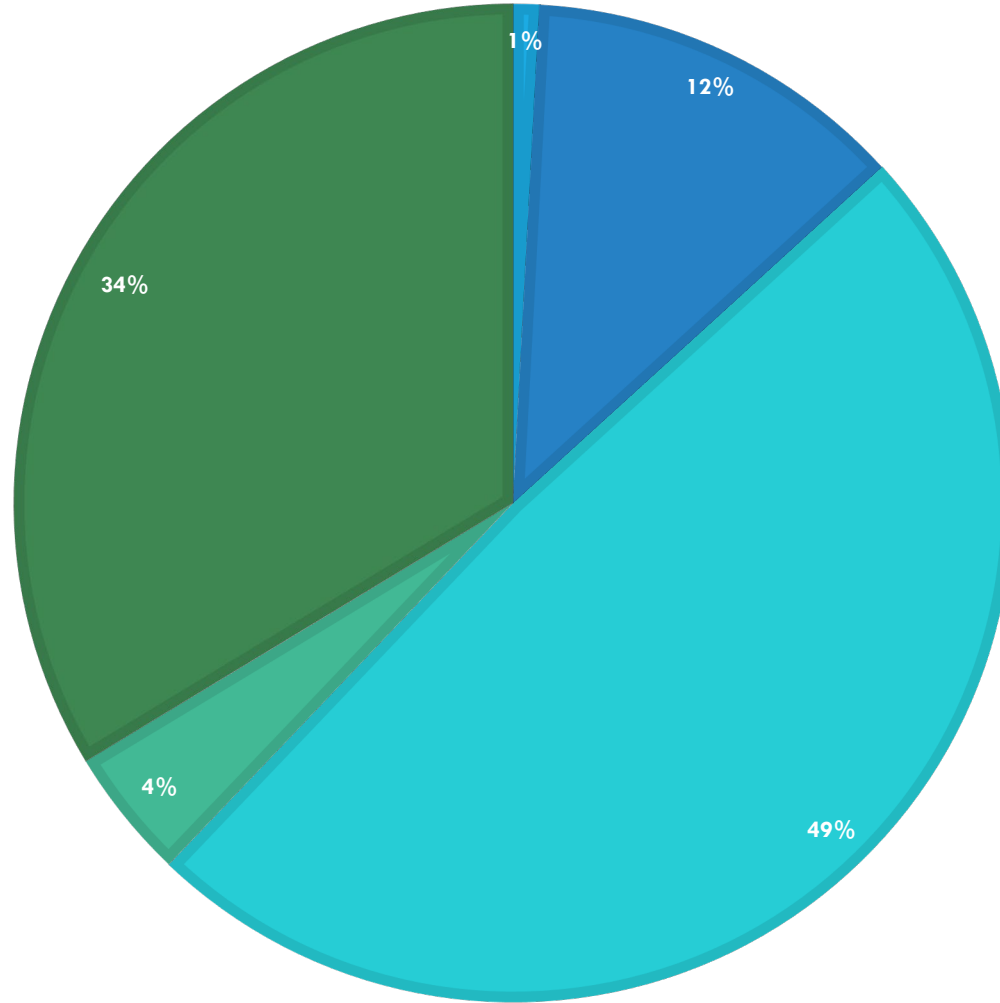**Eswatini: 1**
Lesotho: 0

- Botswana
- Eswatini (Swaziland)
- Lesotho
- Namibia
- South Africa

ULAN: ASIAN ARTISTS

- Central Asia
- South Asia
- East Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Western Asia

Totals: 15,886
East Asia: 7,763
Western Asia: 5,346
South Asia: 1,969
Southeast Asia: 673
Central Asia: 135

1%

12%

34%

4%

49%

ULAN: EAST ASIAN ARTISTS

- China (including Hong Kong and Macao)
- Taiwan
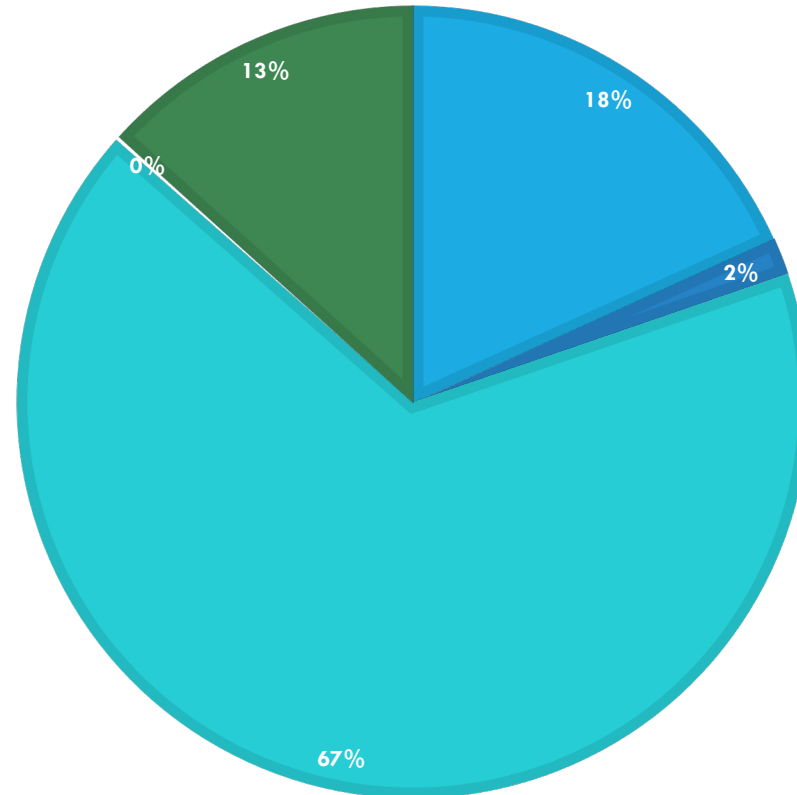- Japan
- Mongolia
- Korea (North and South)
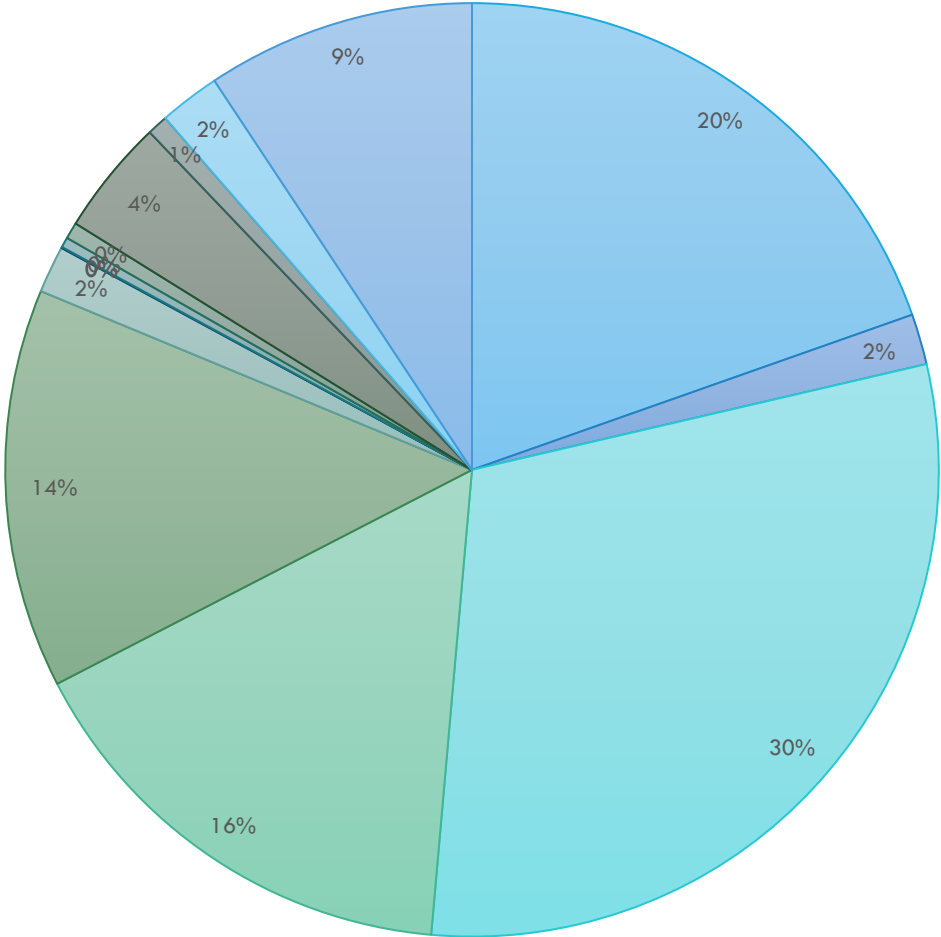
Totals: 7,763
Japan: 5,184
China, et al: 1,417
Korea (N and S): 1,033
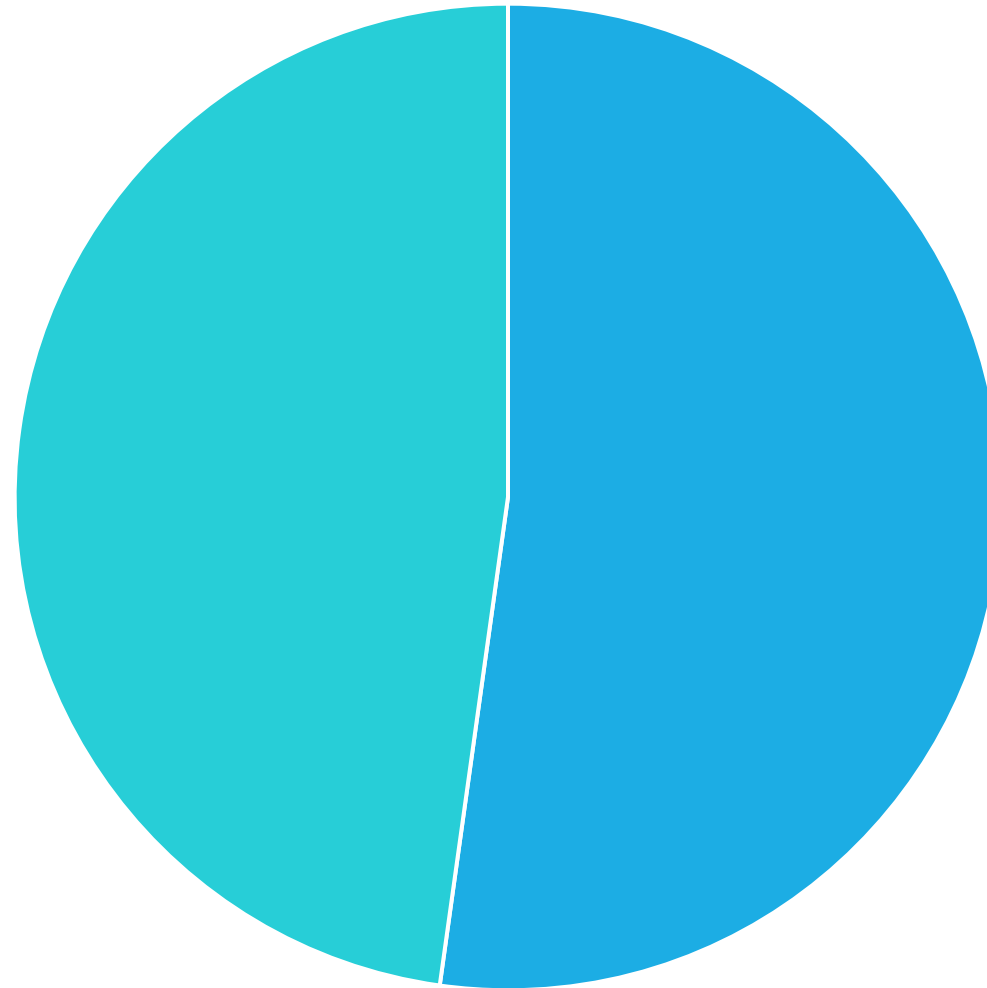**Taiwan: 116**
Mongolia: 13

ULAN: SOUTH AMERICAN ARTISTS – 8,211 total

Legend:
- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Falkland Islands
- French Guiana
- Guyana
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Suriname
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

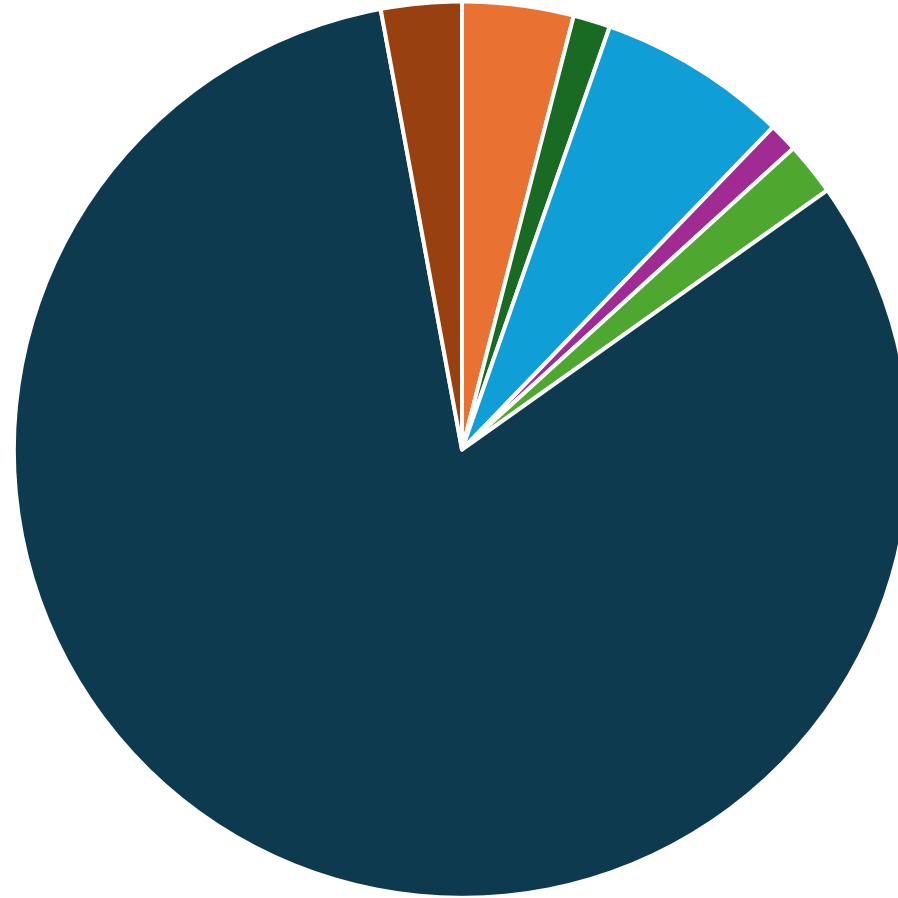# SOUTH AMERICAN VISUAL ARTISTS vs ARCHITECTS

Totals:

Architects: 4,287

Visual Artists: 3,924

■ Architects ■ Visual Artists

ULAN: Central American Artists

Totals: 1,720
Mexico: 1,409
Guatemala: 118
Costa Rica: 69
Panama: 50
Nicaragua: 33
Honduras: 18
El Salvador: 23
Belize: 0

Legend: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama

ULAN: Artists of the Caribbean

Total: 1,021
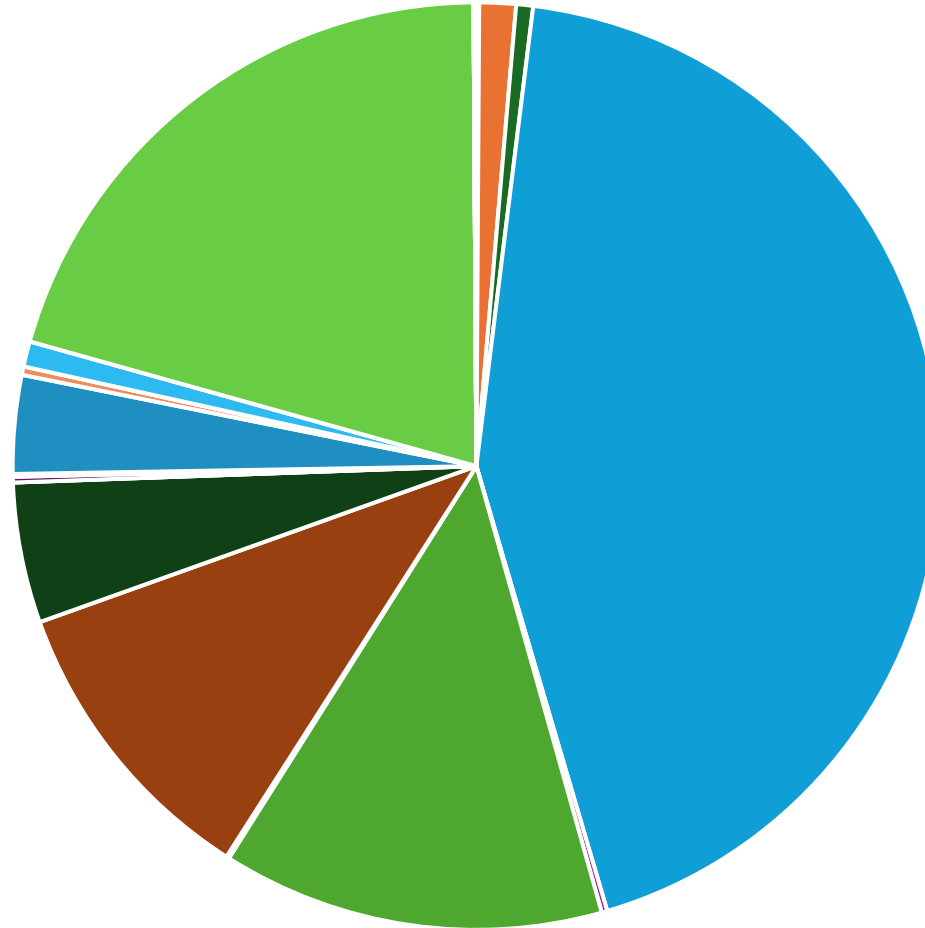**Cuba: 444**
Puerto Rico: 210
Dominican Republic: 136
Haiti: 107
Jamaica: 50
Trinidad & Tobago: 35
Bahamas: 13
 + 16 nations/territories -10

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Greneda
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Aruba
- British Virgin Islands
- Curacao
- Cayman Islands
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Barthelemy
- Sint Maarten
- Saint Martin
- Turks and Caicos
- U.S. Virgin Islands

How well does ULAN represent scripted or Non-Roman languages?

الألفباء   алфавит   वर्णमाला   字母   アルファベット   αλφάβητο   알파벳

How well does ULAN represent scripted or Non-Roman languages?

алфавит = 83 records

How well does ULAN represent scripted or Non-Roman languages?

алфавит = **83 records**

الألف باء = **64 records**

How well does ULAN represent scripted or Non-Roman languages?

алфавит = **83 records**

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字母 = **227** (out of 1,414 artists)

How well does ULAN represent scripted or Non-Roman languages?

алфавит = **83 records**

الألف باء = **64 records**

字母 = **227 (out of 1,414)**

アルファベット = **2,042 (out of 5,584)**

알파벳 = **(482 out of 1,033)**

How well does ULAN represent tribal names and origin?

"Native American" / "First Nations" = **1,907 records**

With tribal names in biography (e.g.: "Pitt River/Paiute printmaker")
= **362 records**

ISSUES

Difficult to improve numbers with staff additions

Existing data sets don't match formats

Existing data sets aren't thesaural

Existing data sets are messy!

SOLUTIONS

Find available museum data sets

Curate; be selective with additions

Actively solicit museum data that fills ULAN gaps

Compare with VIAF clusters

ULAN STUDY: Accuracy and incomplete life dates

- **Staniszkis, Jerzy** (Polish architect, born 1914)

- **Georgein, Raymond** (French painter, 1920-)

- **Lewis, Aletta M.** (English artist, born 1904)

- **Orr, Elliot** (American painter, born 1904)

- **Avila, Abelardo** (Mexican artist, born 1907)

- **Oliveira, Manoel de** (Portuguese film director, born 1908)

- **Apap, Vincent** (Maltese sculptor, 1909-)

- **Luna Ercilla, Jorge Guillermo** (Argentine graphic artist, born 1923)

- **Iida, Miyuki** (Japanese artist, 1903-)

- **Dosamantes, Francisco** (Mexican artist, born 1911)

- **Katkeviciene, Stefanija** (Lithuanian artist, born 1926)

ULAN STUDY: Accuracy and incomplete life dates

Staniszkis, Jerzy (Polish architect, born 1914)

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Iida, Miyuki (Japanese artist, 1903-)

Dosamantes, Francisco (Mexican artist, born 1911)

Katkeviciene, Stefanija (Lithuanian artist, born 1926)

100 1 _ ‡a Staniszkis, Jerzy, ‡d 1914-2009

100 1 _ ‡a Georgein, Raymond, ‡d 1920-1999

ART UK ® Aletta Mary Lewis 1904–1956

100 1 _ ‡a Orr, Elliot, ‡d 1904-1997

100 1 _ ‡a Avila, Abelardo, ‡d 1907-1967

200 _ | ‡a Oliveira ‡b Manoel de ‡f 1908-2015

100 1 _ ‡a Apap, Vincent, ‡d 1909-2003

100 1 _ ‡a Dosamantes, Francisco, ‡d 1911-1986

100 1 _ ‡a Iida, Miyuki, ‡d 1903-2007

100 1 _ ‡a Luna Ercilla, Jorge, ‡d 1923-2016

200 _ 1 ‡a Katkevičienė ‡b Stefanija ‡f 1926-2006

ULAN STUDY: Accuracy and incomplete life dates

Artists with birth dates between 1901-1929 with no death dates:
11,777

Sample data from 1908: 50 records
Result: 37 of 50 were in VIAF, Wikidata, etc

Conclusion:
Up to 8,714 records are inaccurate

Labor needed:
One editor, 174 work days, 50 records per day

ULAN PROS

The "human element"

Data from known and trusted sources

The Getty brand

Better, flexible, more detailed data at its best

Other data sets have ceased work

PATHWAYS

Find available museum data sets

Curate; be selective with additions

Actively solicit museum data that fills ULAN gaps

Compare systematically against existing standards

OpenRefine update

Getty

OpenRefine

Welcome!

OpenRefine (previously Google Refine) is a powerful tool for working with messy data: cleaning it; transforming it from one format into another; and extending it with web services and external data.

OpenRefine always keeps your data private on your own computer until YOU want to share or collaborate. Your private data never leaves your computer unless you want it to. (It works by running a small server on your computer and you use your web browser to interact with it)

OpenRefine is available in more than 15 languages.

OpenRefine is part of Code for Science & Society.

Introduction to OpenRefine

1. Explore Data

6 rows

Show as: **rows** records   Show: 5 **10** 25 50 100 500 1000 rows

▼ All	▼ ULAN Name	▼ ULAN ID
☆ 🚩 1.	Gogh, Vincent van Choose new match	500115588
☆ 🚩 2.	Gauguin, Emile Choose new match	500601957
☆ 🚩 3.	Varo, Remedios Choose new match	500112426
☆ 🚩 4.	Saar, Betye Choose new match	500110489
☆ 🚩 5.	Bae, Hyeonggyeong Choose new match	500687716
☆ 🚩 6.	Amer, Ghada Choose new match	500114567

6 rows

Show as: **rows** records   Show: 5 **10** 25 50 100 500 1000 rows

▼ All	▼ ULAN Name	▼ ULAN ID

Facet	▶
Text filter	

1. ⭐ 👎   00115588

2. ⭐ 👎

Edit cells	▶
Edit column	▶
Transpose	▶

Split into several columns...
Join columns...
Add column based on this column...
Add column by fetching URLs...
Add columns from reconciled values...
Rename this column
Remove this column
Move column to beginning
Move column to end
Move column left
Move column right

3. ⭐ 👎

4. ⭐ 👎

Sort...
View ▶

5. ⭐ 👎

6. ⭐ 👎

Reconcile	▶

00601957

Show as:

All

Add columns from reconciled column ULAN Name

Add Property

Suggested Properties

Biographies

Descriptive Notes

Nationalities

Roles

Variant Terms

Preview

Reset

ULAN Name	**Biographies** **remove configure**
Gogh, Vincent van	Dutch painter and draftsman, 1853-1890
Gauguin, Emile	French painter, 1899-1980
Varo, Remedios	Spanish painter, 1908-1963, active in Spain
Saar, Betye	American assemblage artist, sculptor, born 1926
Bae, Hyeonggyeong	South Korean sculptor and installation artist, born 1955
Amer, Ghada	Egyptian painter, sculptor, and installation artist, born 1963

OK   Cancel

Add columns from reconciled column ULAN Name

Add Property

Preview

Reset

[text input field]

Suggested Properties

ULAN Name	Variant Terms remove configure
Gogh, Vincent van	Gogh, Vincent Willem van
	Fangu, Wensheng
	Van-Gog, Vintsent
	Fan-ku
	ピンセントゴッホ
	Gogh
	梵高
	Vincent Gogh van
	Vincent Van Gogh
	Fan'gao
	Gogh, Vincent, van
	ゴッホ
	Van Gogh, Vincent
	van Gogh, Vincent
	Gogh, Vincent Van
	van gogh
	j. van gogh
	Vincent van Gogh

Biographies

Descriptive Notes

Nationalities

Roles

Variant Terms

OK   Cancel

6 rows

Show as: **rows** records   Show: 5 **10** 25 50 100 500 1000 rows   « first   ‹ previous   [1] of 1 page   next ›   last »

			ULAN Name		ULAN ID		Biographies		Descriptive Notes
☆	🖓	1.	Gogh, Vincent van edit Choose new match		500115588		Dutch painter and draftsman, 1853-1890		Except for some brief periods of formal instruction, van Gogh was self-taught; he collected prints and reproductions to study and copy, especially those of Millet. His life and work are legendary in the history of art, making him the quintessential misunderstood, tormented, even insane artist, who sold only one work in his lifetime but whose paintings achieved record auction sales prices after his death. Van Gogh was active as an artist for only ten years, during which time he produced around 1000 watercolors, drawings and sketches and nearly 1250 paintings. His styles included an early dark, Realist style and a later colorful, intense, expressionistic style. Almost more than on his oeuvre, his fame has been based on the extensive, diary-like correspondence he maintained, in particular with his brother, Theo. Comment on works: Landscapes, genre, Portraits, still life
☆	🖓	2.	Gauguin, Emile Choose new match		500601957		French painter, 1899-1980		
☆	🖓	3.	Varo, Remedios Choose new match		500112426		Spanish painter, 1908-1963, active in Spain		
☆	🖓	4.	Saar, Betye Choose new match		500110489		American assemblage artist, sculptor, born 1926		African-American sculptor and installation artist from Los Angeles, California. She received a B.A. from UCLA and a M.A. from California State University, Long Beach.
☆	🖓	5.	Bae, Hyeonggyeong Choose new match		500687716		South Korean sculptor and installation artist, born 1955		
☆	🖓	6.	Amer, Ghada Choose new match		500114567		Egyptian painter, sculptor, and installation artist, born 1963		Tackling issues of femininity informed by Western and Islamic viewpoints, typical works are canvases covered with meticulously embroidered thread which appear abstract but actually are pornographic images of women; included in the 2000 Whitney Biennial.

Getty

10 rows

Show as: **rows** records   Show: 5 **10** 25 50 100 500 1000 rows

All			AAT ID
☆	🏴	1.	aat/300015050
☆	🏴	2.	aat/300014911
☆	🏴	3.	aat/300014780
☆	🏴	4.	aat/300014635
☆	🏴	5.	aat/300011033
☆	🏴	6.	aat/300014668
☆	🏴	7.	aat/300255863
☆	🏴	8.	aat/300005217
☆	🏴	9.	aat/300005147
☆	🏴	10.	aat/300005250

10 rows

Show as: **rows** records   Show: 5 **10** 25 50 100 500 1000 rows

▼ All			▼ AAT ID
☆	🖓	1.	aat/300015050
☆	🖓	2.	aat/300014911
☆	🖓	3.	aat/300014780
☆	🖓	4.	aat/300014635
☆	🖓	5.	aat/300011033
☆	🖓	6.	aat/300014668
☆	🖓	7.	aat/300255863
☆	🖓	8.	aat/300005217
☆	🖓	9.	aat/300005147
☆	🖓	10.	aat/300005250

Use values as identifiers

Reconciliation identifiers will not be validated.

Choose a reconciliation service

Getty Vocabularies Reconciliation Service ▼

Cancel   OK

10 rows

Show as: **rows** records   Show: 5 **10** 25 50 100 500 1000 rows

			AAT ID
▼ All			▼
☆	⚑	1.	aat/300015050 Choose new match
☆	⚑	2.	aat/300014911 Choose new match
☆	⚑	3.	aat/300014780 Choose new match
☆	⚑	4.	aat/300014635 Choose new match
☆	⚑	5.	aat/300011033 Choose new match
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☆	⚑	10.	aat/300005250 Choose new match

10 rows

▼ All			▼ AAT ID	
☆	👎	1.		
☆	👎	2.		
☆	👎	3.		
☆	👎	4.		
☆	👎	5.		
☆	👎	6.		
☆	👎	7.	aat/300255863 Choose new match	
☆	👎	8.	aat/300005217 Choose new match	
☆	👎	9.	aat/300005147 Choose new match	
☆	👎	10.	aat/300005250 Choose new match	

Menu:
- Facet ▶
- Text filter
- Edit cells ▶
- **Edit column** ▶
- Transpose ▶
- Sort...
- View ▶
- Reconcile ▶

Submenu:
- Split into several columns...
- Join columns...
- Add column based on this column...
- Add column by fetching URLs...
- Add columns from reconciled values...
- Rename this column...
- Remove this column
- Move column to beginning
- Move column to end
- Move column left
- Move column right

10 rows

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▼ All		▼ AAT ID
☆ ⚑	1.	aat/300015050 Choose new match
☆ ⚑	2.	aat/300014911 Choose new match
☆ ⚑	3.	aat/300014780 Choose new match
☆ ⚑	4.	aat/300014635 Choose new match
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☆ ⚑	6.	aat/300014668 Choose new match
☆ ⚑	7.	aat/300255863 Choose new match
☆ ⚑	8.	aat/300005217 Choose new match
☆ ⚑	9.	aat/300005147 Choose new match
☆ ⚑	10.	aat/300005250 Choose new match

Add columns from reconciled column AAT ID

Add property

Suggested properties

Biographies (ulan)

Coordinates (tgn)

Descriptive Notes (aat)

Descriptive Notes (tgn)

Descriptive Notes (ulan)

Nationalities (ulan)

Parent Hierarchy (aat)

Parent Hierarchy (tgn)

Place Types (tgn)

Preferred Name (ulan)

Preferred Term (aat)

Preferred Term (tgn)

Roles (ulan)

Variant Names (ulan)

Variant Terms (aat)

Preview

Reset

AAT ID	Preferred Term remove configure	Parent Hierarchy remove configure
aat/300015050	oil paint (paint)	<paint by composition or origin>
		paint (coating)
		<coating by form>
		coating (material)
		<materials by function>
		materials (substances)
		Materials (hierarchy name)
		Materials Facet
aat/300014911	japan (enamel)	enamel (fused coating)
		<coating by composition or origin>
		coating (material)
		<materials by function>
		materials (substances)
		Materials (hierarchy name)
		Materials Facet
aat/300014780	pozzolana (clay)	<clay by composition or origin>
		clay
		inorganic material
		<materials by composition>

OK   Cancel

Thank you.

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Getty Research Institute

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