Diversity on Display: Who’s on the Wall at NGA?

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Diversity of Artists in Major U.S. Museums


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Museum</th>
<th>% Women</th>
<th>% White</th>
<th>% Black/Af. Am.</th>
<th>% Hisp./Lat.</th>
<th>% Asian</th>
<th>% Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>94.7</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Met</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>88.9</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFA Boston</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>79.9</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGA</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>97.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>87.8</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall (18 museums)</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>85.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QSIDE: Institute for the Quantitative Study of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity
[http://www.qsideinstitute.org](http://www.qsideinstitute.org)
NGA Collection Overview (111,000 objects)

- **Artist Gender Identity**
  - Men (84.2%)
  - Women (9.8%)
  - Unknown (5.2%)
  - N/A (0.8%)

- **Artist Race/Ethnicity**
  - White (96.1%)
  - Unknown (2.1%)
  - Asian (0.8%)
  - Black (0.5%)
  - Hisp./LatX (0.5%)
  - Native (< 0.1%)

- Union List of Artists Names (ULAN) - J. Paul Getty Trust
- R gender package
- Art History Expertise
- U.S. Census Bureau Race/Ethnicity definitions
Whose perspectives do visitors experience?

% Objects on display attributed to non-white-male artists

- Women
- Artists of color

Year

% Objects


0 2 4 6 8 10

13%
Diversity on Display: Who's on the Wall at NGA?

Created by Brianna Heggeseth, Bernhard Klingenberg, Steven Nelson, Chad Topaz

Description: These visualizations show the artist gender identity, race/ethnicity, and geographical distribution of the NGA collection objects that are on public view over time on a chosen museum floor. Collection data and floor maps courtesy of the National Gallery of Art.
Data transparency, accuracy, and availability

Yinka Shonibare
British, born 1962

*Girl on Globe 2*

2011

fiberglass mannequin, Dutch wax printed cotton, and globe
overall (mannequin): 100.01 × 74.93 × 81.92 cm (39 3/8 × 29 1/2 × 32 1/4 in.)
overall (diameter of globe): 80.01 cm (31 1/2 in.)

*Corcoran Collection (Museum Purchase, by exchange: William A. Clark Collection)*

2015.19.3962

Not on View

https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.175808.html
So what?

- Benchmarks for diversity/inclusion initiatives
- Provides foundation for cross-departmental collaboration
- Enhances art historical/museum studies research
- Prompts reflection on past curatorial choices
- Enables what-if scenarios
- Suggests data curation as powerful complement to art curation

Diversity on Display
https://bheggeseth.shinyapps.io/DiversityOnDisplay