

Biography

Vincent Van Gogh was born on 30 March 1853 in Zundert which is located in the southern Netherlands. His family included his dad who was a pastor, his mum and 5 other siblings.

Throughout his life, Van Gogh engaged with many different jobs. First, he began working in an art dealing firm before becoming a teacher. It was not until the age of 28 that he decided to become an artist.

Van Gogh was lucky enough to teach himself to draw and paint after receiving financial support from his brother Theo.

Van Gogh is now one of the most well-known and famous artists to have ever lived, despite his artwork not being widely appreciated during his lifetime.

He is often described as a post-impressionist painter, using vivid colours to depict landscapes, still life's, portraits, and self-portraits.

In just over 10 years, Van Gogh created 2,100 artworks, including around 860 oil paintings.

Van Gogh was not successful in his lifetime, and he committed suicide aged 37, after years of mental illness and poverty.



Vincent Van Gogh lived between 1853 and 1890. He was born in Zundert in the Netherlands. Throughout his life he also lived in France, the UK and Belgium.

Significant and famous works

Sunflowers (1888)



Van Gogh's paintings of sunflowers were amongst his most famous. He painted a total of 12 sunflowers canvasses, although the 5 in which he only used varying colours of yellow are perhaps his most famous. Through these paintings, he showed that it was possible to create a powerful image with only variants of the same colour. Van Gogh said the paintings showed 'gratitude.'

The Starry Night (1889)



The Starry Night is an oil-on-canvas painting. It shows the east-facing view from his asylum window at Saint-Rémy-de-Provence. It shows the view just before sunrise, and with the addition of an idyllic village. It contains a vibrant, post-impressionist colour scheme. Experts have noted that the cosmic swirls reflect the artist's inner conflict, whilst the cypress tree on the left represents his impending death.

A Bandaged Ear (1889)



This self-portrait was painted shortly after van Gogh returned from hospital, having mutilated his own ear. In the background is a woodblock print of Geishas in a Landscape, by Sato Tokyo. This shows the influence of Japonism on his art - Van Gogh employed a colourful palette (and at times, a Japanese backdrop) on many of his works.

Styles and Techniques:

Post Impressionism



An art movement that developed between 1886 and 1905, largely centered around France. Impressionism focused heavily on natural-looking light and colour, but post-impressionism rejected this, instead using bright and sometimes unnatural colours. Both impressionist and post-impressionist focus on real-life subject matter, using thick paint and distinctive brushstrokes, however, post-impressionist artists often added geometric forms, or distorted forms, for effect. During his time in Paris, van Gogh had met many of the post-impressionist artists, who had a notable influence on his work. Although they each worked separately, they all contributed to the post-impressionist movement.

Pointillism



Uses small, distinct dots of colour (applied in patterns) to form an image. This was not van Gogh's favourite painting style; however, he did adopt it in several of his works.



The Potato Eaters



The Bedroom in Arles

Materials and Resources:

Water Colours



Oil Paints



Vincent van Gogh Timeline

- 30th March 1853**
Van Gogh is born in Zundert, in the Netherlands.
- 1864-66**
He is sent to boarding school in Zevenburgen.
- 1869**
Van Gogh is employed by The Hague Gallery.
- 1873/ 1875**
He is transferred to Paris, and then London.
- 1876-1884**
Van Gogh moves to Belgium, sharing religious beliefs with the poor, and honing his artistry skills.
- 1888**
Moves to Arles in France.
- 1888**
Completes *Sunflowers* painting.
- 1888**
Cuts off his own ear and commits himself to a mental asylum.
- 1937**
Completes *Starry Night*.
- May 1890**
Leaves the asylum.
- July 1890**
Dies after shooting himself. Buried on July 30th.