

Vincent Van Gogh

Dutch (Netherlands) Artist 1853-1890

Photographs of Vincent Van Gogh

Vincent van Gogh was born in Holland in 1853. By the age of 27, he had tried teaching, shop work and preaching, all without success. Then, he decided to devote himself to art. But he struggled to make a living and managed to sell only one painting before he died at age 37. Today his paintings are worth millions. Van Gogh decided to be a missionary in Belgium when he was in his 20's. The poverty he saw made him so sad, that he started painting what he saw.
Left 13 years old, right 19 years old.

World Map – Holland

Holland is a province of the Netherlands; it is in Europe. It would take about 10.5 hours to fly from Oregon to Holland. A province is an area of a country, similar to our states.

Two Painting

The Potato Eaters, 1885

How does this painting make you feel?

He painted in dark colors to portray the sadness. This was before Van Gogh had any formal training. At this point, Van Gogh didn't realize the importance of color.

Boots with Laces, 1886

Van Gogh started painting traditional Dutch subjects. They are landscapes, portraits and still life, like the shoes.

Self-Portraits

Self-Portrait with Pipe, 1887

Vincent Van Gogh painted thirty-seven self-portraits, all but ten done while he was in Paris. Van Gogh concentrated on the subject's eyes and expression when doing portraits. Around this time, Van Gogh moved to Paris, France to live with his brother. This is where he met impressionist painters.

Self-Portrait in Straw Hat, 1887

How is this portrait different from the one on the left? (brighter colors, freer strokes, happier feeling)

Self-Portraits

Self-Portrait in front of an Easel, 1888

Van Gogh moved to the south of France where the weather was nice and continued painting impressionist style.

Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear, 1889

Van Gogh suffered mental illness (depression) for many years. This painting was done after Van Gogh cut his ear lobe off to send to a girl he liked. He painted the picture to use as a photo to send to his brother, Theo, showing that he was okay.

Sunflowers

Vase with 12 Sunflowers, 1888

Van Gogh did several still life paintings of sunflowers. He used thick brushstrokes and heavy layers of paint.

Sunflowers in a Vase, 1888

Van Gogh created some of the sunflower paintings with the intent of decorating the home he lived in.

Night Scenes

Road with Cypresses, 1889

Van Gogh combined *impressionism* with *feeling* creating *Expressionism*. His pictures show a dramatic night sky with twinkling stars and twisting trees. The scenes have been built up out of layers of paint so thick, you can see the brush marks. His intense colors and swirling brush strokes make his pictures vivid and full of movement.

Starry Night, 1889

This is one of Van Gogh's most famous and emotionally powerful paintings. The enormous cypress tree in the foreground helps the viewer understand the arrangement of space. Van Gogh uses spiraling lines to create the swirling night sky. He was fascinated with astronomy and the sky. He liked to paint haloed stars, moons, and suns.

Sometimes when Van Gogh painted, he would apply the paint right on the canvas instead of using a palette to get the very thick application he preferred.

Crows Over the Wheat Field, 1890

Van Gogh painted from the landscape he saw of Arles. Sadly, van Gogh suffered from mental illness. By 1889, he was in a mental hospital. He continued to paint furiously, but became more and more depressed.

This is one of his last big canvases. This is a straightforward painting about a coming storm. Harsh winds have darkened the sky, churned the clouds, frightened the crows, and knocked the grass and wheat to the ground.