



Van Gogh's Art

To Reveal and Heal

Course Goals



- Course Goals:
To: use a constructivist approach to understand Van Gogh from the eyes and minds of the learner, in terms of context, form, colour
- To: understand the hidden curriculum of the artist (as teacher and student), the perceptions and interpretations of the learner observer (as teacher and student)
- To: have a go at expressing ourselves, through interpreting artistic forms and through our own artistic expression of lines, curves and objects as a medium of expressing our deepest emotions and desires – art therapy

Starry Night

- *The Starry Night*
- 1889, Oil on canvas
- 73 x 92 cm



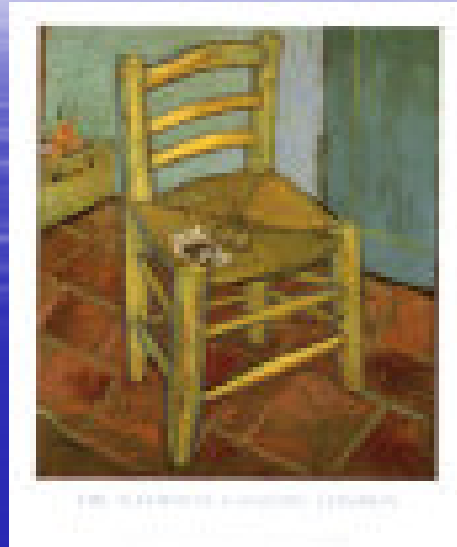
- *The Starry Night* depicts the view outside Van Gogh's sanitarium room window at night. It was painted from memory during the day
- Simon Singh, in his book Big Bang, noticed that *The Starry Night* had similarities to a sketch of the Whirlpool Galaxy, drawn by Lord Rosse 44 years before van Gogh's work.
- *Starry Night* has been compared to an astronomical photograph of a star named V838 Monocerotis, taken by the Hubble in 2004. The clouds of gas surrounding the star resemble the swirling patterns that Van Gogh used in his painting.

What's your take?



- *What do you think, feel when you look at Van Gogh's art?*
- *How has this artist captured the attention of his audience?*
- *Why is art a powerful medium for personal expression?*

A snapshot of the life and times of the artist



- Van Gogh suffered from seizures which doctors, believed were caused by temporal lobe epilepsy. Van Gogh was born with a brain lesion that may have been aggravated by a prolonged use of absinthe causing his epileptic condition. His epilepsy may have been treated with digitalis, which can cause one to see yellow spots. This may have been one of the reasons why Van Gogh loved yellow.

Consider: A life in turmoil

Vincent Van Gogh



- Poor, abusive, religious fundamentalist family
Bleak dark coal miner town
Suffered from mental illness (according to his physicians)
Influenced by Rubens, Monet, Gauguin who taught him colour
Committed suicide at 37
Had 3 prolific/productive years
Paintings are his struggle against madness

The Times

- Van Gogh's Europe
Despots ruled:
Napoleon in France; Bismark in Prussia; the
Tsar in Russia
Beginning of the Industrial Revolution
American was recovering from the Civil War
Some say his paintings were his revolution
against state power and oppression

Coping with depression

- Using lead based paints, and ingesting paint chips, Van Gogh may have suffered from lead poisoning.
- During his attacks of depression, Van Gogh tried to poison himself by swallowing paint or drinking kerosene.
- A symptom of lead poisoning is swelling of the retinas which has been noted may cause one to see light in circles like halos around objects. This may be a factor in paintings like *The Starry Night*.

Sunflowers

- The vibrant colours of Sunflowers express emotions associated with the life of sunflowers: bright yellow flowers in bloom, in contrast to wilting browns of flowers near death; as though embracing all of the stages of life and death - polar opposites. Perhaps Van Gogh's attempt to portray life and death as linked together.
- The majority of Van Gogh's sunflowers in vases were created in Arles, France during 1888-1889. Van Gogh did create some sunflower paintings prior to this time in Paris, France around the time of 1887.

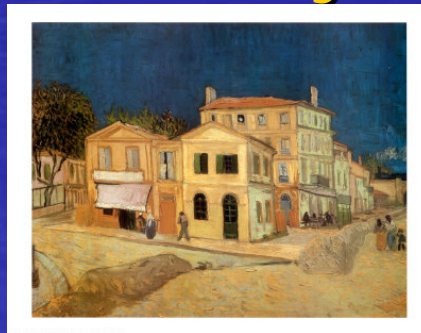


Sunflowers



Art as healing

- <http://hubpages.com/hub/Express-and-heal-yourself-through-art>
- <http://www.the-philosopher.co.uk/healing.htm>
- <http://www.true-colors-test.com/truecolorstory.html>



Gallery of Van Gogh

Some samples



- <http://www.vangoghgallery.com/catalog/Painting/>

True Colours

- *Take the true-colours test and discover your teaching style, leadership style*
- *Give the test to your students and discover their learning style*
- *Invite a true colours expert to your school as part of an interesting and revealing professional development session on “wellness”*
- *Let us know your true colour and learning style*

The Visual Storyboard

- *Plan your goals, chart the course of your dreams using a visual storyboard*
- *Check out the approach at:*
- *<http://hollywood2020.blogspot.com/hollywood2020/2008/08/vision-boards-s.html>*



Enjoy !

Thanks for sharing!
With gratitude
From Irwin and Sheila