

Mina Lastname
Period 1-2, **Van Gogh's Ideas**



I am pleased to present to you this interview with Vincent Van Gogh who was born March 30, 1853 and sadly died on July 29, 1890. They worked in a style of art called Post-Impressionism in the country of the Netherlands and France.

Q. Can you tell me a bit about your family and childhood?

A. I was born to a pastor of the dutch reformed church and my mother who came from a prosperous family. My childhood was sad, empty, and cold as I was often away from home feeling loneliness.

Q. What kinds of art do you like to create?

A. I worked heavily in the Post-Impressionism movement, my art was smooth with swift yet heavy strokes. My paintings are made with a underlying sense of beauty and gives you a peek into my mind.

Q. What do you think makes your art special or unique?

A. I work with a sense of urgency and intense emotion which leads me to make very heavy brush strokes. All of these factors make my work the masterpieces that they are. With every painting I make I want the viewer to feel something.

Q. What is your most famous work of art?

A. My most famous work was “Starry Night” which is my depiction of the magnificent night sky. The painting is filled with swirling clouds with bright celestial bodies. As well as many other figures.

Q. What was going on in the world at the time you were an artist?

A. At the time I remember much of Europe industrializing to compete for who was the most powerful country and who was the strongest. I cared not for such things, but only focused my energy on the canvas.

Q. How did you die?

A. My mental state during this time was deteriorating fast. I was depressed and I shot myself in the stomach.

Q. What did the people of your time think of your work?

A. At the time people cared not for my works. In fact I only sold one painting throughout my years. I am pleased to see that the world finally was able to recognise my genius. It is a good thing my sister in law kept my works.

Q. Were you a religious person?

A. Yes I was religious as my father was a pastor and he instilled beliefs in me that I carry until now.

Q. Did religion influence your work?

A. Yes religion did influence my work. A perfect example is my painting The Raising of Lazarus which depicts when Christ raised Lazarus from the dead. My father was a pastor so he would've probably been proud of that painting.

Q. Did you always want to be an artist?

A. I always wanted to become an artist as I started drawing as a child. My mother always encouraged me to this.

Q. Who was your favorite artist?

A. My favorite artist was Paul Gauguin who influenced much of my work. I first learned of him when I moved to Paris. I was shocked at how good he was, and also the unique style I was able to see from his art.

Q. Did you have any artist friends?

A. Yes my good friend I met in France who was also an artist was Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. We often talked of our art and even compared and contrasted techniques as well as many of our paintings.

Q. Did you do any other jobs other than painting?

A. Yes, I was working in the Hague Branch on an International art dealing firm. Pretty ironic huh.

Q. Do you have any regrets?

A. Well yes I have the obvious regret of ending my life. Looking back I should've realised there was another cure to my madness. I remember at the time leading to my death my mind was so insane that the only thing I could do was paint. I painted one painting per day up to the time of my death.

Q. Were you ever in love?

A. Yes I was in love many times throughout my life. I was never able to find true love and my family didn't support my lovers as they ranged from prostitutes to insane women who attempted suicide.

Q. What museums have your work?

A. There are museums throughout many parts of the world that have my work. Approximately 180 museums in total carry my works. The countries range from Argentina, Italy, France, United States, Egypt, and many more. I am very glad to see my art being shared throughout the world.

Q. How much did your work sell for during your life?

A. I only sold one painting in my life and that was "The Red Vineyard". Which I received in what is considered \$1,000 in today's money. My other works of art no one seemed interested in what so ever.

Q. How much would your work sell for today?

A. That same painting “The Red Vineyard” could be sold today ranging anywhere from 60-140 million dollars. My famous painting starry night is estimated to be 100 million dollars today. Many of my other works of art can also range for millions of dollars. Very shocking to see that I didn’t get any recognition back then.

Q. How did you learn to be an artist?

A. I primarily taught myself to paint and be an artist. I analyzed other artists of the period and I was able to form my own style and technique. I am proud of this accomplishment for it wasn’t easy to self teach.

Q. How old were you when you started to be well known?

A. I was never well known until long after my death. Eventually my art received the recognition it deserved. Unfortunately I wasn’t able to witness this growth of my fan base for my masterpieces.

Q. Did you learn to make art on your own or go to school for it?

A. I did go to school, but I found myself to very much dislike formal education and decided to go on the journey to learn to paint and teach myself. The function of a classroom simply disgusted me.

Q. When did you first show signs of creativity?

A. I Showed signs of creativity from a young age when encouraged by my mother to draw. She believed I had a good imagination and that I had a special talent. I always knew from a young age that I was very different from my peers.

Q. What do people say about your art today.

A. I am often thought by many critics to be the greatest dutch painter of all time. Which is a pleasing fact to know but a little bit upsetting I didn’t get to live through the rise of my works. Also people were finally able to see how I interpreted the post impressionist period and made my art to fit in with the time.

Q. What are a few words of wisdom you would like to end this interview with?

A. I put my heart and my soul into my work, and have lost my mind in the process.



Starry Night, Vincent Van Gogh
Materials: Canvas, Oil Paint, Paint
Size: 2' 5" x 3' 0"
Year: 1889

Bibliography:

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