

# VAN GOGH

Van Gogh is considered one of the most important representatives of the painting world. He was born in Holland on March 30th, 1853. He had a sister and a brother called Theo. With this brother, he established a strong relationship of friendship. Through the letters he exchanged with his brother, researchers were able to rescue life and work of the painter.

He started working professionally still very young, when he was about 15. He worked for an art businessman in the city of Haia. When he was almost 20, went to live in London and then in Paris, thanks to the acknowledgment he had. However, the interest for religious issues ended up diverting his attention and decided to study theology in Amsterdam. Even without concluding the course, he started working as a pastor in Belgium, for 6 months. Impressed with the life and work of the poor mine workers of the city, he elaborated several pencil drawings.

He decided to return to the city of Haia in 1880 and decided to dedicate more time to painting. After receiving a significant influence from Haia school, he started to elaborate a series of works using lighting techniques. In this period, his paintings portrayed countrymen and workers in the rural area of Holland.

The year of 1890 was of extreme importance in his career. He went to live in Paris with his brother. He met important painters of the time, like Emile Bernard, Toulouse-Lautrec, Paul Gauguin e Edgar Degas, representatives of the Impressionism. He received a big influence of this Impressionism masters, as we can notice in several of his paintings.

Two years after arriving in France, leaves to the city of Arles, in the south of the country. A region rich in rural landscapes, with a bucolic scenario. It was in this context that he painted several works with sunflowers. In Arles, he made the only painting he was able to sell during his entire life, "The red vineyard".

He invited Gauguin to live with him in southern France. Gauguin was the only one who accepted his idea of founding an artistic center in that region. In the beginning, the relationship between them was peaceful, however, as the time was going by, the misunderstandings increased and, when Gauguin returned to Paris Van Gogh got depressed. In several occasions he had violent outbursts and his behavior became very aggressive. It was in this period that he even got his ear cut.

His psychological condition reflected on his work. He abandoned the dotted technique and started to paint with fast and small dabs. In 1889, his disease got more serious and he had to be moved to a psychiatric clinic. At this clinic, inside a monastery, there was a beautiful garden that turned out to be his source of inspiration. The dabs were put aside and the spiral curves started to be shown on his works.

In May he left the clinic and returned to Paris, close to his brother and Paul Gachet, the doctor who would treat him. This doctor was portrayed in one of his paintings, "Portrait of Doctor Gachet". However, the depressive situation didn't turn down. On July 27th, 1890, he shot his own chest. He was taken to the hospital but died three days later.

Van Gogh's main works:

The Blooming Plumtree (after Hiroshige), (1887) / Portrait of Père Tanguy, (1887) / Cherry Tree, (1888) / The Old Mill, (1888) / The Harvest, Arles, (1888) / Bridge at Arles, (1888) / View of Arles with Irises, (1888) / The Rhônebarken, (1888) / Starry Night Over the Rhone, (1888) / Joseph Roulin, (the Postmaster), (1888) / The Night Café, (1888), Yale / Bedroom in Arles, (1888), Van Gogh Museum / Cypresses, (1889) / The Olive trees, (1889)

