

5th Year Trinity Comprehensive

ONLINE LEARNING

A Post Impressionist -Vincent van Gogh

PME 2 e. Adamczyk

Theme:

An eight lesson unit on van Gogh and Post Impressionist painting era from the European section of History of Art studies for Leaving Cert.

Aim of Unit of Learning:

This unit will prepare students to answer an exam question to the required standard (Higher/Ordinary level) whilst engaging pupils in a new digital learning environment and assist the transition from physical classroom learning to online learning experiences. The unit will entail writing, reading and drawing exercises as well as homework assignments to be completed for discussion and evaluation.

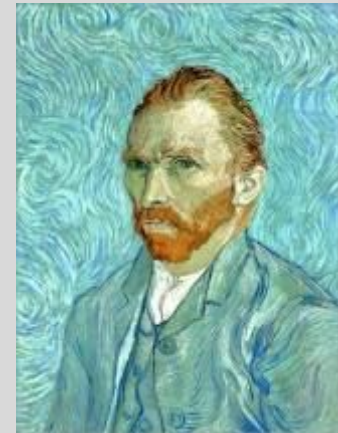
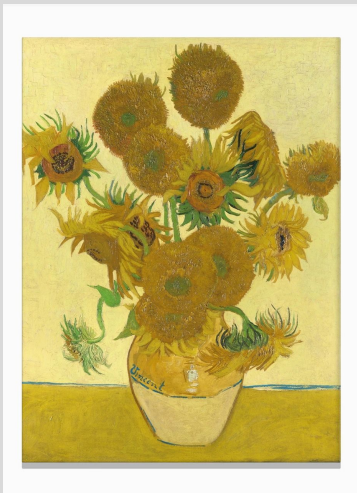
A corresponding practical unit will unfold in the semester and will serve to complement the learning and translate that into applied art skills through painting, drawing, writing and use of text.



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***A Post
Impressionist
-Vincent van Gogh***



LESSON 2/8

At the end of this lesson students should be able to:

- Present findings from the research task in lesson 1
- Learn about the invention of photography, Impressionism and Post Impressionism and how they are correlated.
- Explore the work of Van Gogh - observing the AEDP of *light, colour, texture* and *movement* in examples of his paintings.



RESEARCH TASK:



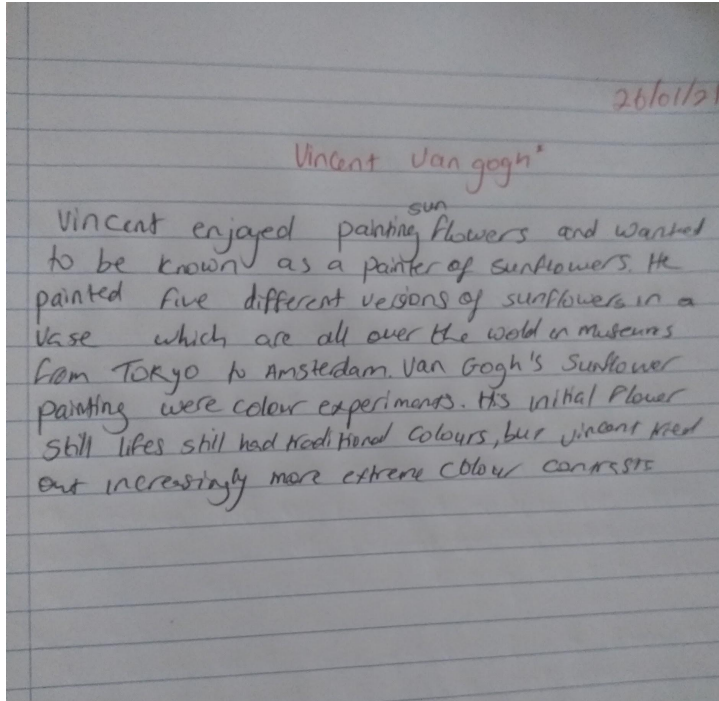
- VISIT THE VAN GOGH SITE & REPORT BACK WITH INFORMATION ON 'SUNFLOWERS'
- 5 SENTENCES OR 10 BULLET POINTS

What You Need to Know About Van Gogh's Sunflowers

SEE GOOGLE CLASSROOM CLASSWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Present findings...

ART RESEARCH TASK



- 1) Vincent is famous in all corners of the globe for his painting of sunflowers in a vase. But many people do not realise that he made multiple versions of this painting.
- 2) One is in private hands, and the other painting was unfortunately lost during World War II.
- 3) Vincent started painting flower still lifes to experiment with colour. Flower still lifes also sold well, which was another reason to paint them.
- 4) Just like other painters working at the time, Vincent made flowers still lifes. But he did things a little differently. After practising with different flowers, he chose a specific variety: the sunflower.
- 5) Painters thought that sunflowers were perhaps somewhat coarse and unrefined. But this is exactly what Vincent liked, and he also enjoyed painting flowers that had gone to seed.
- 6) His initial flower still lifes still had traditional colours, but Vincent tried out increasingly more extreme colour contrasts.
- 7) Not long after, Vincent moved to the South of France. He wanted to establish an artists' community there: a place where artists could live and work, and inspire each other.
- 8) Gauguin called the paintings 'completely Vincent'.
- 9) Vincent made his first still lifes of sunflowers in Paris. The painter Paul Gauguin was impressed by them. Vincent was very honoured to hear this.
- 10) The two Sunflowers were the 'yellow panels' that would intensify the colours of the portrait. Vincent thought that the triptych as a whole symbolised gratitude.

Photography

- 1839 invented (B&W)
- Cameras changed the way artists saw the world
- Painters no longer needed models, they could work from a photograph.
- Many photographers had a background in painting.
- Instant, immediacy, capturing a moment.
- Light a vital element
- Life was getting faster - art should too (Industrial Revolution)

Impressionism

- French phenomenon
- The Impressionists were concerned more with the effects of light on an object (accurate depiction) than with exact depiction of form.
- Monet, Manet, Renoir
- Rebelled against Academic style which preceded and was happening at the same time
- Impasto, expressive brushwork, brisk, energetic strokes
- Modern life, cityscapes/landscapes
- Bright palette of colours

Post Impressionism

- Title given to the works of a few independent artists at the end of the 19th century.
- They extended Impressionism while rejecting its limitations: they continued using vivid colours, often thick application of paint and real-life subject matter
- Emphasis on geometric forms and use of unnatural colour.
- They rejected Impressionism's concern with the spontaneous and naturalistic rendering of light and colour to the point of using arbitrary/unorthodox colour
- They favoured an emphasis on more symbolic content, formal order and structure.
- Post-Impressionism movement focused on the emotional, structural, symbolic, and spiritual elements

Western Art Movements

from
Renaissance to Post Impressionism

1400-1550



Early
and High
Renaissance

DaVinci
Raphael
Michealangelo

1430-1550



Venetian and
Northern
Renaissance

Titian
Durer
Jan Van Eyck

1527-1580



Mannerism

Tintoretto
Cellini
El Greco

1600-1750



Baroque

Reubens
Rembrandt
Caravaggio

1750-1850



Neo Classical

David
Ingres
Canova

1780-1865



Romanticism
and Realism

Delacroix
Milet
Daumier

1865-1885



Impressionism

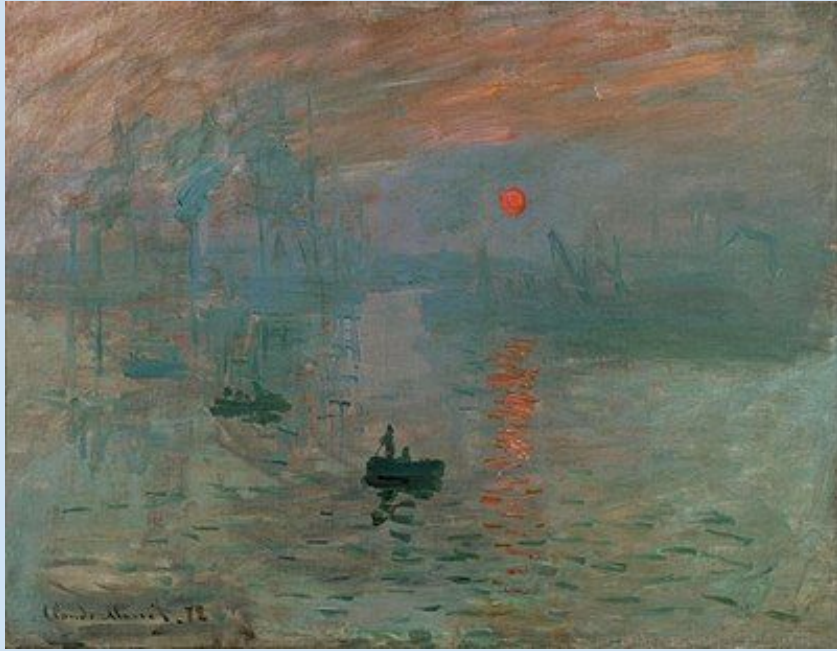
Monet
Renoir
Degas
Manet

1885-1910



Post
Impressionism

Van Gogh
Cezanne
Seuret
Gauguin

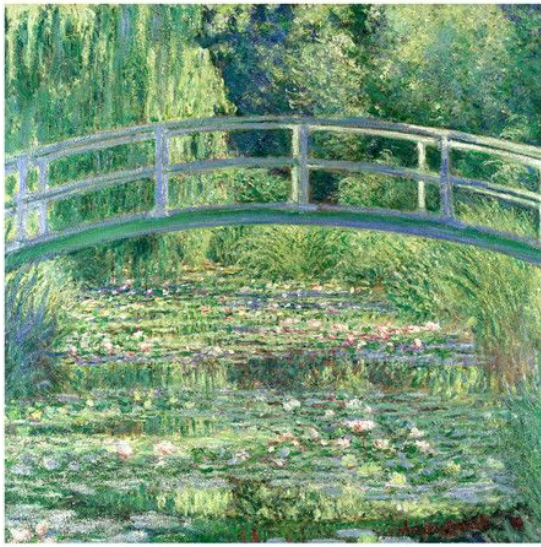


Impression, Sunrise
By Claude Monet
1872



L'Eminence Grise
By Jean-Léon Gérôme
1873

LIGHT, AIR, WATER



Bridge over a Pond of Water Lilies
1899
Claude Monet



The Bridge at Villeneuve-la-Garenne
1872
Alfred Sisley



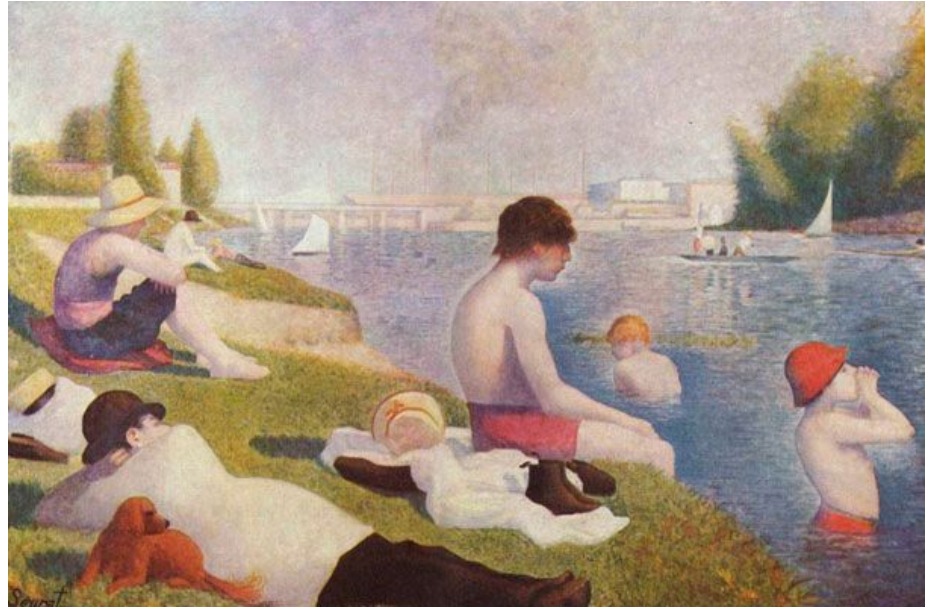
Luncheon of the Boating Party
1880-1881
Pierre-Auguste Renoir



Boating
1874
Édouard Manet



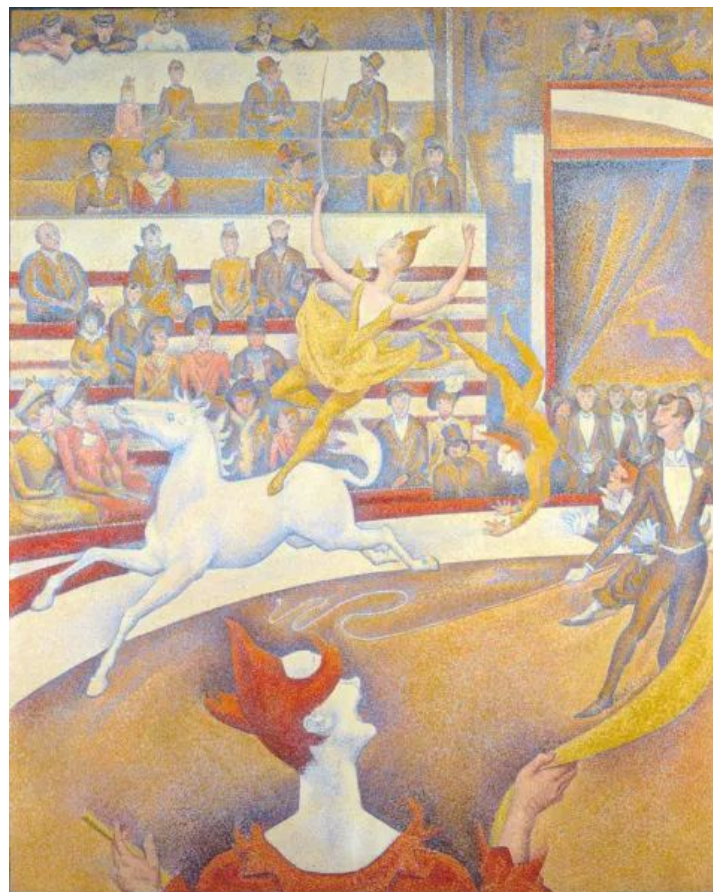
The Painter of Sunflowers is a portrait of Vincent van Gogh by Paul Gauguin in December 1888.



Georges Seurat - Bathers at Asnières (1884)



Pierre-Auguste Renoir, *Le Moulin de la Galette*, 1876.



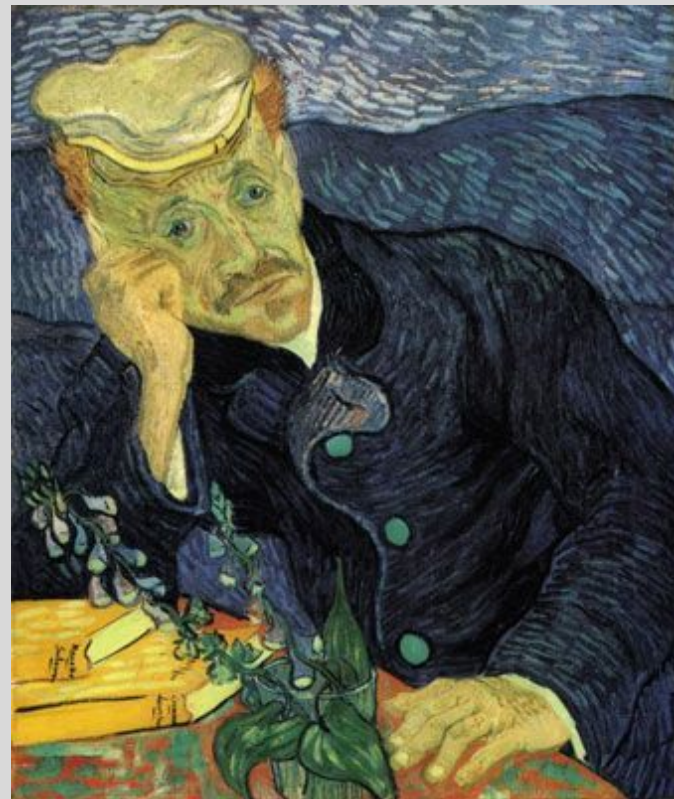
Georges Seurat - *The Circus* 1890



“Instead of trying to render exactly what I have before my eyes,” Van Gogh told his brother shortly before beginning the *Sunflowers* series, “I use colour more arbitrarily in order to express myself forcefully.”

Use of colour to portray the healing power of nature...alternately, the violently contrasting colours evidence of mental imbalance.

What do you think?





“Though his mind was tortured with visions and delusions, he continued to produce bold, ravishing canvases of the neighbouring olive groves, vineyards and cornfields.” - BBC Culture

“He experimented with the application of the paint, creating thick impasto impressionist strokes which pushed his use of Impressionism into Post-Impressionism.”

Wheatfield with Crows - Vincent van Gogh



The Starry Night

1889

Vincent van Gogh

“Leaving behind the Impressionist doctrine of truth to nature in favour of restless feeling and intense colour, as in this highly charged picture, van Gogh made his work a touchstone for all subsequent Expressionist painting.”



TASK 2: Google Classroom/Assignment



View the video and take some notes on what the tour guide has to say on Impressionism, Post Impressionism and on van Gogh.

Include some historical/biographical info., but mostly consider *style, technique, light, colour, texture* and *movement*.

Refer to at least 2 van Gogh pieces in detail.

Reference 1 other artist of the Post Impressionist movement which the tour guide discusses.

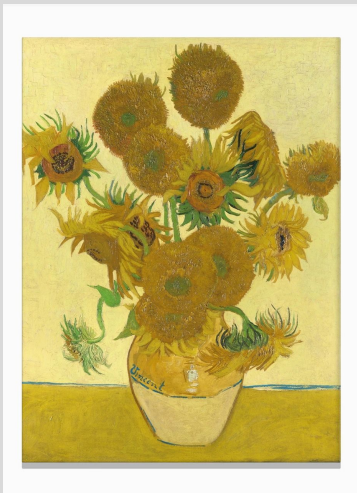
Upload notes from Thursday 28th to Google Classroom*

Due Thursday 4th Feb*

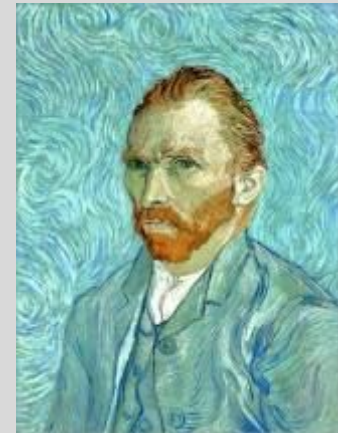
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**LESSON $\frac{3}{8}$
RESEARCH TASK**



At the end of this lesson students should be able to:

- Present findings from the research task in lesson 2 (verbally) - go through plan.
- Engage in revision Q&A task re. Impressionism and Post Impressionism and van Gogh.
- Exit the live lesson for 25 minutes and report back for the last 10 minutes with developments on each research task.



5 Sunflowers
10 bullet points

26/1/2021 Sunflowers:

- He wanted to be known as the painter of Sunflowers, they are known and unrefined.
- 5 different versions of Sunflowers in vases, found all over the globe.
- One of these left in private collection.
- his sunflower paintings were experiments on color.
- Van Gogh looked up to Gauguin and so he decorated the guest room with paintings of Sunflowers -
- The Sunflowers symbolized "gratitude" he wanted to combine 2 versions of sunflowers with "Woman looking at the stars".
- He made his first still life of Sunflowers in Paris.
- His other paintings had traditional colors.

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Revision Questioning:

- What is meant by *en plein air* ? And to which art movement did this approach belong (Impressionism or Post Impressionism)
- “My great longing is to learn to make those very incorrectnesses, those deviations, remodellings, changes of reality, so that they may become, yes, untruth if you like - but more true than the literal truth.”

— Vincent van Gogh, The Letters of Vincent van Gogh

What does van Gogh mean by this?

- Why do we have such a clear and defined account of van Gogh’s life?
- Why were self portraits so common amidst van Gogh’s artworks?
- Can you remark on any biographical information you picked up on in light of van Gogh’s life, his temperament and how this is reflected in his work?
- What is *impasto* - can you describe what effect this painting technique has on the canvas ?

VAN GOGH IN THE FUTURE - VIDEO SCREENING



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LESSON 4/8

Screening & peer discussion -
rubric, pooling findings, quiz
revision through feedback living
doc sample and illus. prep



LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Present findings from screening for revision task on Impressionism, Post Impressionism and van Gogh through peer to peer group discussion setting (teacher exits and observes to assess).
- Discuss rubric and feedback 'living document'
- Thembi's example of the quiz including feedback notes.
- Discuss and plan annotated illustration part of exam question. Find out who is doing what, i.e. Sunflowers, The Starry Night, etc...

work Notes 31/1/2021

- o Colourful
- o Pissarro was known as the father of the movement, favorite subject present working in field.
- o Painting Impressionism quick, in that moment. Unfinished, Porcelain (curves)
- o Germany, worked back in studio.
- o Gogh, perspective, Imaginable, "vision of the Sinner" Self portrait. Symbolism.
- o 1880 in Paris Van Gogh, brother F. Art dealer exaggerated features in his work. Bright colors. Emotion. Not in control

Using dots, colour, shapes, emotion

Post impressionism/van gogh writing task

The impressionist room has low ceilings and had an intimate feeling to it. When seeing the pictures back in the day you would see them with natural light and that was how they were intended.

The picture she then talks about by Samuel Bersado shows the kitchen garden is a good example of a high impressionist picture painted in 1874 which was the first impressionist exhibition he's also known as the father of the movement. His favourite subjects were presents in the field

Van Gogh painted two tree paintings in a year difference in the mid 1880s he joined his brother in Paris that was when he encountered impressionism he developed a technique to paint with thickness during this time he went to the asylum

In his letters he only painted in calm moments he was conflicted about his religious beliefs. If you look closely at the painting he squeezed the paint onto the canvas it makes you want to touch it

This was when Van Gogh started to use variety of colours in the first tree painting he used light colours for the tree but in the second he used more darker colours this also may represent how the artist was feeling at the time

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— Vincent van Gogh, The Letters of Vincent van Gogh

What does van Gogh mean by this?

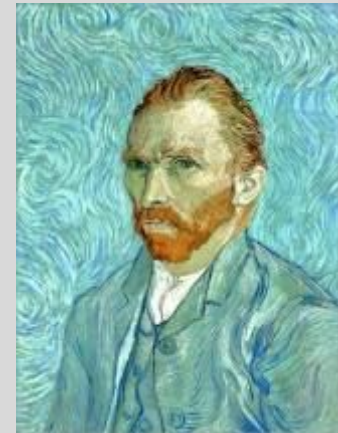
- Why do we have such a clear and defined account of van Gogh’s life?
- Why were self portraits so common amidst van Gogh’s artworks?
- Can you remark on any biographical information you picked up on in light of van Gogh’s life, his temperament and how this is reflected in his work?
- What is *impasto* - can you describe what effect this painting technique has on the canvas ?

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LESSON 5/8



Revision Questioning:

- What is meant by *en plein air*? And to which art movement did this approach belong (Impressionism or Post Impressionism)

Good description, Thembi, it is a French term and it actually started with the Impressionists, however some Post Impressionists (particularly van Gogh) still painted in open air. But it is known the the Post Impressionists ventured back to the indoor painting in the studio as opposed to painting outside

- “My great longing is to learn to make those very incorrectnesses, those deviations, remodellings, changes of reality, so that they may become, yes, untruth if you like - but more true than the literal truth.” — Vincent van Gogh, The Letters of Vincent van Gogh

What does van Gogh mean by this? **Look at the terms and phrases in the quote: *incorrectnesses*, ‘*changes of reality*’, *untruth*, ‘*more true than actual truth*’...think of what these words mean and then try to understand the quote.**

For van Gogh, the imagery he presented in his works (the alarming colour contrasts, the unrealistic movement and texture created by swirling and energetic brushstrokes) - these were all from his imagination and his heart - they were not taken strictly from things he saw directly in front of him. They were not ‘the truth’.

Remember we spoke about *The Starry Night*, 1889 by Vincent van Gogh? -We learned that this work was created partly from his imagination and partly from reality. The cypress trees are flame-like, the night sky is blanket-like, arguably, it is not textured like a *true* night sky.

The quote is saying that van Gogh cared more about conveying emotions rather than sticking to exactly what he saw with his eyes.

The *Starry night* contains some subject matter from memory -the architecture of van Gogh’s homeland of Holland[pointed steeples]),

some from reality (the scene is a landscape view from the window of the asylum at which he stayed [rolling hills])

and some from his imagination (the unreal, dream-like sky filled with stars like fireballs and a crescent moon that radiates yellow light in concentric circles).





- Why do we have such a clear and defined account of van Gogh's life? **Van Gogh wrote letters to his brother Theo almost everyday. So there is historical evidence.**
- Why were self portraits so common amidst van Gogh's artworks? **Good guess, but think back of what we learned in class...Models, also known as 'sitters', were very expensive back then and a lot of the Post Impressionists were not wealthy because their art wasn't valued as much as the traditional style of the time (so patrons and people weren't exhibiting and buying their paintings). So, painters like van Gogh used the mirror and painted themselves or each other.**
- Can you remark on any biographical information you picked up on in light of van Gogh's life, his temperament and how this is reflected in his work? **Good information, you could elaborate further by commenting that this is reflected in his painting 'Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear', 1889 (below/left), which was created directly after the self-mutilation incident when Vincent is still bandaged. We notice that the clashing colours van Gogh used in the face suggest turmoil, as well as the fact that he looks dejected or sad. If you wanted to go even further you could remark on how this is in contrast to his earlier self portrait in 1887(below/right). In the earlier portrait, he is visibly tired, but there is a lighter and gentler approach in terms of palette and technique.**
- What is *impasto* - can you describe what effect this painting technique has on the canvas ? **Exactly, but don't be afraid to expand on your answers, i.e.; - "thick application of paint onto the canvas, which creates texture, energy and emotion." :)**

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LESSON 6/8

Annotation revision:

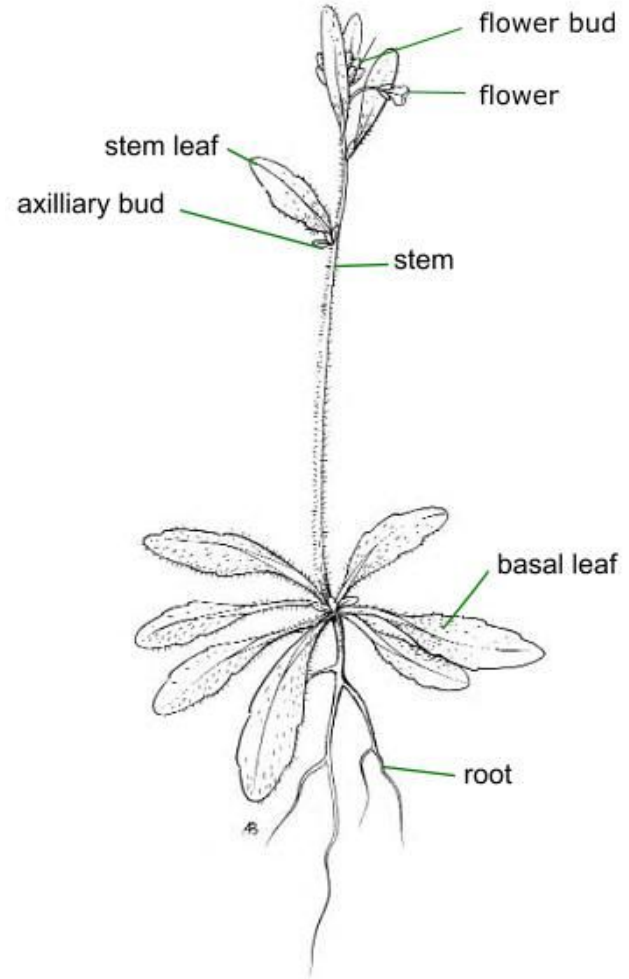
Class task Sarah's Sunflowers

Research task (x3 ind./grp.):

Post. Imp./van Gogh, Cubism (Cezanne)
& Fauvism (Matisse).



WHAT ARE ANNOTATIONS?



ANNOTATIONS

A CLOSE-UP SHOT OR ANGLE CAMERA

Run Lola Run 1998 thriller Action
Tom Tykwer
Lola, the protagonist of the film is pictured in a close-up shot here. The viewer can see very little of the background, as her face almost fills the entire frame. She is placed centrally and the frame is relatively symmetrical.

Very little in the back-ground (no distraction)

Point of view... This shot helps to reflect the film character's state of mind at that moment.

Details of face, Lines (age), etc...

Facial expression Facial expressions are highlighted (emotions: fear, etc)

The framing is SYMMETRICAL symmetrical

Task - Two or more shots can be used together for effective visual impact upon the viewer. Eg:- The wide shot of Lola in the middle of the road also incorporates a high angle. What visual impact does this have on you, the viewer? Describe & explain.

Q. How does the close-up help the storyline?

A Long shot (or 'wide shot') is used to show the subject from a distance. It shows a large span of the environment within the shot. This can help to indicate the character's relationship to the elements within that scene - i.e.; Lola has just done a bank heist... The cinematographer/director are trying to convey Location with this particular Long shot.

The subject seems surrounded by endless isolation.


This particular shot is useful for establishing a scene because it can provide information about location and environment.

From the visual information in this shot, we can see exactly where Lola is.

Helps to establish the person's position in the world or within the narrative.

Q. What can you tell from the environment pictured in the scene of this Long shot?

Task: Does the character appear to be in a position of power or of vulnerability? Describe & explain.



12. 'Sunflowers' by Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) is illustrated on the accompanying sheet. **Answer (a) and (b)**

(a) Describe this painting using the following headings: composition colour technique and medium used. **30**

(b) Name and describe another work by Vincent van Gogh that you have studied. **15**

Use sketches to illustrate your answer. **5**

Total: 50



Sunflower



EXAM QUESTION 2013

Section II - European Art (1000 AD – Present)

14. Answer (a), (b) and (c).

(a) Choose and name a work that fits into one of the following categories:

- a self-portrait of a named artist
- a sculpture by Donatello (1386 -1466)
- a painting by Titian (c.1488 -1576)
- a painting by Goya (1746 -1828)
- a building by Le Corbusier (1887-1965).

(b) Discuss the work you have chosen in detail, making reference to the artist/architect, style, composition/design, materials, technique and the period in which it was produced.

(c) Name, and briefly describe and discuss one other work by your chosen artist/architect.

Illustrate your answer.



The aim for today is that you **annotate** your van Gogh illustration option from last week ('Sunflowers' or 'The Starry Night')

Use a minimum of **10 annotations**, focusing on points about: **subject matter, colour, line, texture, technique, style** and perhaps some **historical information**(perhaps it is worth including an annotation that refers to the full title of the piece or that it is actually part of a series of 'Sunflowers').

You may create one or two annotations that refer to *Post Impressionism* also.

Return to class at **10.30am** with findings (make sure you have photographed your work and uploaded to this assignment).

Thank you 5th years!





Learner 1

Van Gogh

Post

Impressionism

Learner 2

Paul Cezanne

Cubism

See Google Classroom - Classwork - Assignment

I will be available on the stream the whole time (announcements)



What is Post-Impressionism?

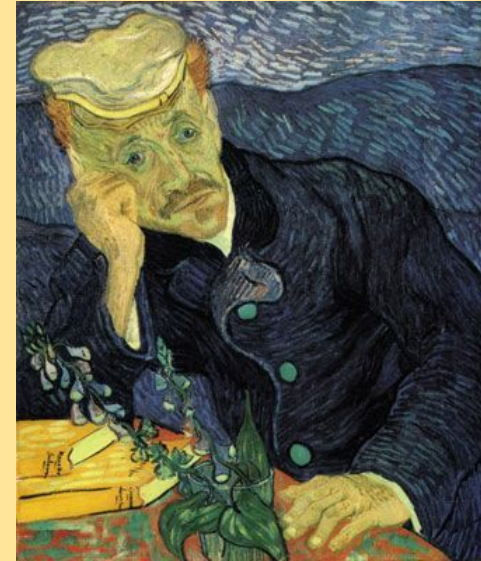
Post-Impressionism is an art movement that developed in the 1890s.

It is characterised by a subjective approach to painting, as artists opted to evoke emotion rather than realism in their work.

While their styles, therefore, wildly varied, paintings completed in the Post-Impressionist manner share some similar qualities.

These include symbolic motifs, unnatural colour, and painterly brushstrokes.

Van Gogh was one of the modern era's most gifted and emotionally troubled artists. Although grossly underappreciated in his lifetime, Van Gogh was an impulsive and often spontaneous painter who embodied many of the ideals of the Post-Impressionist movement. In *Portrait of Doctor Gachet*, Van Gogh strove to elicit a complex mixture of emotions within the viewer, rather than portray a naturalistic description of the sitter. Van Gogh created painterly rhythms and swirling forms within the arrangement of the figure in order to convey elements of strength, intelligence, and melancholy. Through such intimate and personalised interpretations, Van Gogh epitomised the rejection of Impressionistic optical observation in favour of an emotionally laden representation that appealed to the viewer's heart, rather than his mind.



1890

Portrait of Doctor Gachet

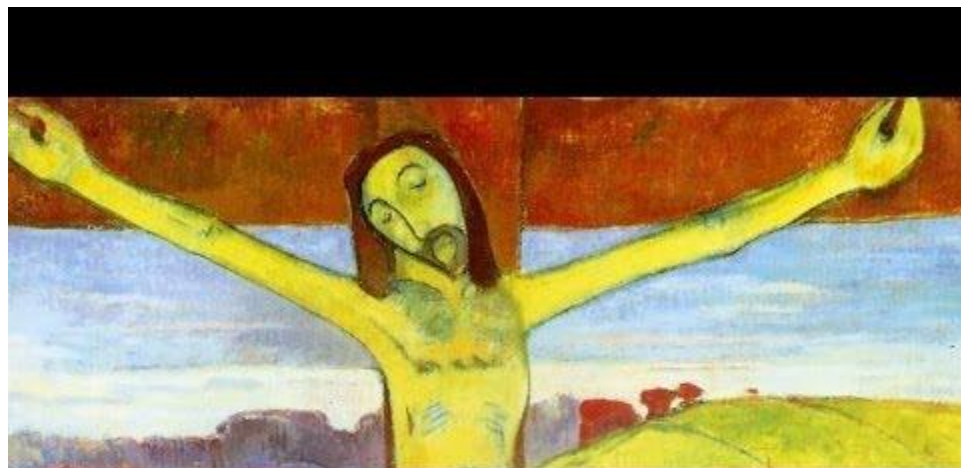
Artist: Vincent van Gogh

Defining Characteristics

EMOTIONAL SYMBOLISM

Post-Impressionists believed that a work of art should not revolve around style, process, or aesthetic approach. Instead, it should place emphasis on symbolism, communicating messages from the artist's own subconscious.

Rather than employ subject matter as a visual tool or means to an end, Post-Impressionists perceived it as a way to convey feelings. According to Paul Cézanne, “a work of art which did not begin in emotion is not a work of art.”



Post-Impressionism

Cézanne's works and ideas were influential in the aesthetic development of many 20th-century artists and art movements, especially Cubism.



Cubism is an avant garde art movement that developed during the 1910s and 1920s, predominantly in Paris. This new, modern style of painting and sculpture both revolutionised European art and inspired the music, architecture and literature of the time. In terms of painting, it employs geometric shapes in depictions of human and other forms. Over time, the geometric touches grew so intense that they sometimes overtook the represented forms, creating a more pure level of visual abstraction.

Cézanne's art, misunderstood and discredited by the public during most of his life, grew out of Impressionism and eventually challenged all the conventional values of painting in the 19th century because of his insistence on personal expression and on the integrity of the painting itself, regardless of subject matter.



1898–1905

With each version of the *Bathers*, Cézanne moved away from the traditional presentation of paintings, intentionally creating works that would not appeal to the novice viewer. He did this to avoid fleeting fads and give a timeless quality to his work, and in so doing paved the way for future artists to disregard current trends and paint pieces that would appeal equally to all generations



Les Femmes d'Alger is a painting produced by Pablo Picasso in 1907. The title means The Young Ladies of Avignon. The Spanish artist portrays five nude female prostitutes.

Cubism was invented around 1907 in Paris by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque.

It was the first abstract style of modern art. Cubist paintings ignore the traditions of perspective drawing and show you many views of a subject at one time. The Cubists believed that the traditions of Western art had become exhausted and to revitalise their work, they drew on the expressive energy of art from other cultures, particularly African art.

There are two distinct phases of the Cubist style: **Analytical Cubism** (pre 1912) and **Synthetic Cubism** (post 1912). Cubism influenced many other styles of modern art including Expressionism, Futurism, Orphism, Vorticism, Suprematism, Constructivism and De Stijl.



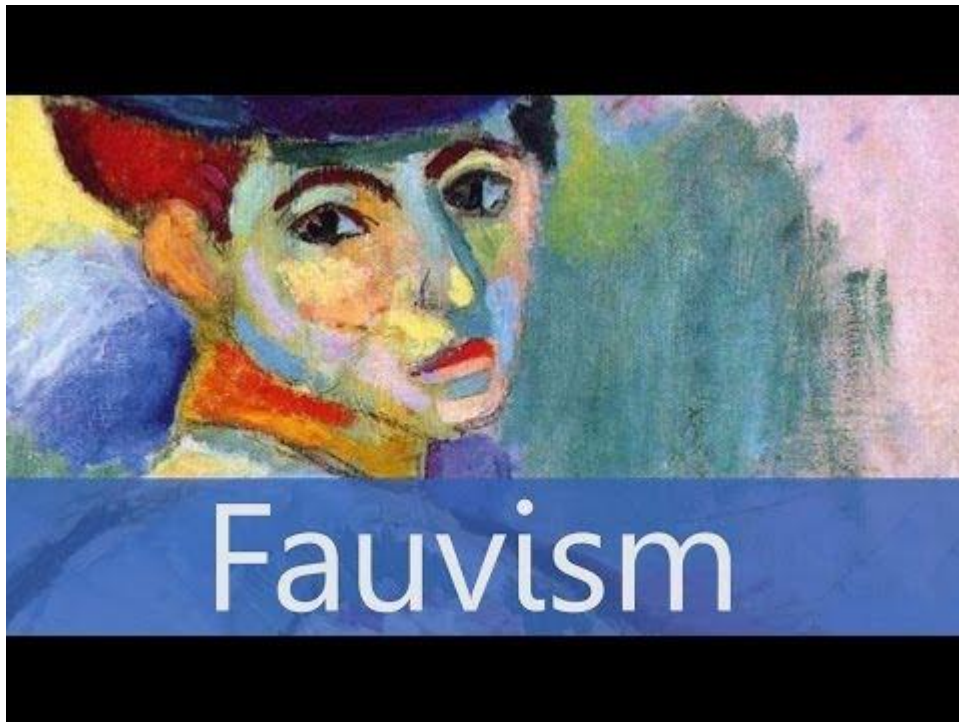
Cubism

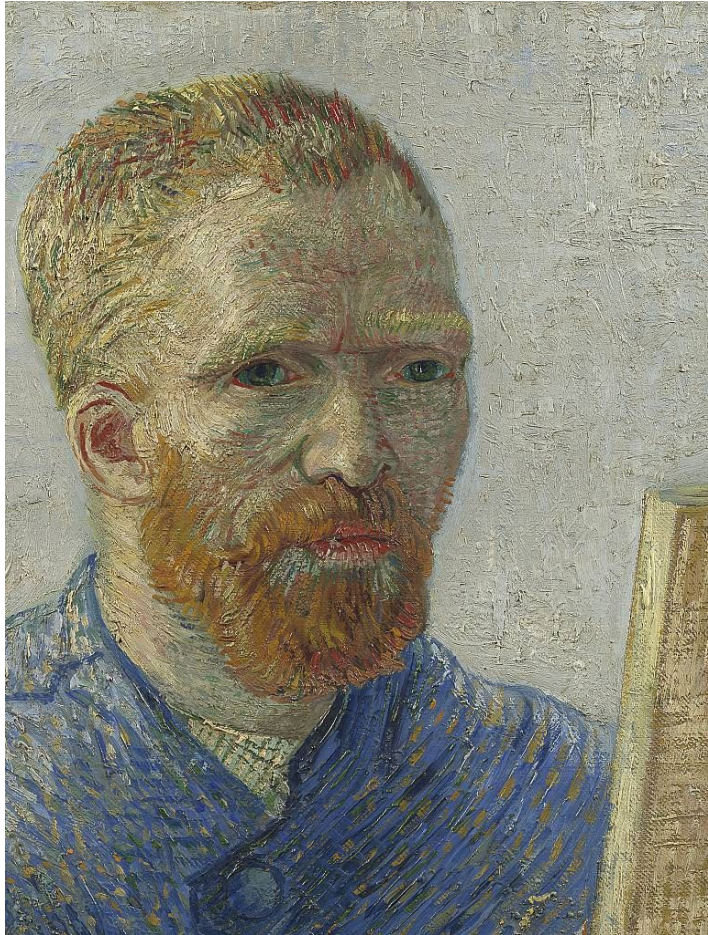
Fauvism was a joyful style of painting that delighted in using outrageously bold colours.

It was developed in France at the beginning of the 20th century by Henri Matisse and André Derain. The artists who painted in this style were known as 'Les Fauves' (the wild beasts), a title that came from a sarcastic remark in a review by the art critic Louis Vauxcelles.

'Les Fauves' believed that colour should be used at its highest pitch to express the artist's feelings about a subject, rather than simply to describe what it looks like.

Fauvist paintings have two main characteristics: extremely simplified drawing and intensely exaggerated colour. Fauvism was a major influence on German Expressionism.





FRANCE - beginning of the 20th century

ANIMALS - 'Les Fauves' (the wild beasts)

UNCOMPLICATED drawing and intensely exaggerated colour

VERY interested in demonstrating feelings about a subject (not simply a visual description)

INSPIRED German Expressionism

S

MATTISE(Henri) late Fauvist work -



1910
La Danse

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Illustrate your answer.

CHECKLIST:

artist/architect

style

composition/design

materials

technique

the period

Pointillism, also called *divisionism* in painting is the practice of applying small strokes or dots of colour to a surface so that from a distance they visually blend together.

SALON

Originally the name of the official art exhibitions organised by the French Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture (Académie Royale de Peinture et de Sculpture) and its successor the Academy of Fine Arts (Académie des Beaux Arts)