

Ymcomb

[Art & Culture, Painting](#)



Vincent Willem van Gogh (Dutch: [ˈvɛnsÉ›nt ˈÊːÉ›lÉ™ É± vÉ‘ Åˆ ˈÉÉÉ”
ĩ‡] (listen);[note 1] 30 March 1853 — 29 July 1890) was a Dutch post-
Impressionist painter whose work, notable for its rough beauty, emotional
honesty and bold color, had a far-reaching influence on 20th-century art.
After years of painful anxiety and frequent bouts of mental illness,[1][2] he
died aged 37 from a gunshot wound, generally accepted to be self-inflicted
(although no gun was ever found).[3][note 2] His work was then known to
only a handful of people and appreciated by fewer still. Van Gogh began to
draw as a child, and he continued to draw throughout the years that led up
to his decision to become an artist. He did not begin painting until his late
twenties, completing many of his best-known works during the last two years
of his life. In just over a decade, he produced more than 2, 100 artworks,
consisting of 860 oil paintings and more than 1, 300 watercolors, drawings,
sketches and prints. His work included self portraits, landscapes, still lifes,
portraits and paintings of cypresses, wheat fields and sunflowers. Van Gogh
spent his early adulthood working for a firm of art dealers, traveling between
The Hague, London and Paris, after which he taught for a time in England.
One of his early aspirations was to become a pastor and from 1879 he
worked as a missionary in a mining region in Belgium where he began to
sketch people from the local community. In 1885, he painted his first major
work *The Potato Eaters*. His palette at the time consisted mainly of somber
earth tones and showed no sign of the vivid coloration that distinguished his
later work. In March 1886, he moved to Paris and discovered the French
Impressionists. Later, he moved to the south of France and was influenced
by the strong sunlight he found there. His work grew brighter in color, and he

developed the unique and highly recognizable style that became fully realized during his stay in Arles in 1888.