Vincent van Gogh: The Flaming Soul

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篇名：
Vincent Van Gogh: The Flaming Soul

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I. Introduction

A. Motivation of the Study:

Vincent van Gogh is one of the heroic figures of modern art, well known for his tormented life, his use of brilliant, startling color, and the drastic emotional power that radiates from his work. He was impoverished while living and recognized posthumously. Without a doubt, van Gogh is one of the greatest and most innovative artists of the late nineteenth century. When I went to the exhibition held in National Museum of History last year, I was deeply touched and unbelievably fascinated with his artworks. Hence I am desperate to learn more about the great artist and try to find out what made him so successful and popular and why his works have powerfully influenced modern Expressionism\(^1\), Fauvism\(^2\) and early Abstraction\(^3\).

B. Purpose of the Study:

A painting is a form of language as well as an object which transmits thoughts, stories, and concerns of the world. What the artist creates is usually the subjective expression of an inner world of feelings. Through a critical survey of van Gogh’s real life and artworks, I propose to explore the legend of van Gogh, moreover, to search for his impact on later generations.

C. Scope & Methods of the Study:

This study is aimed at a large range of van Gogh’s works, including sketches, oil paintings, watercolor paintings and letters he wrote to various people that offer a great insight into his works, inspiration, feelings, and a sense of insecurity. By means of surfing the websites and reading numerous books borrowed from the library, I gathered relevant data. Afterwards, I compiled them into a referable and useful thesis.

II. Thesis

A. Biography:

1. Early Life – Intellectual Formation (1853–1880)

Vincent Willem van Gogh was born on 30th March 1853 in the southern Dutch village of Groot-Zundert as the eldest of six children. His father, Theodorus van Gogh, was a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church\(^4\). Vincent was profoundly influenced by the hard-working and pious atmosphere of his parental home. Between 1869 and 1880, before he finally decided to become an artist, van Gogh had experienced two unsuitable and unhappy romances and had worked unsuccessfully as a clerk in a bookstore, an art salesman, and a preacher in the coal mining district—Borinage, Belgium where he was dismissed for being overzealous.

\(^1\) Expressionism was a modernist movement, initially in poetry and painting, originating in Germany at the beginning of the 20th century. Its typical trait is to present the world solely from a subjective perspective, distorting it radically for emotional effect to evoke moods or ideas. (維基百科。檢閱日期 2011-1-22。http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expressionism。)

\(^2\) Fauvism is the style of les Fauves (French for "the wild beasts"), a short-lived and loose group of early 20th century Modern artists whose works emphasized painterly qualities and strong color over the representational or realistic values retained by Impressionism. (維基百科。檢閱日期 2011-1-22。http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fauvism。)

\(^3\) Abstraction is a process by which higher concepts are derived from the usage and classification of literal ("real" or "concrete") concepts, first principles, or other methods. (維基百科。檢閱日期 2011-1-22。http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abstraction。)

\(^4\) The Reformed churches are a group of Protestant denominations characterized by Calvinist doctrines. (維基百科。檢閱日期 2011-1-22。http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reformed_churches。)
2. The Beginning in Holland (1880–1885)

In October 1880 van Gogh enrolled at the Brussels Art Academy to start on his training in art. He determined to express happiness in the form of art. The next year, he moved to the Etten countryside with his parents and continued drawing, often using neighbors as subjects. In 1882, after an argument with his father, van Gogh went to The Hague where he met Sien and moved in to live with her. Unfortunately the relationship did not last long. By the summer of 1883, they broke up. Then van Gogh traveled to Drenthe for three months. Driven by loneliness, he once again returned to his parents who had moved to Nuenen in which he mainly portrayed scenes of poor people at work and at home. His ambition at that time was to become a "Peasant Painter". Generally speaking, the works of his early Dutch period were consisted of somber earth tones and showed no sign of the vivid coloration, the most famous was The Potato Eaters (see Fig.24) originated in 1885. In that year, van Gogh went to Antwerp where he discovered the works of Rubens and purchased many Japanese woodcuts, both of which had made a remarkable impact on his painting career ever since.

3. Apprenticeship Years in Paris (1886–1888)

In 1886, van Gogh went to Paris to join his brother Theo, the manager of Goupil's gallery. There he studied with Cormon to improve his painting skills. On the other hand, Theo, being an art dealer, had many contacts to enable Vincent to get familiar with various contemporary artists in Paris, including Degas, Monet, Renoir, Pissarro, Seurat and Gauguin. Van Gogh spent these years in Paris visiting some of the early exhibitions of the Impressionists. From then on, his use of creative themes and colors changed completely. It’s doubtless that van Gogh was deeply affected by the Impressionists, but he still remained faithful to his personal unique style. Throughout the two years, van Gogh gradually incorporated some of the techniques from the Impressionists, such as brightening his very dark-hued palette, but he never let their powerful influence dominate him.

4. Artistic Breakthrough Period in Arles (1888–1889)

After years of study and struggle, he moved to the south in an attempt to further explore the field of art. Arles period is considered by scholars van Gogh’s most innovative stage of his short, artistic career. A lot of his most renowned works were accomplished in Arles, including the only painting sold while he was alive, The Red Vineyard. At a time when van Gogh was most productive but he was most lonely. He rented a studio, called the "Yellow House", and dreamed of making it the center of an artists’ colony. With this in mind, van Gogh invited Gauguin to join him. In anticipation of his arrival, van Gogh painted still life of sunflowers (e.g. Fig.48 & 49) to decorate Gauguin's room. These sunflowers later became typical of his work. The bright yellow color represented the sun, and the dominant feature of the Provencal summer and van Gogh’s great enthusiasm. However, both of the artists could not get along well. After weeks of tension, van Gogh had a nervous breakdown and cut off his ear. Gauguin eventually left.

5. Final Years in Saint-Rémy & Auvers (1889–1890)

After cutting off part of his left ear, van Gogh voluntarily confined himself to the institution in Saint-Rémy. He spent one year at the asylum. Here his paintings became characterized by swirls. Although he could not draw or paint for a long period of time without suffering from a bout of depression, he managed to create The Starry Night (Fig. 55) which is regarded as one of his most popular and influential pieces in history. The curving lines of the sky are a possible representation of his mental state. This same shaking style is visible in all of his works during his time in the

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5 Impressionism was a 19th-century art movement that began as a loose association of Paris-based artists whose independent exhibitions brought them to prominence in the 1870s and 1880s. (維基百科．檢閱日期 2011-2-5．http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impressionists)
asylum. That very year was probably the most difficult in his entire life. On the contrary, it has also proved to be one of his most creative periods as an artist.

Van Gogh’s mental and physical health remained fairly stable by end of 1889. However, he suffered from more attacks of aberration throughout the early months of 1890. After receiving some ineffective treatment, Theo strongly suggested that Vincent should return to Paris and be under the care of Dr. Paul Gachet, a homeopathic therapist living in Auvers-sur-Oise, near Paris. Meanwhile, Theo was experiencing financial difficulties and troubled by his newly-born son's bad health, which was noticed by Vincent. It was said that Vincent regarded himself as both a burden to Theo and his family and the reason for their poor financial state. On 27 July, Vincent went for a walk and shot himself in the chest with a revolver, he then died two days later. His legendary lifetime ended but his marvelous artworks stays forever and ever.

B. Artistic Influences from Predecessors:

1. Baroque

Baroque style inspired van Gogh quite a lot in his early life. Rubens and Rembrandt were two of his favorite artists. Especially Rembrandt, he is generally considered one of the greatest painters and printmakers in European art history and the most important in Dutch history. His contributions to art came in a period that historians call the Dutch Golden Age. Vincent viewed Rembrandt as one of his models. He mentioned in a letter written to Theo that he thought Rembrandt was such a great artist that he could sit in front of one of Rembrandt’s paintings for ten years with only a crust of bread to eat and be perfectly happy. Actually, van Gogh and Rembrandt not only were of an identical nationality but also shared a common characteristic, for example: both of them were fond of producing self-portrait (refer to Fig.1~3 by Rembrandt and Fig.41~46 by van Gogh).

![Fig.1](http://example.com/fig1.jpg)  Self-Portrait (1629)

![Fig.2](http://example.com/fig2.jpg)  Self-Portrait (1634)

![Fig.3](http://example.com/fig3.jpg)  Self-Portrait (1669)

2. Ukiyo-e

The work of Japanese printmakers such as Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), Keisai Eisen (1790-1848), and Ando Hiroshige (1797-1858) were popular with many artists of van Gogh’s day, including Claude Monet. European painters admired the unusual compositions of Japanese prints and their simple blocks of pure color. Van Gogh was also strongly attracted by this art form. He started collecting Japanese prints when in Antwerp, and went on collecting them in Paris. Van Gogh even made several copies of Japanese prints (see Table I) as well as putting them in the background of his portrait of Pere Tanguy (see Fig.40). Inspired by Japanese art, he began to draw pictures from unusual viewpoints, to adopt areas of flat, plain color, and to outline with dark lines, such as The Italian Wowan (see Fig. 30).

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6 Baroque is an artistic style prevalent from the late 16th century to the early 18th century in Europe. It is most often defined as "the dominant style of art in Europe between the Mannerist and Rococo eras, a style characterized by dynamic movement, overt emotion and self-confident rhetoric".(维基百科。检阅日期 2011-2-10。http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baroque)。


8 Ukiyo-e is a genre of Japanese woodblock prints (or woodcuts) and paintings produced between the 17th and the 20th centuries, featuring motifs of landscapes, tales from history, the theatre, and pleasure quarters. It is the main artistic genre of woodblock printing in Japan. (维基百科。检阅日期 2011-2-10。http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukiyo-e)。
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※ Table I: Comparison of works between van Gogh and Japanese artists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Painter</th>
<th>Bridge in the Rain</th>
<th>Flowering Plum Tree</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Painter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Van Gogh</td>
<td>[Fig.4]</td>
<td>[Fig.5]</td>
<td>Van Gogh</td>
<td>[Fig.6]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiroshige</td>
<td>[Fig.7]</td>
<td>[Fig.8]</td>
<td>Eisen</td>
<td>[Fig.9]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Barbizon School

Van Gogh’s early works were characteristically Dutch school. He used dim colors to paint grim-looking people, usually farmers. His predecessor Millet deeply influenced him. Van Gogh viewed Millet as his creative mentor all through his life. Millet and his works were mentioned many times in Vincent’s letters to his brother Theo. Moreover, he made some imitations of Millet’s works. Here is a brief table for comparison.

※ Table II: Comparison of works between van Gogh and Millet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Painter</th>
<th>The Sower</th>
<th>First Steps</th>
<th>The Angelus</th>
<th>Noon: Rest from Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Van Gogh</td>
<td>[Fig.10]</td>
<td>[Fig.11]</td>
<td>[Fig.12]</td>
<td>[Fig.13]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller</td>
<td>[Fig.14]</td>
<td>[Fig.15]</td>
<td>[Fig.16]</td>
<td>[Fig.17]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Impressionism

During the period van Gogh stayed in Paris, he met the leading Impressionist artists, including Manet, Pissarro, Monet, Renoir, Degas and so on. Vincent was amazed at the bright colors and

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9 The Barbizon school (1830–1870) of painters is named after the village of Barbizon near Fontainebleau Forest, France, where the artists gathered. The Barbizon painters were part of a movement towards realism in art which arose in the context of the dominant Romantic Movement of the time. (維基百科。檢閱日期 2011-2-19。http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Barbizon school)
freshness of Impressionist paintings. With a reference, his art underwent a drastic change. Van Gogh abandoned both his dark colors and his subjects of poor working people. Instead, he began to paint bright, colorful urban landscapes which included cafes and still-life paintings, just as the impressionists did.

5. **Neo-Impressionism**

    Georges Seurat was a typical representative of Neo-Impressionist. His science-based interpretation of lines and colors formulated neo-impressionism. Through Georges Seurat and Paul Signac, van Gogh discovered the stippling technique of neoimpressionism, also called *pointillism*. He then freely experimented with the style and developed his own distinctive brushstroke of streaks and dashes. The following are several well-known artworks applying the sort of technique (see Fig.18~21).

    ![Fig.18](Portrait of the Art Dealer Alexander Reid (1887))  ![Fig.19](Interior of a restaurant (1887))  ![Fig.20](Garden in Montmarte with lovers (1887))  ![Fig.21](Fritillaries in a Copper Vase (1887))

6. **Post-Impressionism**

    In Western art history, van Gogh has been categorized as a post-impressionistic painter. At the time, a group of painters believed that Impressionism was not enough to express the inner feelings of the creator. They thought that in addition to the changes that involve lighting and colors, painters should also pay attention to the actual form and the structure of the object. They didn’t have to paint objects realistically since the painters drew with their subjective emotions. Vincent van Gogh and his two friends, Paul Cézanne and Paul Gauguin, were recognized as the major post-impressionist artists.

C. Remarkable Works & Features:

In his few short years as an artist, Vincent van Gogh created over 800 oil paintings and almost 1200 drawings, more than some artists have produced in their lifetime. Sunflowers and cornfields, wild swirls of bright colors and flame-like shapes are instantly recognizable elements found in his paintings, all of which were created within his ten-year artistic career. The following are those marvelous masterpieces especially worth paying attention to.

1. **Portraits**

    Van Gogh used portrait painting as a method of introspection, a method to make money, and a method of developing his skills as an artist. He mentioned this in a letter to Theo, "What impresses me most much, much more than all the rest of my métier – is the portrait,

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10 **Neo-Impressionism** was coined by French art critic Félix Fénéon in 1886 to describe an art movement founded by Georges Seurat. (維基百科。檢閱日期 2011-3-5。http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neo-Impressionism。

11 **Pointillism** is a technique of painting in which small, distinct dots of pure color are applied in patterns to form an image. Georges Seurat developed the technique in 1886, branching from Impressionism. (維基百科。檢閱日期 2011-3-5。http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pointillism)

12 **Post-Impressionism** is the term coined by the British artist and art critic Roger Fry in 1910 to describe the development of French art since Manet. Fry used the term when he organized the 1910 exhibition *Manet and Post-Impressionism*. (維基百科。檢閱日期 2011-3-12。http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Van_Gogh。)
modernity. I seek it in color, and surely I am not the only one to seek it in this direction. By looking specifically at the portraits throughout van Gogh's career, it’s easy for us to observe his ever changing style and ever growing genius.

※ Table III : Vincent van Gogh’s works of Portraits in various periods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Works</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women Carrying Sacks of Coal In the Snow (1882)</td>
<td>Van Gogh's early drawings and paintings tended to centre on the lives of peasants and poor laborers. He had a great admiration for the field workers and weavers he captured on canvas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peasant Woman (1884)</td>
<td>While van Gogh met Sien and lived with her in the winter of 1881-1882, he made drawings and paintings of Sien and her daughter, baby and mother over that period, which reflected the domestic life and hardships of the working poor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Potato Eaters (1885)</td>
<td>From the Paris period onwards, van Gogh turned into using brighter color and different adaptations of Impressionist and Neo-Impressionist brushwork, separate patches of color being applied to varying thickness and direction in a way that makes each painting a fresh experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorrow (1882)</td>
<td>The Roulin family was Vincent's only friends in Arles who welcomed him and appreciated his works. Van Gogh painted or sketched 25 works of the Roulin family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sien with Cigar Sitting on the floor near Stove (1882)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sien, Sewing (1883)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sien with a child on her lap (1883)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Agostina Segatori in the café (1887)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Italian Woman (1887-1888)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>La Mousme (1888)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Zouave (1888)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Roulin (1888)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Augustine Roulin (1888)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armand Roulin (1888)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camille Roulin (1888)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>van Gogh’s Grandfather (1881)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>van Gogh’s Mother (1888)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Gauguin (1888)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pere Tanguy (1887)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Self-Portraits –

13 Van Gogh Museum。検閲日期 2011-3-19。http://www.vangoghletters.org/vg/。
Vincent van Gogh painted over 30 self-portraits between the years 1886 and 1889. His collection of self-portraits placed him among the most prolific self-portraitists of all time. As van Gogh struggled to make a living as an artist, he did not have money to pay models to pose for portraits, nor did he have many people commissioning him to do portraits. As a result, he painted his own portrait, which provided plenty of the evidence of his appearance and, above all, of his moods.

3. Flowers & Plants –

Van Gogh’s paintings of Provencal sunflowers, like blazing circles of energy and joy, will surely remain his most popular and inspiring images. He envisioned his sunflower works as a series and worked diligently on them in anticipation of the arrival in Arles of his friend, Paul Gauguin. Towards the end of his short life, van Gogh’s pictures of flowers and plants presented singular beauty and intensity. It was nature that provided him with the inspiration and restorative power for which he had yearned.

4. Others

"The problem of painting at night interests me tremendously" wrote van Gogh. His night pictures were always full of color and light, yet never gloomy. The Cafe Terrace (Fig.53) was the first in a trilogy of paintings which featured starlit skies. Starry Night Over the Rhone (Fig.54) came within a month, followed by the popular Starry Night (Fig.55) painted the next year in Saint-Rémy. Wheat Field with Crows (Fig.56) stood out as one of van Gogh’s most powerful and most fiercely debated paintings. All these tumultuous style of works reflected a tortured mind.

D. Fame & Legacy:

Vincent van Gogh lived more than 120 years ago, and yet his artwork is still altering the way
mankind views beauty, personality, individuality, and style in art. The influence coming from Vincent van Gogh has been enormous. People adore him for his unique works. Later generations of artists have looked up to him for his free use of color and his way of loading paintings with feelings. His vibrant paintings are now among the most famous in the history of art and have repeatedly reached record prices at auction.

1. Public Recognition –

Vincent van Gogh has been gone for more than 100 years, but his art lives on. It was only a few years after his death that van Gogh’s art began to receive the praise it deserved. Theo’s widow, Jo, arranged an exhibition of van Gogh’s works at the Salon des Indépendants in Paris in March of 1891. In May of 1892, the first major exhibition of van Gogh’s work took place in The Hague. His fame grew steadily among colleagues, art critics, dealers, and collectors. By the mid 20th century, van Gogh had been seen as one of the greatest and most recognizable painters in history.

2. Cultural References –

In 1910, an art critic published a study of van Gogh’s work – the first of hundreds of books about him. His story has been the subject of a Hollywood movie, a best-selling novel, and countless art books. Exhibitions of his work draw millions of visitors from around the world. Today, thanks to books, exhibitions, films, operas, poetry, and even pop songs featuring his life and works, van Gogh is one of the world’s best-known artists.


Van Gogh’s unique approach to painting had a strong influence on the next generation of artists. Henri Matisse and his group, the Fauves, took van Gogh’s idea about color a step further. Another group, the Expressionists, was inspired by the emotion found in van Gogh’s work. Van Gogh is occasionally thought of as the father of Expressionism. His style and his ability to picture inner emotions directly in his paintings were major influences on many of the expressionist artists of the late 19th to mid 20th century. These artists thought it more important to express their feelings about a subject rather than how it actually looked.

III. Conclusion:

Van Gogh’s 10 years of artistic effort produced nearly 900 paintings and 1200 drawings. He has touched many people around the world. His art captured the minds and hearts of millions of art lovers. That so many are considered masterpieces today is a tribute to his extraordinary drive, focus and talent. As he studied painting, van Gogh experimented with all the styles and techniques of his time. In fact, he was always ready to try new ideas. Finally, he absorbed all of the influences, incorporating whichever approach seemed suitable, to develop a style of his own.

Van Gogh suffered from a state of nerves which caused him to experience extreme mood swings. Nonetheless, his illness did not frustrate his painting career. No matter how bad his mental situation was, his soul was chaotic and fiery to the point that he poured all his energy into painting. He led a short life but left behind a large amount and abundant bulk of works. His life was full of enthusiasm, so I really envy him and enjoy studying the story of his life. From this study, I realize that hard work is a key to success. Likewise, persistence is also essential and important. People can achieve nothing without

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effort with Vincent van Gogh being the best example. His achievements evidence the proverb "Where there is a will, there is a way". His legendary life seems to be a flaming soul to me. All in all, I have completely inspired that I have to persistently work harder to reach my goals.

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1. 【Fig.1】~【Fig.3】取自 http://www.ss.net.tw/list1.asp?num=155
2. 【Fig.4】~【Fig.9】取自 http://trip.writers.idv.tw/2010/01/blog-post_3398.html
3. 【Fig.10】~【Fig.64】取自 http://www.vggallery.com/painting/
## A. Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year/Month</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Major Events</th>
<th>Artistic Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1853.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>On March 30 Vincent van Gogh was born in Groot-Zundert, a town in the southern Netherlands.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Birth of his brother Theodorus, called Theo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864-1868</td>
<td>11–15</td>
<td>Vincent went to Zundert village school, and then to private boarding school at Zevenbergen, where he learned French, English and German and did his first drawing.</td>
<td>Early Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869–1876</td>
<td>16–23</td>
<td>Apprenticed at Goupil et Cie, art dealers in The Hague. In Jan. 1873 he was transferred to the Brussels branch, then to London branch in May. The next year Vincent was assigned to the Paris headquarters. In March 1876, he was dismissed from Goupil and traveled to England, where he worked as a teacher in Ramsgate and Isleworth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Went to Brussels to take a course for evangelists. He volunteered for a mission in the Borinage, a coal mining district in Belgium.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880.7</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Vincent decided to become an artist.</td>
<td>Holland Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Moved back into his parents’ home in Etten and fell in love with his widowed cousin Kee Vos Stricker.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1882.1</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Met Clasina Maria Hoornik (Sien), a former seamstress turned prostitute, and moved into a studio flat with her and her daughter.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883.9</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Vincent left Sien and the children as he felt they were preventing him from making progress as an artist. He moved to the rural province of Drenthe.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>His father died in March. Vincent continued with his work, in early spring, painted what many consider to be his first great work, The Potato Eaters.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1885.11</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Went to Antwerp, Vincent expanded his experiments to incorporate a greater variety of colors and became extremely interested in Japanese woodcuts.</td>
<td>Paris Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>On Feb.27, moved to Paris and lived with Theo in Montmartre, an artists' quarter. Studied at Cormon studio for 3 months. Met Impressionists.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Vincent frequented cafes with other painters and argued about art with Bernard and Gauguin. He experimented with some different styles, including Japonaiseries and pointillism.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888.2</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Moved to Arles in the south.</td>
<td>Arles Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888.10</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Gauguin arrived and moved in with Vincent in his &quot;Yellow House&quot;.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888.12</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Unfortunately, on Dec. 23 friendship between Gauguin and van Gogh broke down. Vincent got upset and cut off part of his ear.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889.4</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Theo and Jo got married in April.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889.5</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Vincent admitted himself to an insane asylum in St-Remy in May.</td>
<td>St. Remy Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890.1</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Had an exhibition in Brussels. First enthusiastic criticism appeared in the &quot;Mercure de France&quot;.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890.2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Anne Boch bought van Gogh's oil painting &quot;Red Vineyard&quot; for 400 francs. This was the only piece of his works sold in his lifetime at the market rate.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890.5</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Vincent moved on to Auvers-sur-Oise, north of Paris, to be treated by Dr. Gachet, with whom he struck up a friendship.</td>
<td>Auvers Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890.7</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>On July 27 Vincent shot himself, and two days later, on July 29, he died of internal bleeding. He was buried in the churchyard in Auvers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. The Most Famous Sales – Vincent van Gogh’s works sold for the highest prices by auctions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Paintings</th>
<th>Painting Name &amp; Origin</th>
<th>Auctions Year</th>
<th>The Price originally sold</th>
<th>The Price adjusted per price index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Portrait of Doctor Gachet 1890</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>US$82,500,000</td>
<td>US$134,600,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Irises 1889</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>US$53,900,000</td>
<td>US$112,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Portrait of the Postman Joseph Roulin 1889</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>US$58,000,000</td>
<td>US$9,970,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Self-Portrait 1889</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>US$71,500,000</td>
<td>US$93,500,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wheat Field with Cypresses 1889</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>US$57,000,000</td>
<td>US$84,100,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Still Life: Vase with Fifteen Sunflowers 1888</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>US$39,700,000</td>
<td>US$74,500,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Young Peasant Woman with Straw Hat Sitting in the Wheat 1890</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>US$47,500,000</td>
<td>US$63,100,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>L’Arlesienne (Madame Ginoux) 1890</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>US$40,336,000</td>
<td>US$42,670,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>