

Gallery texts ground floor permanent collection Van Gogh Museum

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To protect the often fragile artworks in the museum we need to restrict the amount of light in the galleries.

Timeline

1853: Vincent van Gogh is born in Zundert, the Netherlands, on 30 March

1869-1876: The Hague, London and Paris.
Employed at branches of the art dealer Goupil & Co.

1878-1880: Mining district the Borinage
Works as a lay preacher among the miners. Decides at the age of 27, to become an artist
And practices through drawing

1881: Etten
Lives with his parents
Mainly draws

1881: The Hague
Takes drawing and painting lessons from Anton Mauve

1883-1885: Nuenen
temporarily living with his parents again
paints *The Potato Eaters*

1885: Antwerp, Belgium
studies for a brief period at the art academy
Photo: Standing female nude seen in profile, January-February 1886

1886-1888: Paris, France
Lives with his brother Theo
Becomes acquainted with (neo)-Impressionist painting
Befriends Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Emile Bernard, Paul Gauguin

1888: Arles
Paints *Sunflowers*
Lives briefly with Paul Gauguin
Cuts off a part of his ear

1889 : St. Rémy-de-Provence
Admits himself to the local mental asylum

1890: Auvers-sur-Oise
Produces an average of one painting per day
Shoots himself in the chest and dies two days later on 29 July

On the wall: Vincent van Gogh 5 and 6 September 1889: 'People say that it's difficult to know oneself – but it's not easy to paint oneself either.'

Face to Face with Van Gogh

Vincent van Gogh is one of the most famous artists of all time. His expressive, colourful work and his eventful life move and inspire people throughout the world.

The hundreds of paintings and drawings that Van Gogh produced in a mere decade (1880-1890) made an enormous impact. His art influenced generations of artists, and is still very much alive in our visual culture. With a collection of around 200 paintings, more than 500 drawings, and almost all of his letters, the Van Gogh Museum offers the largest and most representative overview of Van Gogh's life and work.

A visit to this museum is like taking a journey with Van Gogh. We follow in the footsteps of an artist who was intent on improving himself and deeply engaged in the artistic developments of his day. He was an artist who above all strove to create a new kind of art, one in which he could give expression to our most profound existential emotions in a direct and universally comprehensible manner.

Painting:, Shoes, 1886

Vincent Van Gogh

A still life is a convenient subject for an artist intent on improving his skills, after all there is always something at hand, and it does not move. Van Gogh painted many floral still lifes in Paris. When flowers were less available during the winter, he opted for – fairly unusually – a pair of shoes. The

homeliness of the worn work boots doubtless appealed to Van Gogh's romantic sensibility. He loved objects that show the wear and tear of life.

Self-Portraits

Green eyes, a red beard, a furrowed brow, a blue work smock. Sometimes he wears a hat, and at others he smokes his favourite pipe. Looking at Van Gogh's self-portraits we stand face to face with the artist. Recognisable as Vincent, yet different each time. Van Gogh's self-portraits were not meant to show what he was like, but were exercises in colour, brushwork, and facial expression. All except for one, that is: in *Self-Portrait as a Painter* he presents himself as an assured artist behind his easel. Later he wrote 'It's only in front of the easel while painting that I feel a little of life.'