

## Artist Resources – Vincent van Gogh (Dutch, 1853 – 1890)



van Gogh ca. 1872  
Photograph: J.M.W. de Louw

Visit the [online collection](#) and [biographical information](#) presented by Amsterdam's [Van Gogh Museum](#) and [center for research](#).

Vincent's letters to his brother Theo provide a wealth of insight into the artist's psychological and emotional underpinnings, his inspirations and approach to art, and his relationships to other artists and the late-nineteenth century art market. [View annotated translations](#) of these incredible primary sources, researched and compiled through a partnership with the Van Gogh Museum.

View New York's [Morgan Library & Museum's digital archive](#) of correspondence between van Gogh and French Post-Impressionist Émile Bernard. Each letter is presented in high-res with accompanying sketches, illuminating the guiding, wiser elder role van Gogh took on as he reflected on his own artistic development and struggles with Bernard.

The [National Gallery of Victoria](#) presented Australia's largest van Gogh exhibition to date in 2017, bringing together fifty paintings and drawings to explore the artist's landscapes through the four seasons. In-depth digital exhibition and educational resources include wall labels, a view of each painted season, and videos with curatorial expertise.

[Watch British painter David Hockney discuss](#) his relationship to van Gogh's art, the practice of painting, color, and landscape. "He was really the first great colorist, I think. A great, great colorist," Hockney reflects. "He saw more than other people. He saw space very clearly... [his paintings] are full of joy."

In 2019, the [Tate Britain](#) brought together over fifty works by van Gogh – the largest showcase in Britain in the UK in over a decade – including some of his most famous paintings, to explore the painter's symbiotic relationship of inspiration with Britain and British artists.

Also in 2019, [Frankfurt's Stäedel Museum](#) explored van Gogh's relationship with Germany in 2019 through an in-depth look at private and public collecting histories; and the [Museum Barberini in Potsdam](#) showered attention on van Gogh's still lifes in the first exhibition to focus on the genre.

In 2022, the [Detroit Institute of the Arts](#) will present the first exhibition that explores the reception of van Gogh's work in America, beginning with his debut at the Armory Show in 1913. The institute takes its own story as inspiration, as the first public museum in the U.S. to purchase a painting by the artist – [Self Portrait \(1887\)](#), acquired in 1922.

[Van Gogh Alive](#) is a new fully immersive sensory experience touring museums around the world to bring van Gogh's complete oeuvre to life in over 3,000 digital images that envelope viewers as they move through the constructed space.



van Gogh, *Self-Portrait as Painter*, 1887-88



Vincent van Gogh (Dutch, 1853-1890)

**Beach at Scheveningen in Calm Weather, 1882**

Oil on paper mounted on board

Private Collection; L2022:139.13

Vincent van Gogh is one of the most celebrated modern artists. Despite a lack of commercial success and recognition during his lifetime, Van Gogh's work made a major impact on modern art movements in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond. **Beach at Scheveningen in Calm Weather** is the fourth painting the artist ever completed. Van Gogh first started painting in 1881 with muted still lifes, beach scenes, and depictions of peasant laborers in The Netherlands. In a letter to his brother, Theo—one of many that he wrote over his years as an artist—Van Gogh described his growing love of painting and the process of creating this work: “I believe that even in these first [paintings] you’ll already see there is something of an open air in them, something that proves I have a feeling for nature and the heart of a painter... [I] marched back to the beach this morning, and have just gotten back with a fairly large painted study of sand, sea and sky, and a few fishing-boats and men on the beach. There’s still sand dune in it, and I assure you this won’t be the last one. I thought you’d be pleased that I’ve tackled this.”

*On view May 3 – August 6, 2023*

Vincent van Gogh (Dutch, 1853-1890)

**Peasant Woman Seated**, 1885

Oil on canvas laid down on panel

Private Collection; L2020:35.1

In 1883, Vincent van Gogh settled for two years at his parent's home in the Netherlandish town of Nuenen. The prolific sojourn – he produced nearly 200 paintings and drawings – was a formative period in which the burgeoning Post-Impressionist painter spent time developing his technique through figure studies and taking in the pastoral country landscapes dotted with churches. **Peasant Woman Seated** is one of only a handful of full figurative portraits completed during these years, a precursor to one of van Gogh's most celebrated works of the same year, *The Potato Eaters*. As in the large-scale masterpiece depicting a tired family sharing a meager meal in a bleak domestic setting, this solitary woman displays the hallmarks of the artist's representation of the Dutch peasant class. Coarse application of paint and a deep earthen palette express a reality of physical labor and scant resources exhausted by the demands of an agricultural livelihood. As van Gogh explained, he sought, "something like the color of a really dusty potato, unpeeled of course."

*On view August 5 – November 8, 2020*

### Extra Resources

[\*The Potato Eaters\*](#)

