

Friday 22nd May 2020

To create art in the style of Vincent Van Gogh

Background Information

This painting called 'Sunflowers' was painted by Van Gogh in the late 1880s in the Netherlands. He used oil paint on canvas to create it. It measures 71cm in width and 92cm in height. This is one of the sunflower paintings Van Gogh created as part of a series. He painted this one for his friend Paul Gauguin who was coming to visit him. Nowadays, they are some of his most famous works but when he was alive they were never sold.

Take a look at the following labels. Link them to the correct part of the painting using the clues given. Draw a line from each one to the relevant part of the painting.

There are ridges of paint left behind by the brush Van Gogh used.

The artist used a definite outline to make the shape of the vase.

Van Gogh signed his name on the vase.



The artist used a pale grey-blue background to offset the vivid yellow flowers in the vase.

Some flowers are starting to wither and are drooping over.

Van Gogh used a method called impasto. This is where he applied thick layers of paint which left many bumps on the painting's surface.

1. Why did the artist choose sunflowers to paint, do you think?

2. What mood do the bright yellow sunflowers give the painting? Give reasons for your answer.

3. When you think of sunflowers what images and adjectives pop into your head? List ten of them below.

Now it is *your* turn to create your own sketch of some flowers in the style of Vincent Van Gogh using a plain piece of paper. Once you have finished sketching it, you could colour it in or paint it. You could either:

- a) Draw some flowers that you collected on a walk
- b) Draw any flowers you already have in your home
- c) Have a go at copying Van Gogh's sunflowers in the picture above

Try to include some features that he used in his painting:

Sign your name on the vase

Use bright colours for the flowers

Use a dull or pale colour for the background

Clearly outline the vase so it stands out