

Our course will follow the life, art and legacy of Vincent Van Gogh. We are mostly familiar with the colorful art he completed in the last ten years of his life, but his early works vary significantly from these memorable works of art. We will explore his beginnings and his family connections and influences, where he attended schools and where he worked.

After trying his hand as art dealer, teacher, bookseller and missionary across northern Europe, he eventually turned his full attention to art. His early works were dark and brooding, which changed dramatically once he spent time in Paris and met several early Impressionists.

Moving to the town of Arles in the south of France, his style took on a full palette of colors resulting in his classic works such as *Starry Night*, *Café Terrace at Night* and *Sunflowers*. His partnership with Paul Gauguin proved devastating, ending with Van Gogh's self-mutilation.

Resigning himself to treatment at an asylum, he produced many of his iconic works in between bouts of psychosis. Within a year, he returned north to the town of Auvers-sur-Oise, again producing several significant works. Within weeks of this move, his life ended, either by his own hand or by other means, still controversial after well more than a century.

We will screen the beautifully animated film *Loving Vincent*, uniquely produced with thousands of pieces of art based on Van Gogh's own. We will also include dozens of Van Gogh's artworks, some familiar and others less so.

The story of Vincent Van Gogh is not complete without the stories of his brother Theo and Theo's wife Jo. Theo was his supporter, both financially and emotionally, allowing Vincent to devote himself to painting. As an art dealer, Theo played a central role in introducing Vincent to other contemporary artists and promoting his brother's art. After the deaths of both Vincent and Theo, Theo's wife Jo played an equally critical role in assuring the prominence and legacy of her brother-in-law's artworks.