

Kindergarten

Title: Sunflowers (1888) Oil on Canvas

Artist: Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)

EALR'S: Arts

- 1.1.1- Understands art concepts and vocabulary, line, texture, color, value, shapes-geometric shapes (triangle, diamond, square....) and organic shapes, (curvy, natural look, flowing).
- 1.2-Understands art concepts and vocabulary, principals of organization. (Balance, proportion, movement.....).
- 1.3-Understands and applies art styles from various artists' cultures and times.
- 1.4- Applies audience skills in a variety of art settings and performances.
- 2.1- Applies a creative process in the arts.
- 2.3- Applies a responding process to an arts presentation.
- 3.1- Uses the arts to express and present ideas and feeling.
- 3.2- Uses the arts to communicate for a specific purpose.
- 3.3- Develops personal aesthetic criteria to communicate artistic choices.
- 4.2- Demonstrates and analyzes the connections between the arts and other content areas.
- 4.3- Understands how the arts impact lifelong choices.
- 4.4- Understand that the arts shape and reflect culture and history.

TEXT: Vincent van Gogh painted these sunflowers after leaving his native Holland for the south of France with the dream of starting an artistic community. He began to paint sunflowers to decorate a bedroom for his friend Paul Gauguin. Van Gogh suffered mental breakdowns most of his adult life. Most of his paintings were done while he was in an asylum recovering or in Arles, a city in southern France. He was influenced by Gauguin, and both would paint feverishly and complete a work at one sitting. Color became the chief symbol of expression. He wanted to paint pictures that would appeal to all people, rich or poor. In "Sunflowers", he experimented with variations of yellow to fill a canvas and create a composition. He made several versions of this painting. "Sunflowers" is probably one of his most loved works today. His heavy brush strokes appear as if they were applied straight from a tube. This creates a variety of textures and enhances the appeal of the paintings. But his technique was a complete shock to the art viewers of his period.

Questions:

1. This is definitely not a portrait as a portrait is a painting of a person. What is this a painting of? When artists choose to paint pictures of flowers and vases, or anything still, or not alive, we call it a still life.
2. What color has this artist used the most? This is one of the primary colors. Does it remind you of a special feeling? (Warm, happy, love)? How many different kinds (shades) of yellow did Van Gogh use? When he finished this picture and showed it to his friends, how do you think he felt?
3. There are many curving lines in this painting, some in the flowers and some on the vase. Can you find some straight lines? Can you see where the artist made a stroke with his brush? Do the flowers and vase seem to have texture, as if you could run your hand across it and feel the textures?