

***Starry Night* (1889) – Vincent van Gogh**



Dimensions: 73.7 cm × 92.1 cm

The Starry Night is an oil on canvas painting by Dutch Post-Impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh. Painted in June 1889, it depicts the view from the east-facing window of his asylum room at Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, just before sunrise, with the addition of an imaginary village. It has been in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City since 1941. Widely regarded as Van Gogh's **magnum opus** (= most important piece of art), *The Starry Night* is one of the most recognized paintings in Western art.

***Irises* (1889) – Vincent van Gogh**



Dimensions: 71 cm x 93 cm

Irises is one of several paintings of irises by the Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh, and one of a series of paintings he made at the Saint Paul-de-Mausole asylum in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France, in the last year before his death in 1890.

Van Gogh started painting *Irises* within a week of entering the asylum, in May 1889, working from nature in the hospital garden. There is a lack of the high tension which is seen in his later works. He called painting "the lightning conductor for my illness" because he felt that he could keep himself from going insane by continuing to paint.

The painting was probably influenced by Japanese prints. The painting is full of softness and lightness. *Irises* is full of life without

tragedy. He considered this painting a study which is probably why there are no known drawings for it. The *Iris*es are a beautiful study full of air and life." The painting is one of his most renowned works.

Ownership history

The first owner was Julien "Père" Tanguy, a paint grinder and art dealer whose portrait van Gogh painted three times. In 1892 Tanguy sold *Iris*es to art critic Octave Mirbeau who was also one of Van Gogh's first supporters. Mirbeau paid 300 francs for it.

In 1987, it became the most expensive painting ever sold, setting a record which stood for two and a half years. Then it was sold for US\$53.9 million to Alan Bond. *Iris*es was later re-sold in 1990 to the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. *Iris*es is currently tenth on the list of most expensive paintings ever sold.

