



« Self-portrait with a Bandaged ear »  
Vincent Van Gogh (1853–1890)  
1889, Arles  
Self-Portrait  
Oil painting

I have chosen this work of art because I really like Van Gogh's work especially this one because of the colors, the technique with the visible brushstrokes and the background. Moreover this painting is easy to recreate, nothing is too extra. The painting was finished two weeks after he had cut off his ear. It was his left ear and he made this painting by looking at himself in a mirror. Even if he was in his workshop, he was fully dressed with his coat and his fur hat. He wanted to show his wound, to prove himself that it was real and give a date to this canvas, a rare behavior that is not in his other paintings. This artwork is full of melancholy. This was a rough period of his life when his friend Gauguin abandoned him. They were very close but the mental state of Van Gogh and a violent fight about their art perception destroyed their cohabitation and their friendship. This tragic event (when he lost his ear) shows how unstable was his mental health. Eighteen months after this painting, he killed himself to stop his madness.