Focus Artist— Vincent Van Gogh

Vincent Van Gogh was born in the Netherlands in 1853. Although he enjoyed drawing from a young age, he did not devote himself completely to art until he was 27. When he first started drawings he sketched using pencils, water colours or charcoal sticks, before eventually beginning to paint using oil paints. In his early career he used a lot of dark colours and liked to draw pictures of poor hardworking people but in 1886 he moved to France where he began to use brighter more vibrant colours, representative of the sunny weather conditions. Although he wasn't famous during his lifetime he is now considered one of the greatest and most influential artists of his time.

Hatching

Dashed lines or short strokes with a brush used by a painter

Swirls and Short sharp brushstrokes

The use of spiralling and curving lines, together with the short sharp brushstrokes, gives the effect of constant movement. Both add texture to the painting as well as creating tonal/shading effects through the use of varying line spacing or additional layers of lines

Perspective

A way of painting or drawing which creates the illusion of depth on a two dimensional surface. Here the tree appears in the foreground whilst the town looks to be in the midground and the hills behind that.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Portrait	A painting, drawing, photograph or sculpture of a person.
Landscape	A picture that shows a view of an area.
Watercolours	Paint made of pigment mixed with water.
Oil paints	A thick paint made with ground pigment and a drying oil such as linseed oil.
Post-Impressionism	The work of some famous artists including van Gogh, who used bright colours and symbols to show emotions and feelings in their artwork.
Secondary colours	A colour which is created by mixing two primary colours together.
Still life observational drawing	Drawing or painting from life.

The Potato Eaters	Sunflowers	Starry Night
Van Gogh had not been painting for very long when he made this picture. He painted this picture in oil paints. He wanted to show real life in his picture.	Van Gogh painted this for his friend, the artist Paul Gauguin. He chose the colour yellow to represent happiness. He made lots of paintings of sunflowers. This is one of Van Gogh's most popular and famous paintings.	This is one of Van Gogh's most famous paintings. Van Gogh was very interested in the night-time. He used his paint to create a swirling effect. He used light yellow paint to make it look as though the sun and stars are glowing.

Vincent Van Gogh
1888