

Sunflowers

Vincent van Gogh



Vincent Van Gogh's oil paintings of Sunflowers are among his most famous. He did them in Arles, in the south of France, in 1888 and 1889. Vincent painted a total of five large canvases with sunflowers in a vase, with three shades of yellow 'and nothing else'. The sunflower paintings had a special significance for Van Gogh; they communicated 'gratitude', he wrote. He hung the first two in the room of his friend, the painter Paul Gauguin, who came to live with him for a while in the Yellow House. Gauguin was impressed by the sunflowers, which he thought were 'completely Vincent'. Van Gogh had already painted a new version during his friend's stay, and Gauguin later asked for one as a gift, which Vincent was reluctant to give him. He later produced two loose copies, however, one of which is now in the Van Gogh Museum. Furthermore, he started painting flowers to experiment with colour. Vincent knew that his sunflower paintings were special. As did other people. After he died, friends brought sunflowers with them to his funeral.