

Girl Scout Troop 12912  
January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013

## **EXPLORE, CREATE, AND EXPERIENCE THE WORLD'S GREATEST PAINTERS**

### **Purpose**

Copying from the world's greatest painters will help you learn about the paintings you like. It will give you clues about what inspired the artists and why. In turn, this activity will help you generate your own ideas about what to paint and how to paint. Your painting can brighten your home, tell about Brownie fun, make other people happy, and make yourself happy too! This activity is a step toward earning your Brownie badge for painting.

### **Materials Needed**

A painting surface: Stretched canvas 8X10 (or) paper canvas (or) heavy watercolor paper (or best yet) up-cycled cardboard! Pencils, paints, paint brushes, water and paper towel to clean brushes, optional aprons. Primary colors: red, yellow, and blue, as many possible secondary colors including pinks, purples, browns, oranges, and greens, white (the non-color) and black (the every color).

### **Study**

Some painters create Abstract Art. They don't paint objects or people. They use shapes, lines, and colors to paint a feeling or mood. Some make paintings super realistic like a photograph. Some artists make paintings that are both abstract and realistic at the same time. Pick a work of art from one of the five stations to copy and take home. You can learn more about your chosen artist or artists by going online to <http://www.wikipaintings.org>. This is the website used to produce today's painting activity.

### **Copycat**

Focus on style, mood, and feeling and copy one of the original works of art. Using similar painting techniques as in the original, create your own painting using similar brush strokes, composition, shapes, colors, lines, textures, values, or space. Even though we are going to copy from an artist today, your art will probably turn out a bit different because we are all unique.

It is okay to make up your own painting instead of copying from one of the world's greatest painters. Pretend you are an artist that is painting an emotion. Paint what you think a mood or feeling would look like. What colors would you use to make a calm feeling? How would you show a happy feeling? What colors or shapes make you smile? What colors or shapes look like anger? Remember, it's your idea, so it is okay if other people don't see it like you do.

### **Tips**

Use the entire surface. Draw your image before painting it. Wash your brush before switching colors. Use large sized brushes for large shapes and small brushes for details. Paint with your fingers.

### **Discussion Questions**

Compare and contrast your painting to the original. What is different between your work and the original? · Do you like the original or yours better and why? Why did you choose this technique? What do you think inspired the artist to paint the original? What inspired you to copy the artists original? What year do you think the artist made the painting and how do you think his painting reflects that time period? Do any of the paintings have something in common? Do any of the copies have something in common?

Congratulations on working toward your Brownie badge for painting! I really hope you enjoyed painting from the world's greatest painters today! Ask your mom or dad to sign up for my e-mail list at [www.michalios.com](http://www.michalios.com) and I will invite your family to my next artist exhibition in September.

Best of painting times!

Vikki Michalios.

**Henri Matisse** lived from December 31<sup>st</sup> 1869 to November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1954. He was a French artist, known for his use of color and fluid, brilliant and original draftsmanship as a printmaker, and sculptor. Principally he is known as a painter. Henri Matisse is one of the best-known artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



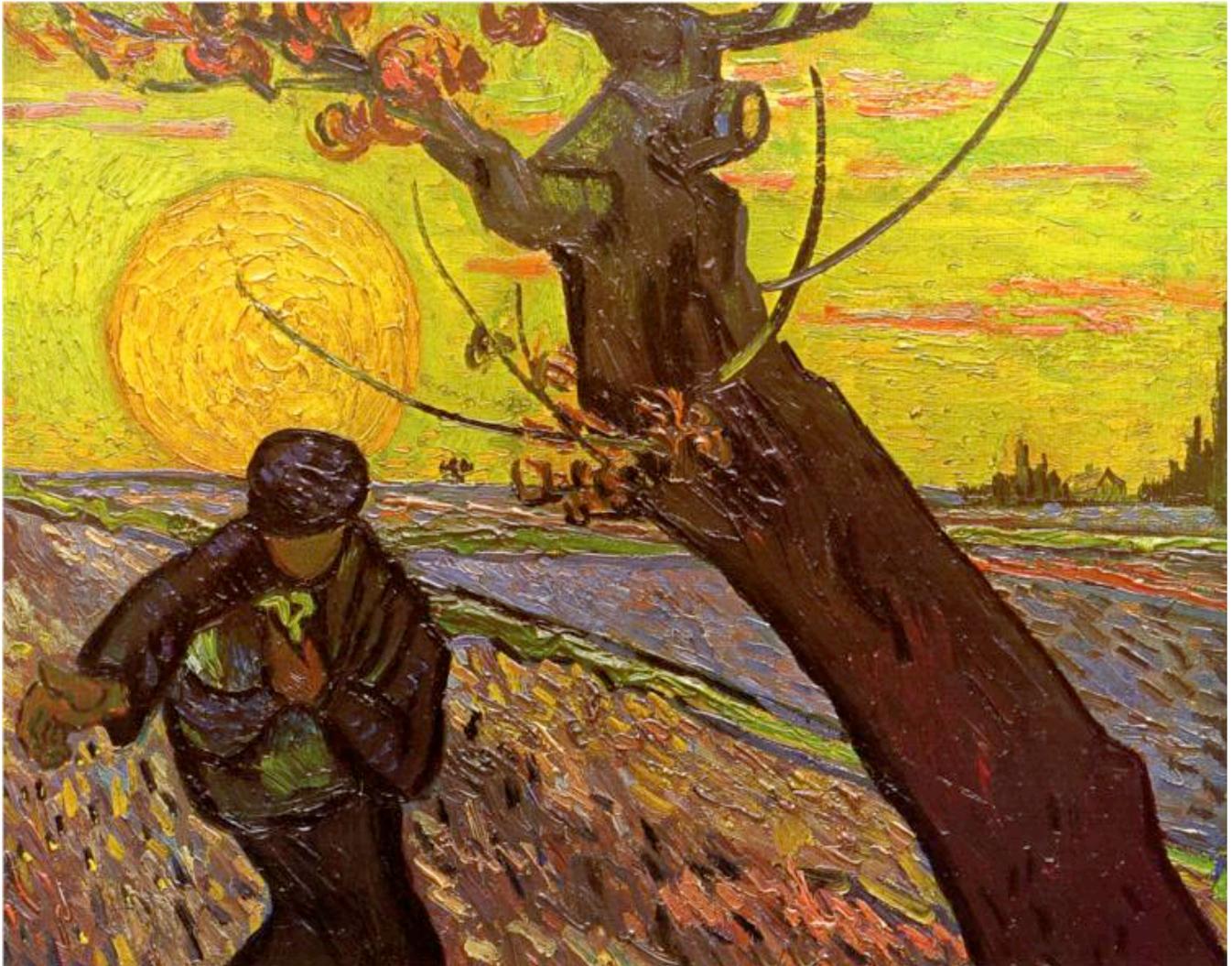
Red Studio  
Artist: Henri Matisse  
Completion Date: 1911  
Style: Expressionism  
Genre: interior

**Pablo Picasso**, Pablo Ruiz y Picasso, known as Pablo Picasso and lived from October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1881 – 8 April 1973. He was a Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist, and stage designer who spent most of his adult life in France. As one of the greatest and most influential artists of the 20th century, he is widely known for co-founding the Cubist movement, the invention of constructed sculpture,<sup>[2][3]</sup> the co-invention of collage, and for the wide variety of styles that he helped develop and explore. He is commonly regarded as one who defined the revolutionary developments in painting.



An artist  
Artist: Pablo Picasso  
Completion Date: 1963  
Style: Naïve Art (Primitivism)  
Period: Later Years  
Genre: symbolic painting  
Technique: oil  
Material: canvas  
Dimensions: 100 x 73 cm

**Van Gogh** is generally considered the greatest painter after Rembrandt, and one of the greatest of the Post-Impressionists. The striking color, emphatic brushwork, and contoured forms of his work powerfully influenced the current of Expressionism in modern art. Van Gogh's art became astoundingly popular after his death, especially in the late 20th century, when his work sold for record-breaking sums at auctions around the world and was featured in blockbuster touring exhibitions. He was born March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1853 in Zundert, Netherlands and died July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1890 in Auvers-sur-Oise, France.



**Sower**

Artist: Vincent van Gogh

Completion Date: 1888

Place of Creation: Arles-sur-tech, France

Style: Post-Impressionism

Genre: genre painting

Technique: oil

Material: canvas

Dimensions: 73.5 x 92 cm

Gallery: Bührle Foundation, Zürich, Switzerland

As a painter of controlled nature, **Claude Monet**'s garden was one of his biggest sources of inspiration. As such, he wrote precise instructions for his gardeners, with specific designs and color layouts, and amassed a large collection of botanical books. At one time, he employed seven gardeners at once. After his death of lung cancer, his only surviving child, Michel, was heir to the Monet family property, which has since been restored and opened to the public, including the vast gardens.



**Wild Poppies, near Argenteuil**

Artist: Claude Monet  
Completion Date: 1873  
Style: Impressionism  
Genre: genre painting  
Technique: oil  
Material: canvas  
Dimensions: 65 x 50 cm

**Frida Kahlo** is one of the first women ever to be accepted as one of the world's greatest painters. She was a Mexican painter best known for her surrealist self-portraits, depicting her intense emotional and physical pain. She was three years old at the onset of the Mexican Revolution, a fact which colored her from the very beginning of her life, including accounts of how her mother would invite the hungry revolutionaries in for dinner. Frida suffered Polio from an early age as well as many injuries during her lifetime.

Frida Kahlo

Frida Kahlo is one of the first women ever to be accepted as one of the world's greatest painters. She was a Mexican painter best known for her surrealist self-portraits, depicting her intense emotional and physical pain. She was three years old at the onset of the Mexican Revolution, a fact which colored her from the very beginning of her life, including accounts of how her mother would invite the hungry revolutionaries in for dinner. Frida suffered Polio from an early age as well as many injuries during her lifetime.



**The Bride Frightened at Seeing Life Opened**

Artist: Frida Kahlo  
Completion Date: 1943  
Style: Naïve Art (Primitivism)  
Genre: still life  
Technique: oil  
Material: canvas  
Dimensions: 63 x 81.5 cm  
Gallery: Collection of Jacques and Natasha Gelman Mexico City, Mexico