

Formal Elements of Art

Expressive Line





Learning Objective

- To understand how to use expressive line in the style of Vincent van Gogh.

Success Criteria

- To experiment with a variety of lines, dots and swirls when painting with watercolours.
- To reflect on personal work and the work of others, providing positive, constructive feedback.
- To apply artistic techniques to imitate the style of Vincent van Gogh.

Emotion in Line



Take a look at this selection of lines.

Can you think of any adjectives we could apply to them?

Can you “see” any of these words?

Nervous

Graceful

Angry

Confident

Happy

Hesitant

Excited

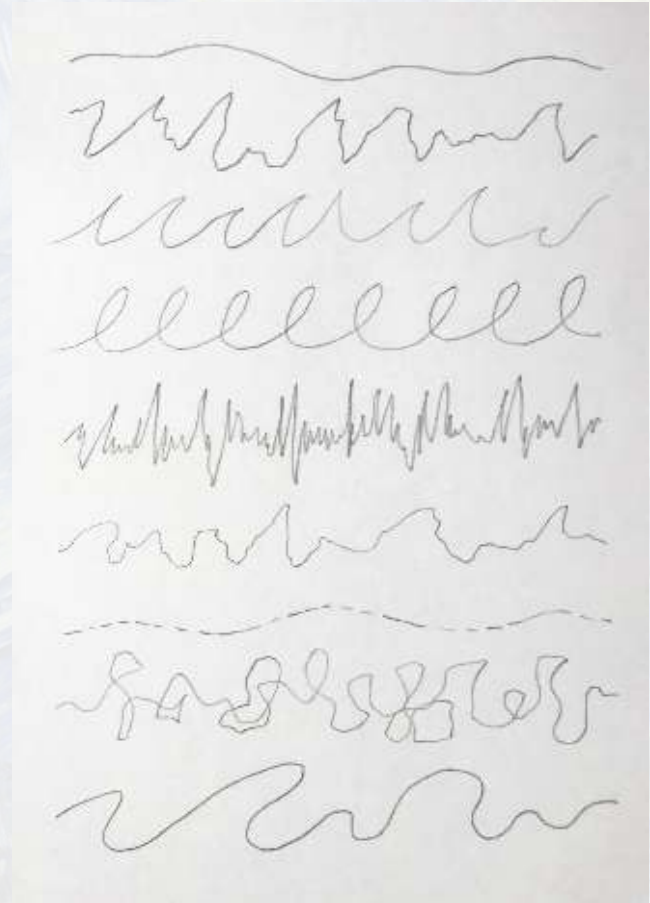
Joyful

Calm

Free

Dancing

Quiet

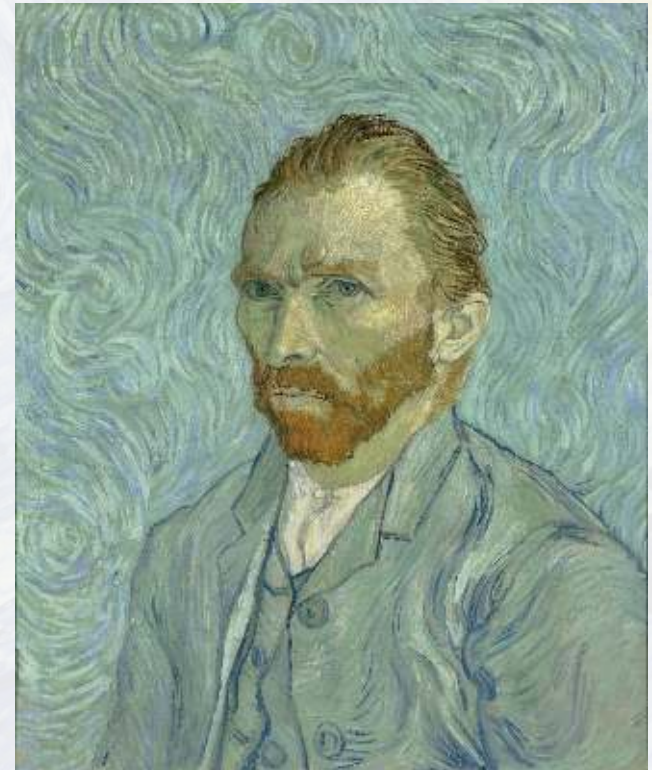


Vincent van Gogh



Vincent van Gogh was a Dutch Post-Impressionist painter. His artwork and recognised style has been extremely influential throughout history.

He has created thousands of paintings with his most famous works being created in his last few years of life.



Vincent van Gogh
'Self portrait' - 1889

What do you think about the colour palette that the artist has chosen here?

What mood does it represent?

Vincent van Gogh

Van Gogh's paintings were mainly landscapes and portraits. Known for their dramatic, expressive, bold colours and brushstrokes. His distinctive style was influenced by his years of poverty, mental illness and travel throughout Europe.



Vincent van Gogh
'Cypresses in Starry Night' - 1889



Vincent van Gogh
'Self-Portrait with Grey Felt Hat' - Winter 1887-88

Vincent van Gogh



Where has Vincent van Gogh used expressive lines within his work?

What mood or emotion do the paintings convey?



Vincent van Gogh
'Olive Trees with the Alpilles
in the Background' - 1889



Vincent van Gogh
'Starry Night' - 1889

Expressive Line

Your first task this lesson is to practice and experiment with different types of expressive line using watercolour paints.

You will then produce your own Van Gogh-inspired landscape using a variety of different types of line and tones of colour.



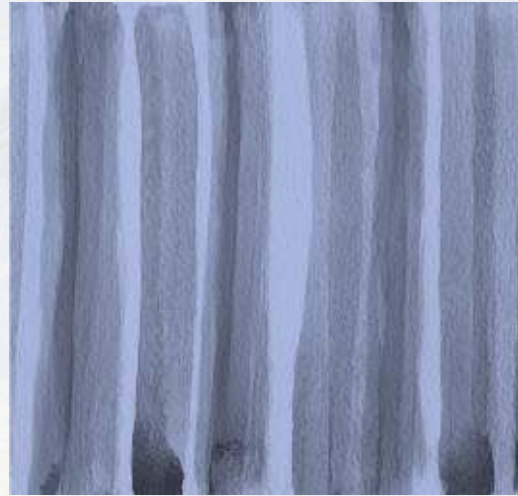
Vincent van Gogh
'Landscape with Houses' - 1890

Key Terms

Expressive line, emotion, mood,
line, dots, curves, waves,
thick, thin, tone, layers.



Experimenting with Line



Before creating your landscape study you need to practice with a variety of dots, lines and mixing/blending of colour and tone. Looking at Van Gogh's work you should try to mimic the swirls, curves and wavy lines he used in his work to show the shape and form of the buildings, trees and sky.

Equipment Needed:

- Watercolour paper/Cartridge Paper
- Paintbrushes
- Watercolour paints
- Water pots
- Paper towels

Pause and Reflect



What went well? Even better if...

Now it is time to look at another student's experimental work and provide them with positive, constructive feedback.

Swap places with the person next to you and look at each other's work. Consider the questions below and then discuss each other's work.

What went well?

- Did they use a variety of lines, dots, swirls, curves and blending?
- Have they experimented with different thicknesses of line?
- Have they mixed their watercolour paint with water to create light, medium and dark tones?

Pause and Reflect



Now think about one thing that they could do to improve their work.

Some examples...

- You could try to use thinner/thicker lines
- You could now experiment with dots/curves/swirls/blending/etc.
- You could try mixing your paint with water to create different tones of your chosen colour

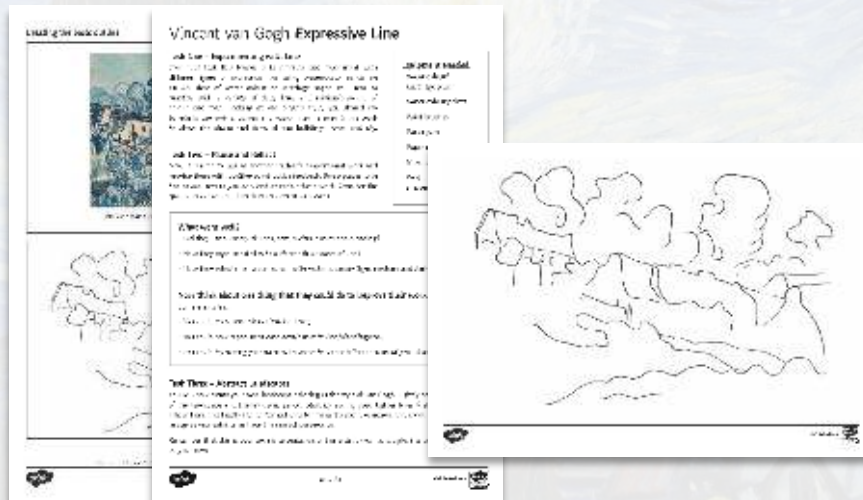


Abstract Landscapes



Now that you have had a practice at using watercolour paints to achieve a variety of line, dots and curves, you will use these techniques within your own landscape study.

Using cartridge paper and a pencil, draw the basic outline of the landscape and houses. Start by adding your lighter lines first, then the medium colour lines and finally the darker outlines to frame the roofs, windows and doors. Keep looking at the image as you paint.



Vincent van Gogh
'Landscape with Houses' - 1890

The background of the entire slide is a reproduction of the painting 'The Starry Night' by Vincent van Gogh. It features a turbulent, swirling night sky with bright yellow stars and a crescent moon, reflected in a dark, choppy sea. In the foreground, a small village with a prominent church spire is visible.

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What Have You Learnt Today?



Bring your work together as a class.

Look around at each other's artwork, thinking about the success criteria. It is important that we look at the work of other artists in our class and share our ideas and thoughts.

Consider the following questions and be prepared to share your answers, thoughts and opinions with the class.

Is there a piece of work that meets the success criteria really well? Explain your choice.

Who has used a wide variety of line and thicknesses successfully?

Who has been working in the style of the artist?

Can you pick out a piece of work that you think needs developing?
How? Why?



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