Famous Artist Essay: Vincent Van Gogh

Student Example
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INTRODUCTION: Vincent Van Gogh was a unique and unusual man. He was born in Holland in 1853. He did not start painting until he was 27 years old. Before that time he had tried other careers, but he just didn’t fit with them. He attempted to be a minister, a missionary, an art dealer, and a teacher. None of these careers suited him though. He had much help from his younger brother, Theo. Theo helped Vincent emotionally and financially as he started his new art career. Vincent Van Gogh was nearly a self-taught painter. He actually did not paint for first two years as an artist because he was perfecting is drawing skills. He moved to Paris in 1884 were he began to be influenced by the Impressionists. While in Paris, he began to use bright colors instead of dark, moody hues. Van Gogh ended up moving to Arles because he wasn’t a big fan of the city life. In Arles, Van Gogh wanted to establish an art colony but his personality didn’t get along with Paul Gauguin, who was going to be his partner. Van Gogh wore tattered clothes and he had a habit of being moody and stubborn. He didn’t interact well with the others around him. Everyone always thought that he was different and unusual. The people in Arles actually signed a petition to have Vincent removed from town. He wasn’t accepted by the people around him.

PAINTING 1: Vincent Van Gogh painted, Starry Night, on the evening of June 19, 1889. It was a clear night in south France. In this painting there is great utilization of many principles and elements of art. The great wavy lines that represent the sky are utilizing the line and the way it curves gives the feeling of a moving sky. The shapes are all wavy and indefinite. This will give the impression of a true night with nothing perfect about it. The texture of the lines has short strokes instead of long and drawn out strokes. The colors are mainly cool colors, with blues and greens. The cool colors clam the picture and give a sense of balance. There is the yellow within the stars that make them appear to stand out and catch a person’s attention. The movement of the painting shows the real life atmosphere that Van Gogh was painting from. There is an emphasis on the tree-like object and how it reaches all the way to the sky, whereas the little church building barely reaches the mountains. The rhythm of this painting comes in knowing that the sky is flowing and the calmness of the night. The cool colors and the curved lines all flow together to give this painting a sense of unity.
PAINTING 2: Another painting that Van Gogh did was a sunflower painting. This was only of about a dozen sunflower paintings. All of these paintings were done during the two or three years he lived in Arles in Southern France. In these paintings he didn’t depict the illusions of light in the work; he emphasized the structure and contour of the subject. The form of the contour of the subject is strengthened by the line dividing the table and the wall. This picture has many of the same types of colors. They aren’t colors that would clash with each other, instead there are yellows, greens, and some touches of blue. These colors seem to mix well and blend with each other. The bright yellow of the sunflowers make them stand out and vibrant. The soft blue-green of the background nicely adds to the power of the yellow. Since the table is yellow, it complements the sunflowers. These were painted as if in real life. There weren’t any unnatural colors added to these objects. The textures of the table and the background are smooth and relaxing. The flowers tend to go every way, which kind of contradicts the relaxed feeling of the background. The emphasis is most definitely on the flowers, which are bold and vibrant. There is a good deal of unity in this painting because all the pieces and colors tend to flow together.

PAINTING 3: The third work of art is the one that I am painting for my famous artist painting. It is The Café at Night. This painting has good contrast in the intensity and values. The back is almost completely dark, and as you move closer, it becomes lighter and brighter. The café is light up, while in the background you see the stars in the night sky. The emphasis is on the café. Vincent Van Gogh showed this by making this the eye-catching part of the painting. There is a lot of variation is color, as there are many different colors all over the painting. The rough, bumpy texture of the cobble stone gives the sense of a little town in front of the big city. The bumpy cobble stone shows the roughness of the ground. There is movement from the bright, warm café to the dark, starry sky. The tree on the side of the painting adds space from a forest type area.
PAINTING 4: Another piece of art work that Van Gogh has is called, “Farmhouse in Provence.” It is a view of the part of France that Van Gogh loved the best. It’s the beautiful, sunny South. When he moved to Arles in 1888, the small town atmosphere with great landscapes inspired him to paint his most powerful pictures. This painting has a sense of movement all throughout it. The clouds appear to be moving and the quick, short brush strokes for the grass make the effect of it blowing in the wind. This painting consists mainly of the primary colors. If you look close, it is mainly made up of reds, blues, and yellows. There is not much variation in the color since it is mainly only three colors. There is definitely some contrast to this painting. The spiky tips of the trees are colliding with the soft flow of the clouds. Then there is the smooth path up toward the farmhouse, which is surrounded by the grass that is blowing every way. The lines of the farmhouse are not definite and precise, which adds to the feeling of movement. They too, in a way, seem to be blowing in the wind. This painting appears to be balanced in the back of the picture. The farmhouse and barn are balancing the back. On the contrary, the front is not balanced. On the right side there is the path to the house and on the left side there is only the man walking. This painting does portray, as Van Gogh wanted, the beauty of South France.

CONCLUSION: Vincent Van Gogh was a very talented artist with a lot of pieces. He made many great works of art to show the world. Even though some of his neighbors may have felt he was crazy, he was able to get inspiration from many different scenes and objects. Van Gogh was able to leave behind him, many different types of art and many different art works that can be enjoyed by everyone. Although Van Gogh was practically a self taught artist, he did very well with what he discovered for himself. He was able to believe in himself and grow to his own ability. Yes Van Gogh had financial help from his brother, but that just shows tat they had a loving relationship. It means that his brother supported his career decision. I believe that people will remember him today because his work is so natural and it is easy to relate to. His art work has a sense of the real world that people have lived in or wish to live in now. Anytime someone can relate to something, they are more likely to appreciate the thought or gesture. Vincent Van Gogh was an outstanding artist and his work will be in memory for a long time to come.