

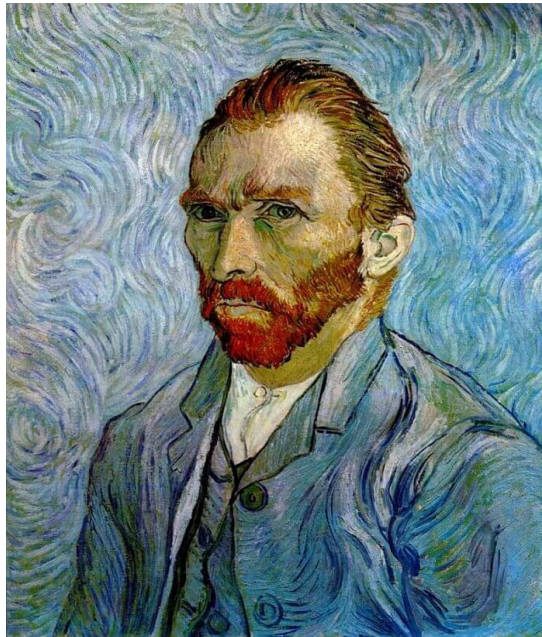
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ST1202**

**Contemporary Art
Week 1: Side by side (1LM1) - ARG**

Search the Internet for contemporary artworks based on one that has been done in the past. Print the original and new images side by side and then do the following in writing:

1. Describe the artwork done by an artist in the past.

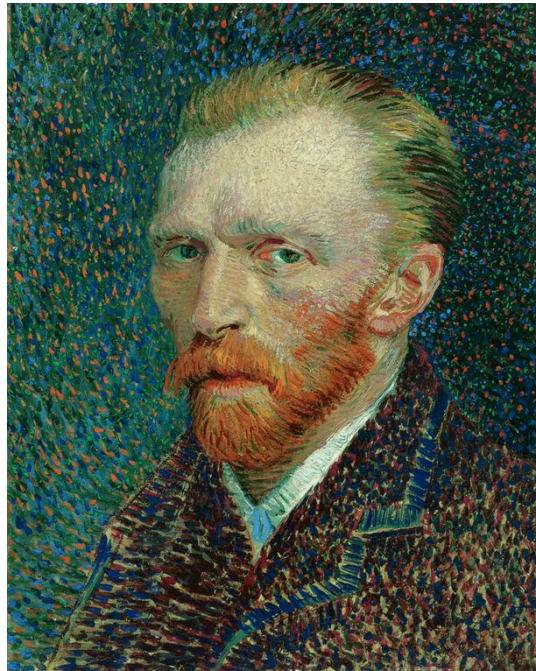
Vincent Van Gogh is one of the renowned artists, with his most famous artwork "The Starry Night." He made several paintings of himself, including those he painted in 1889, months before his death. This last self-portrait he painted is shown below and considered as one of the greatest. According to a few journals and articles, these paintings depict a deeper meaning than what it could possibly be.



Self-Portrait, 1889 by Vincent Van Gogh

The background of the subject reminds me of the rhythms of The Starry Night. The portrait resembles the same blue tone on the said painting and the flowing, pulsing forms of the background. According to vincentvangogh.org, these characteristics of the painting are "related to the undulant forms of the decorative art of the 1890's". It is no doubt that

this pattern or rhythm, which made him famous, depicts an overflow of Vincent Van Gogh's feelings towards the surroundings. If we look into the painting, we can realize that the subject is really popping from its background as it has more contrast and dimension. It shows a man, Van Gogh himself, with a strong, confident, and aggressive face — showing a sign of madness. Although not painted as accurately as a real face, the facial features show a dominant unfriendly face that is hard to approach. The portrait shows vitality. There is a resemblance between the man's clothing and background, which makes the face the focus and different from the rest.



Self-Portrait, 1887 by Vincent Van Gogh

The painting is filled with bountiful dabs of red and blue amassing over the strong green background, and by the way where the rosy earthy color of the coat is delivered in a sort of mosaic of dim blue-green, orange-red, and yellow specks. The splendid red facial hair and yellow-earthy colored hair have been developed from independent brushstrokes in strong tones, and the artist has left hints of corresponding unmixed green in the eyebrows, hair, and facial hair. I chose to add this portrait because it is very different from the first one, although the subject's pose is identical. The emotions in this oil painting show more neutrality, depicted through his eyes and the painting's texture. Personally, I like this better than his last self-portrait, even if the last one has more depth of meaning than this portrait. If his painting from 1889 shows strong personality and dominance, this 1887 self-portrait has more of a submissive and friendly trait. I feel like other artworks positively influenced this portrait during those times, and distinctively, this is more of a slide from Van Gogh's style of art, which mostly includes and patterns and swirls.

2. Describe the new artwork based on the previous artwork.



A Contemporary Take on Van Gogh's Self Portrait, 2021 by Viella Dean Agno

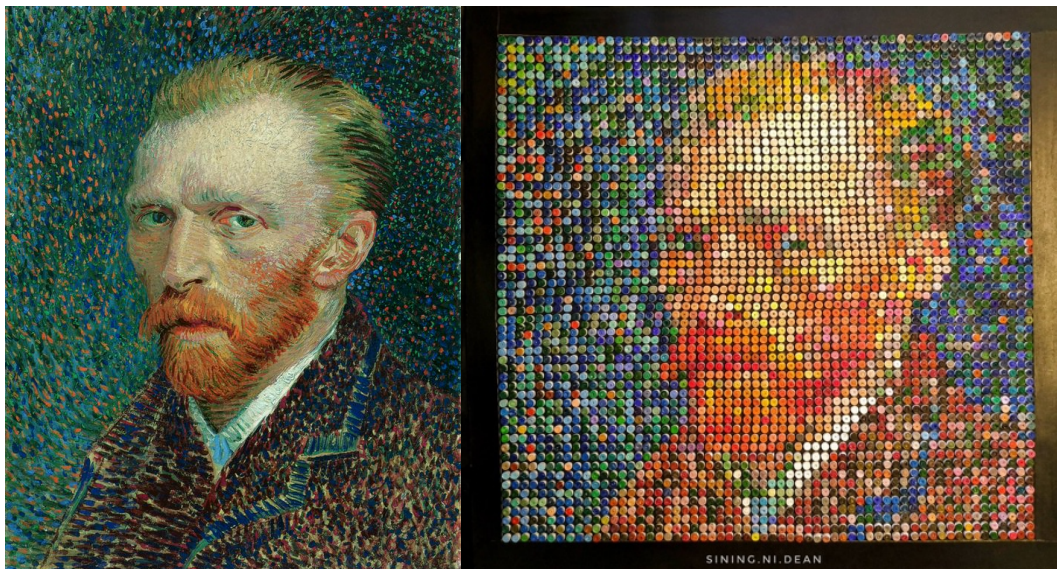
Personally, I love how creative the artist went in making this artwork. The artist mentioned that she views the amount of paper she uses in school as an opportunity to think of creative ways to make use of the trash. It was a brilliant idea to use rolled pieces of paper and paint to recreate Vincent Van Gogh's famous artwork. When you look at it from afar, you wouldn't know that it is made from recycled paper unless you went up close. The use of colors is bright and on point, and it is recognizable that the portrait looks pretty much the same as the original—with few exceptions, of course, which I will discuss in the latter part of this activity. The artist doesn't have much control over the colors of this art piece compared to an ordinary oil canvas. But regardless, it is well presented, especially if you look at few steps from it.



Photographer Tadeo Cern's Recreation of Van Gogh's Self-Portrait

In her artwork, the photographer recreated Vincent Van Gogh's famous self-portrait of 1889 using a live model, period clothing, and a bit of digital retouching. It is brilliant how he portrayed the original self-portrait by capturing a pose from a model. Few people would recognize how much art is poured into photography. Together with the people behind this contemporary artwork, Tadeo Cern did an amazing job to pretty much accurately recreate the original portrait by focusing on the clothing, beard, style, and color of the photo. The subject, which is the model, I can say looks very much like Vincent Van Gogh. It is undeniably creative how a person with a camera can capture art in the form of photography. I can sense the contemporary art feel just by looking at this picture. There is a strong similarity, especially with the emotion and expression of the subject, between the original and this photograph.

3. Compare the two. What qualities of contemporary art are manifested in the new artwork?



Noticeably, there is a difference between the original and contemporary artwork shown above. One of the distinctive qualities that make the contemporary art version of the original is the use of a different medium instead of a traditional canvas and oil paint. With the contemporary art version by Viella Dean Agno of the 1887 Self-Portrait of Vincent Van Gogh, she used a different technique and brilliant set of materials. Instead of recreating the portrait by oil painting on a canvas, she repurposed the used paper and painted it with bright colors that are also manifested in the original version. Although the colors are not as accurate as of the original because of the different approach/technique she used, it is still recognizable to be similar to the 1887 Self-Portrait by Van Gogh with a different touch from modernity in art-making.



On the contemporary version of the 1889 Self-Portrait of Vincent Van Gogh, I recognized that the photographer also used a different approach/technique by expressing and recreating the art through photography. The model creatively and amazingly portrays it. It is still considered contemporary art, albeit not following a specific rule like other forms of art from the past. Furthermore, even if the people behind this artwork did not finish an art degree, they still could carry out the project of recreating the original version of the portrait. The artwork is not an original piece, hence, created through inspiration from the past artwork with a different approach and process involved.