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| Van Gogh, Vincent Willem (1853-1890) |
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| Vincent van Gogh is considered one of the most important artists of Symbolism or Post-Impressionism. He was born in 1853 in Zundert, Holland, followed by five younger siblings. His father was a pastor and his uncles were art dealers. He worked for an art dealer and as a missionary before deciding to become an artist in 1880. His painting career was largely funded by his younger brother Theo, who worked at an art gallery in Paris. Van Gogh is also well known for the many detailed letters he wrote regarding his life and painting and for his psychological issues, including the fact that he cut off part of his own ear and later committed suicide. Significantly, however, despite his posthumous renown, he was not actually famous or financially successful during his life. He created a large number of works during his ten-year career as a painter, depicting a wide range of subjects, including landscapes, still-lifes, and portraits. His early paintings have a darker, Realist style, although he later moved toward brighter, more expressive canvases. His mature style incorporated religious and emotional symbolism through symbolic themes and motifs and utilised a variety of techniques, including heightened colors and rhythmic brushstrokes. |
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| Further reading:  (Druick)  (Feilchenfeldt)  (Kōdera)  (Silverman)  (Van Gogh)  (Van Gogh, Complete Letters of Vincent Van Gogh: With Reproductions of All the Drawings in the Correspondence) |