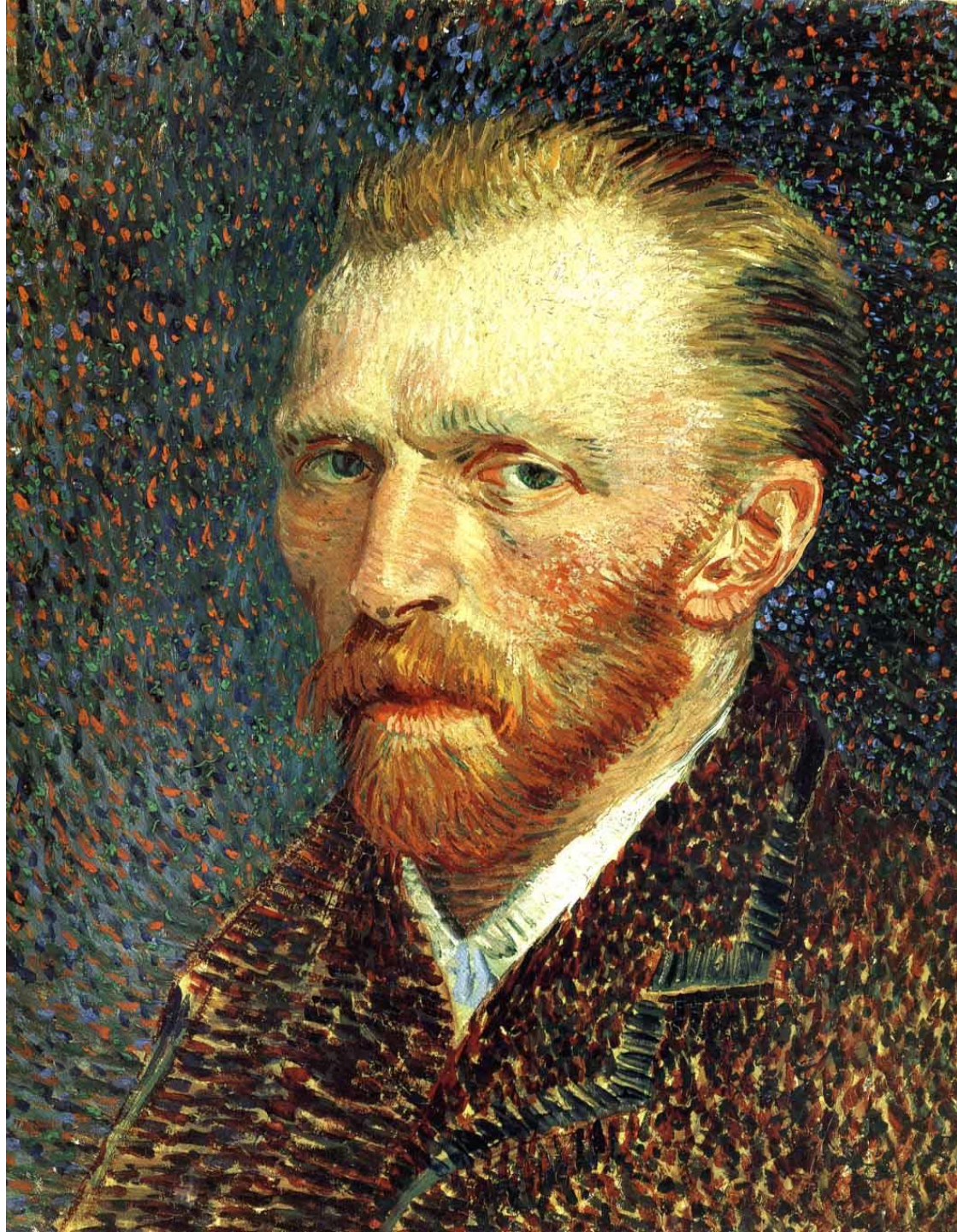


PORTRAIT

Vincent van Gogh

Self-portrait, spring 1887



Van Gogh - Background

- Lived 1853 - 1890 (committed suicide aged 37)
- Inspired by the **Impressionists**.
- Developed his own style as a post-Impressionist.
- Became 'father' to the **Expressionists**
- Started painting at 27 after many failed careers
- Self-taught but supported by brother Theo

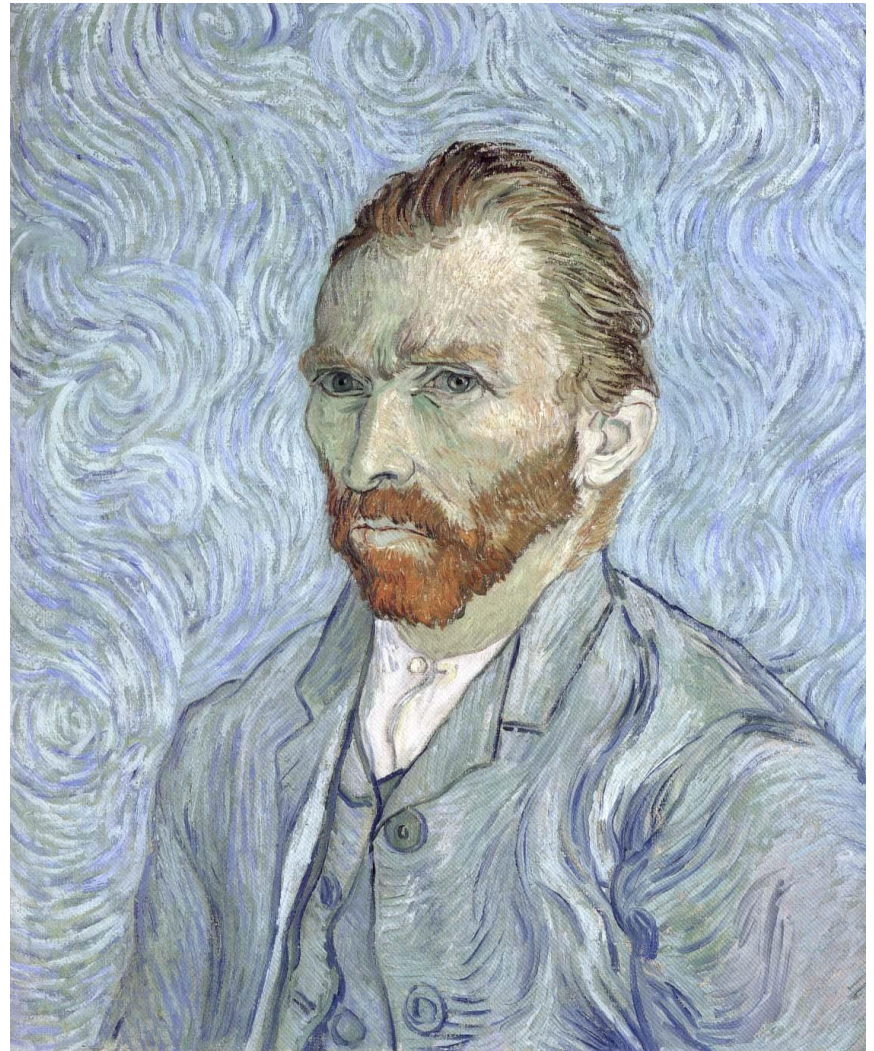
Van Gogh - Style and Techniques

- Style developed from Japanese reed pen drawings of dots, dashes, strokes and marks
- Pen drawing style then copied with paint brush
- Broken brush strokes give a feeling of life to paintings showing direction, energy and movement
- Strong colours used to express emotion
- Colours and shapes simplified to create impact
- Complementary colours used for dramatic impact
- Composition and viewpoints taken from Japanese prints

Van Gogh's Personality

- Obsessive approach to his painting
- Suffered from manic depression
- Very poor - supported financially and emotionally by brother Theo who bought him paint and canvases

Self-portrait, 1889





Portrait of Joseph Roulin, 1888.

Medium: Reed and quill pens and brown ink and black chalk.



Joseph Roulin, 1888, oil on canvas

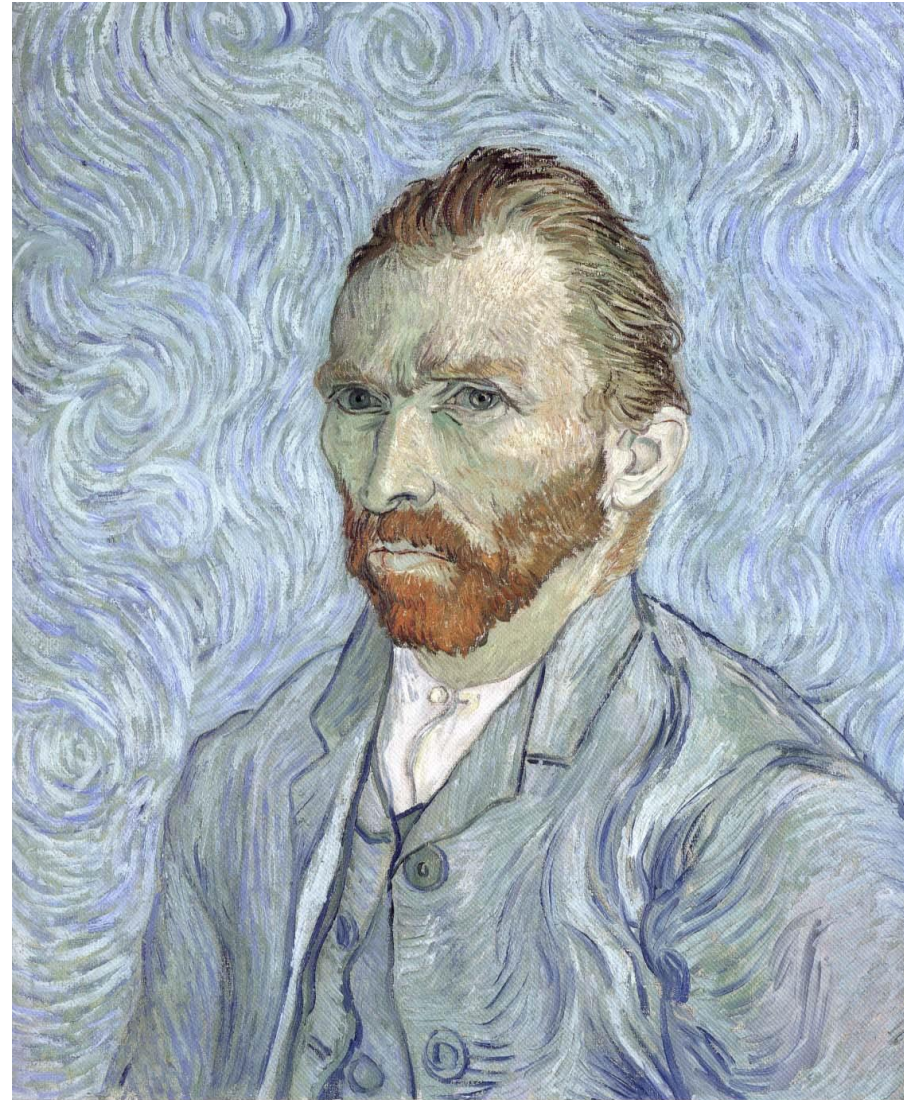
- Portrait of his friend the postman expresses how Vincent would like to be
- This is someone Vincent admired -a friendly family man, well- liked and respected by locals : something Vincent longed to be
- Proud and strong portrait with hat and jacket giving military feel : fit, healthy and upstanding
- Broad shoulders fill frame - confident, dependable looking right back at viewer gives feeling of control and calm
- Traditional approach -Realistic colours and flat, plain background- only his beard shows Van Gogh's trademark brushstrokes to make a feature of it to reflect his big, warm personality.

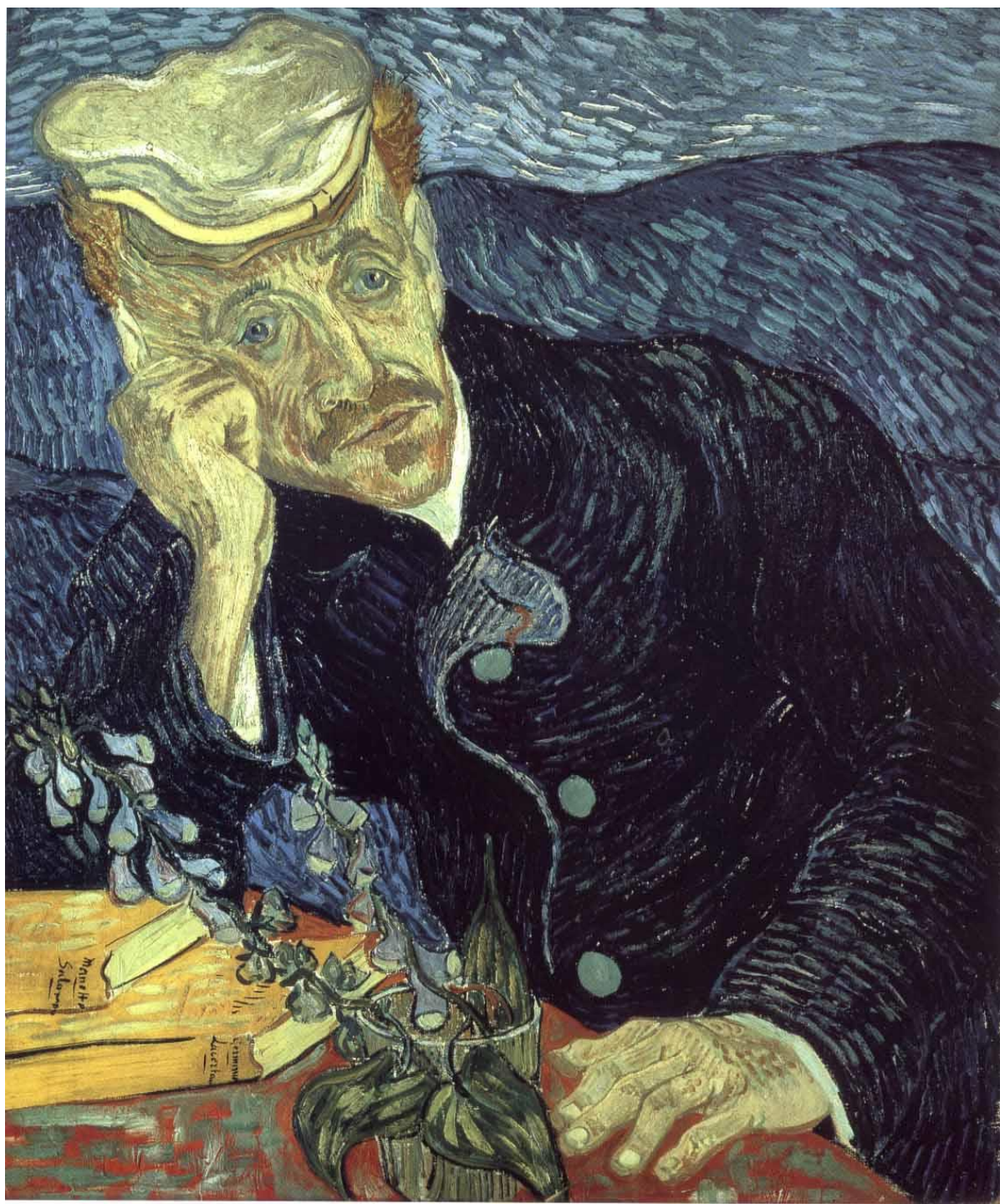




Self-Portrait, 1889, oil on canvas

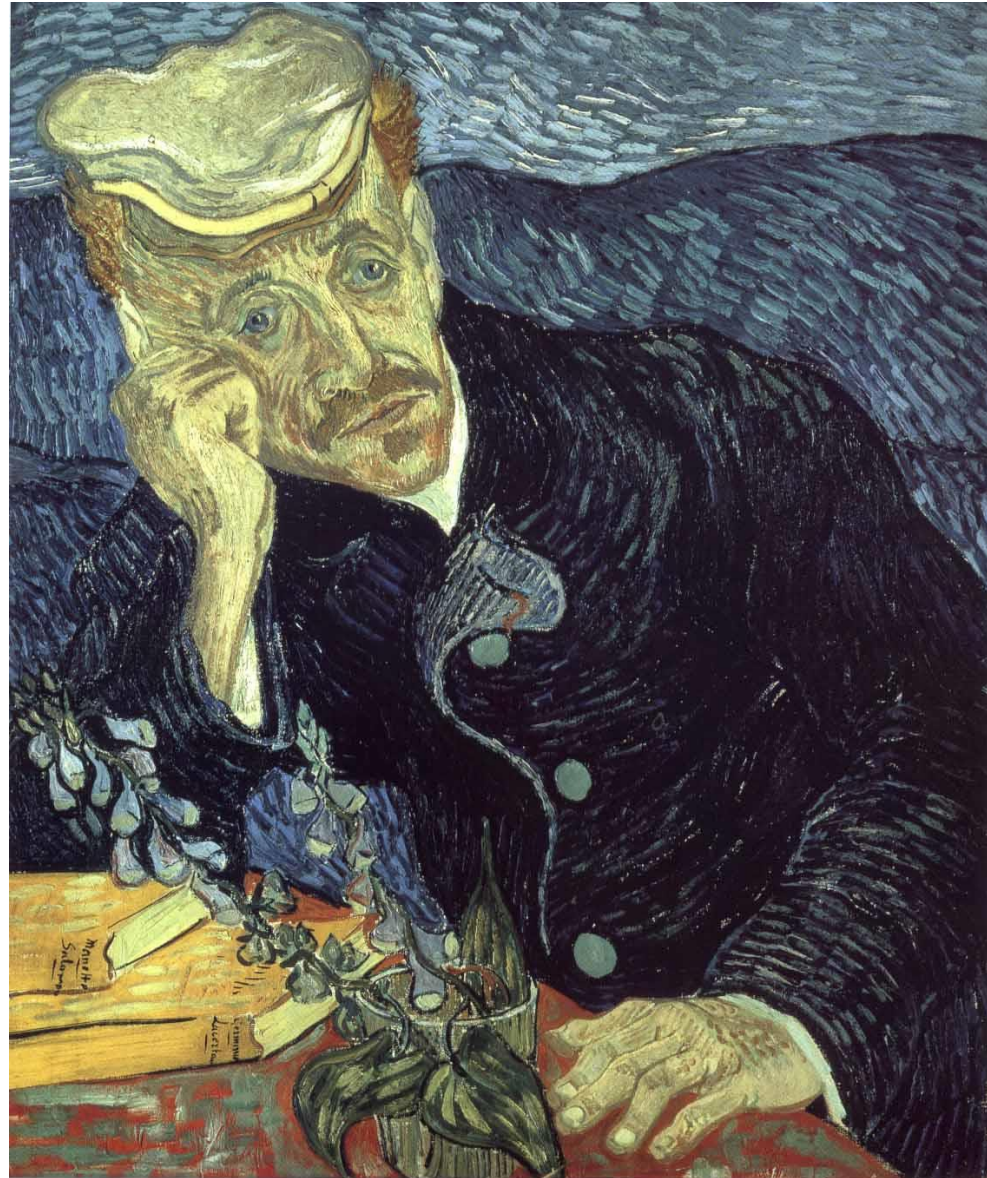
- This three-quarter view with piercing eyes expresses Vincent's volatile feelings about himself
- Fiery orange beard and hair stands out against complementary blue background represents his determination to fight his illness
- No background images of place or time emphasises his isolation and loneliness
- Exaggerated brushstrokes in jacket, hair and background give a feeling of unstable energy and movement
- Colours and lines of jacket blend with the swirling background expressing a feeling of unsettled confusion - a picture of what is going on in his head
- Head in centre of picture appears surrounded in a sea of energy expresses a feeling of losing control.



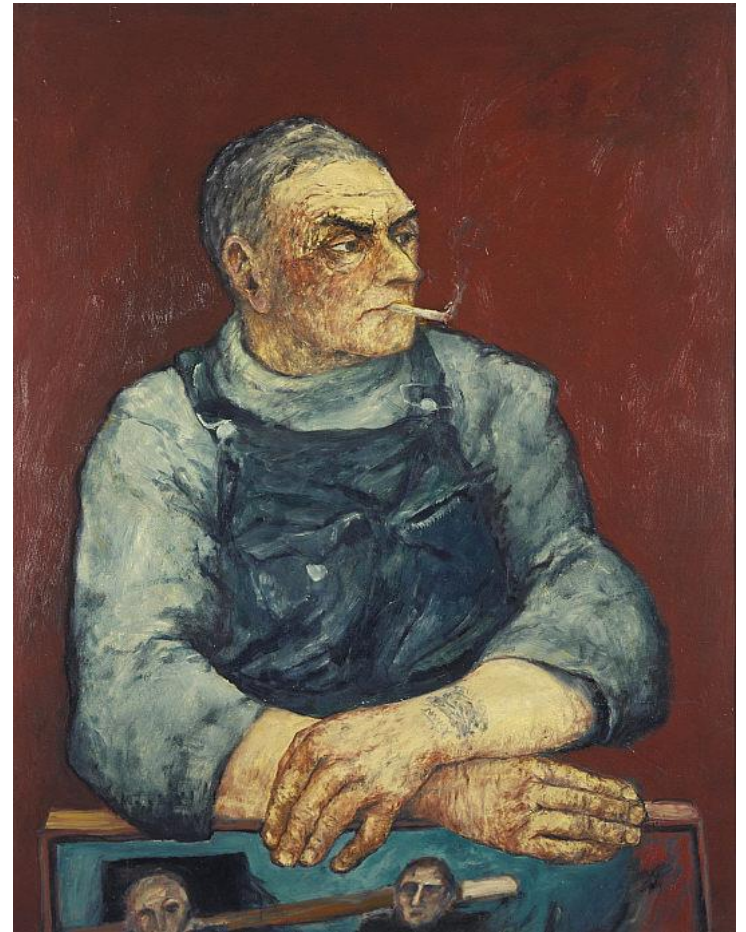


Portrait of Dr Gachet, 1890, oil on canvas

- “I have a portrait of Dr Gachet with the heart-broken expression of our time”
June 1890
- One of Vincent's last pictures before he killed himself expresses his feelings about life
- Vincent's depression is mirrored in Dr Gachet's image - physically and mentally frail and tired of life
- Gachet is bent over in a defeated, weary way leaning on his books
- Books represent learning and education but remain closed
- Image of hopelessness - Gachet's slump is echoed by wilting dying flower in vase
- Pale yellow, sickly face and 'far-away' eyes predict illness or death
- Short, broken brushstrokes start in Gachet's jacket then circle his head before taking the viewer to the hills and the sky beyond.



Van Gogh Influences - John Bellany



Van Gogh Influences - Peter Howson

