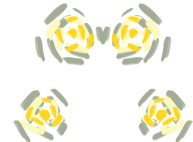
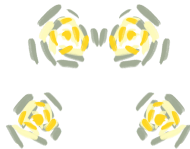


THE Van Gogh ROUTE

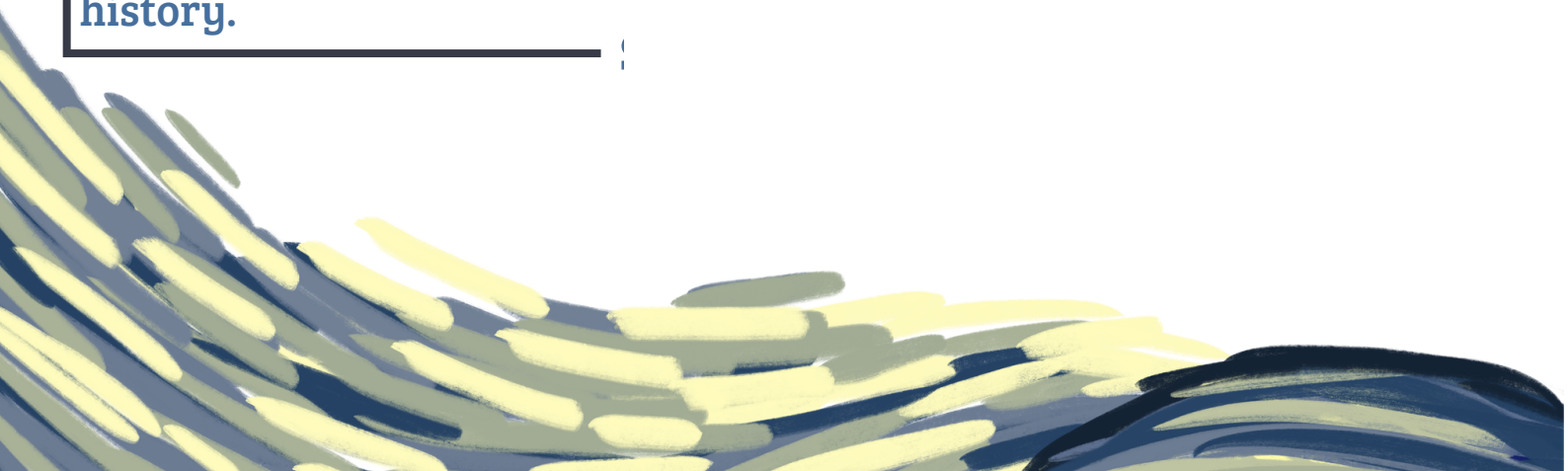


“ In Vincent Van Gogh’s footsteps in Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer ”



The painter Vincent van Gogh was born on March 30th 1853 in Groot-Zundert, Netherlands, and deceased on July 29th 1890 in Auvers-sur Oise, France. His style is often related to impressionism or pointillism, but he was a lonely and unique painter that was not conforming to any artistic movement.

After an unsuccessful beginning as art seller, then as aspiring pastor, he dedicated himself to painting around 1880. He leaves Netherlands for Belgium, then moves to France. Self-taught artist, Van Gogh created more than 2 000 pieces, mostly during the years 1880. His talent has not been acknowledged until his death, today he is considered as one of the most influential artists of art history.



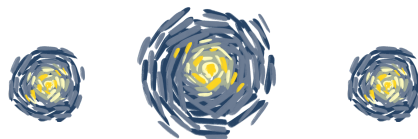
VINCENT VAN GOGH'S STAY IN SAINTES MARIES DE LA MER.

“

The Mediterranean - has a colour like mackerel, in other words, changing - you don't always know if it's green or purple - you don't always know if it's blue - because a second later, its changing reflection has taken on a pink or grey hue

”

~Van Gogh~



Vincent van Gogh, famous for his bright color paintings of Provence, arrives in the region in 1888.

He sets up in Arles during February, then goes to Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer in the beginning of June. He stays from the 10th to the 17th, appreciating the people from this village of 800 inhabitants mostly composed of gardians, fishermen and farmers.

In a letter to his brother Théo, he expresses his desire to paint "the effect of a blue sea and a blue sky". He produces tree paintings and eleven drawings. His stay in Arles ends in 1889, after creating almost 300 pieces, before his psychiatric internment in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence.



“ A walk through Van Gogh's colors... ”

1-Streets of Saintes-Maries



1888, oil on canvas 38.3 x 46.1 cm, private collection

Van Gogh depicts the houses built close together with surfaces in different colours. The sides of the houses facing the sun are painted in warm and light tints, and the shadow sides in blue.

2-View of Saintes-Maries



1888, oil on canvas, 64.0 x 53.0 cm, Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo

Apart from the rows of cultivated plants, the painting is dominated by the “green blue of the sky heated white-hot”, as the artist describes the light of Provence in one of his letters.

3- Gypsies camp



1888, oil on canvas, 45 x 51 cm, Orsay museum, Paris

There was a long tradition of gypsies living in the area surrounding Arles and into the wilds of the Camargue, and Van Gogh was drawn to what he perceived as their romantic and exotic life. He painted brilliant colours in parallel to their rich and exciting culture.

4- Fishing boats on a beach of Saintes-Maries



1888, oil on canvas, 65.0 x 81.5 cm, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam

The boats are made up of areas of uniform colour within strong outlines. Furthermore, the boats don't cast shadows on the beach. These stylistic elements were familiar to Van Gogh from his collection of Japanese prints.

5-Seascape of Saintes-Maries



1888, oil on canva, 64.0 x 53.0 cm, Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo

We can tell that Van Gogh painted this view of the sea from the beach, as grains of sand have been found in the paint layers.

In addition to the blue and white that he brushed onto the canvas with bold strokes, he used green and yellow for the waves.

6- Seascape of Saintes-Maries



1888, oil on canva, 44.0 x 53.0 cm, Pouchkine museum, Moscou

He applied these colours with a palette knife, neatly capturing the effect of the light through the waves. Van Gogh was enthusiastic about the colours of the Mediterranean Sea.

"I took a walk along the seashore one night, on the deserted beach. It wasn't cheerful, but not sad either, it was — beautiful."

7-View of Saintes-Maries with the church



Van Gogh, Saintes-Maries, June 1888, pencil, feather, reed and ink on paper, 43,5 x 60 cm, Collection Oskar Reinhart, Winterthur (F 1439, JH 1446)

He would often do a preparatory drawing on-site and later a painting. This large point of view of the village show the topography at the time of Van Gogh's stay. It was surrounded by grapevine.

8- Two houses in Saintes-Maries



Van Gogh, Saintes-Maries, June 1888, pencil, ink and reed on paper, 29 x 46 cm, Pierpont Morgan Library, New York (F 1440, JH 1451)

During his days in the picturesque village, he drew subjects that included these fishermen's huts. They reminded him of houses "like those on our Drenthe heaths and peat bogs". The one in the middle has a cross on it. That was a common sight on houses in this region, the Camargue.

9- Tree houses in Saintes-Maries



Van Gogh, Saintes-Maries, juin 1888, reed can and ink on paper, 33.5 x 41.5 cm, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (F 1438, JH 1448).

“I don’t believe there are 100 houses in this village or town.

The main building after the old church, an ancient fortress, is the barracks. And what houses at that — like those on our Drenthe heaths and peat bogs, you’ll see some specimens in the drawings.”

10-Houses in the Sun in Saintes-Maries



Van Gogh, Saintes-Maries, June 1888, pencil, reed pen, brush and ink on paper, 30.5 cm x 47.2 cm , Van Gogh Museum Amsterdam (F 1437, JH 1450).

Van Gogh felt that this drawing was 'a bit harsh' in its execution. He later used it as the basis for a painting, which is now in the Kunsthau Zürich..

11- Landscape of Saintes-Maries



Van Gogh, Saintes-Maries, June 1888, reed can and ink on paper 34,5 x 25 cm, Van Gogh Museum Amsterdam (F1498r).

Van Gogh made a lot of those quick drawings, using reed pen to represent the traditional houses of Camargue.

12- Beach and sea



Van Gogh, Saintes-Maries, June 1888 - reed can and ink on paper, 30,5 x 47,5 cm, Collection McIlhenny, Philadelphie (F 1342).

The drawing shows the activity of fishermen with their small boats. Van Gogh’s technique using the reed pen accentuate the movement of the wind and water. In a letter he describe the beach as “Sandy, no cliffs or rocks — like Holland — without the dunes and with more blue.”



13- Gypsies in Saintes-Maries



Van Gogh, Saintes-Maries, June 1888, reed can and ink on paper, 24,5 x 31,8 cm

Another quick drawing representing a family of gypsies in the countryside.

14- Fishing boats in Saintes-Maries



Van Gogh, Saintes-Maries, June 1888, pencil, feather, reed can and ink on paper, Private collection (F 1428, JH 1458).

“On the completely flat, sandy beach, little green, red, blue boats, so pretty in shape and colour that one thought of flowers; one man boards them, these boats hardly go on the high sea — they dash off when there’s no wind and come back to land if there’s a bit too much.”

15- Tree houses in Saintes-Maries



Van Gogh, Arles, June 1888, oil on canvas, 33.5 x 41.5 cm, Kunsthaus Zurich (F 419, JH 1465)

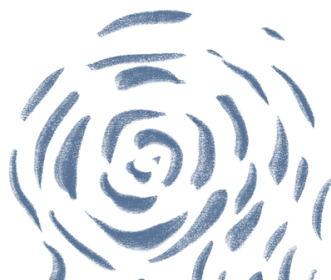
“Again, in this very naive landscape, which is meant to show us a hut, whitewashed overall (the roof, too), situated in an orange field, of course, because the sky in the south and the blue Mediterranean produce an orange that is all the more intense the higher in tint the range of blues. The black note of the door, of the window panes, of the little cross on the rooftop, creates a simultaneous contrast of white and black”

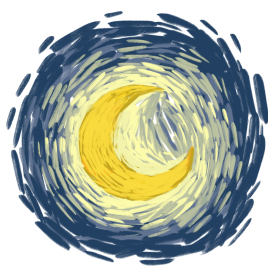
16- Self portrait



Van Gogh, Paris 1887, oil on canvas, 40.6 x 31.8 cm

At this time there were two registered boarding-houses in Saintes-Maries. It is possible that Van Gogh stayed at the cheaper of the two – Pension Coulomb « I board and eat for 4 francs a day... »





**The city of Saintes Maries de la Mer inaugurated on June 27th 2022 a
« Van Gogh's route » so visitors can discover the painter's work.
6 trestles are installed on the promenade of the sea.
This year, a second part of 9 reproductions has completed the route
through the village.**



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