

VAN GOGH

Ingo F. Walther



TASCHEN

Taschen

VAN GOGH (I) #BASICART

Ingo F. Walther

BA

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In evidenza

IN MOSTRA:

VAN GOGH. Tra il grano e il cielo - VICENZA, Basilica Palladiana, dal 7 ottobre 2017 al 8 aprile 2018.

Arte tormentata

Il talento e l'angoscia di un maestro del post-impressionismo

Oggi **Vincent van Gogh** (1853-1890) è universalmente considerato uno dei pittori più importanti di tutti i tempi. In opere come la serie dei *Girasoli*, *Notte stellata*, *Autoritratto con l'orecchio bendato*, e tanti altri disegni e dipinti, possiamo riconoscere un artista **incredibilmente dotato nella raffigurazione di luoghi e stati d'animo con diverse tecniche: pittura, pastello, gesso e carboncino.**

Tuttavia, proprio mentre con le caratteristiche **pennellate enfatiche** e i **colori sgargianti** dava vita alle **forme dai contorni netti** che gli avrebbero garantito la fama eterna, Van Gogh doveva combattere non solo contro il disinteresse del pubblico ma anche contro i **devastanti assalti della malattia mentale**, con episodi di depressione e ansia paralizzanti che lo condussero infine al suicidio nel 1890, poco dopo il suo 37° compleanno.

Questa introduzione all'opera e alla vita di Vincent van Gogh, ricca di illustrazioni, ne ripercorre la storia dai primi dipinti raffiguranti contadini e lavoratori, attraversando il luminoso periodo parigino, per approdare alla febbrile esplosione di creatività nel Sud della Francia, durante i suoi ultimi due anni e mezzo di vita.

La collana:

Ciascun volume della collana Basic Art di TASCHEN comprende:

- Una sintesi dettagliata che ripercorre cronologicamente la vita e l'opera dell'artista, soffermandosi sulla sua importanza a livello storico e culturale
- Una biografia concisa
- Circa 100 illustrazioni a colori con didascalie esplicative

L'autore:

Ingo F. Walther (1940-2007) è nato a Berlino e ha studiato medievistica, letteratura e storia dell'arte a Francoforte sul Meno e Monaco. Ha pubblicato svariati libri sull'arte medievale e del XIX e XX secolo. I numerosi volumi che ha scritto per TASCHEN includono *Vincent Van Gogh*, *Picasso*, *Art of the 20th Century* e *Codices Illustres*.

#BasicArt



Half Monk, Half Artist The Beginnings in Holland 1881-1885

Vincent van Gogh was a complete and utter failure in everything that seemed important to his contemporaries. He was not able to start a family, earn his own living, or even keep his friends. Yet in his paintings he was able to set down his own concept of order, against that of the chaos of reality around him. His art was an attempt to regulate a world with which he was obviously unable to come to terms. He countered its unfathomability with the harsh theoretically based criticism of the artist; its anonymity he impressed with his own finely balanced pathos and its run-of-the-mill workings with a solipsistic verve. His aim was not to escape reality, nor indeed to suffer by renouncing it, but instead to make it tangible in a comprehensive sense. In this way his art enabled him to accept the once so hostile world as his own.

His artistic talents were only recognized after his death. The bourgeoisie, whose ideas of value had been so repellent to him all of his life, now used the term "genius" to describe him. The once unloved Vincent now became a hero, the more art presented itself as a world of beautiful appearances. Art had been lodged for hundreds of years on the periphery of society and here van Gogh, himself an outsider, became a personality. He became the embodiment of worldly discontent which overcomes us all now and again. The Modern Age loves to toy with the image of the lonely misunderstood artist. Vincent van Gogh served as a perfect example and he became one of the first martyrs of the avant-garde.

The first son of the Protestant vicar Theodorus van Gogh was stillborn. Exactly one year later to the very day, on 30th March 1853, his wife, Anna Cornelia van Gogh, gave birth to another child. Full of fearful misgiving as to whether the child would survive, she gave it the same name as the first child: Vincent Willem van Gogh. From the moment of his birth, his life was overshadowed with doubts; Vincent's fundamental experience was and remained that of his foundering. His seemingly promising career as an art dealer, a trade of long-standing in the Netherlands and especially in his own family, ended in his dismissal. His study of theology, begun after this period, proved too much for him and ended a year later.

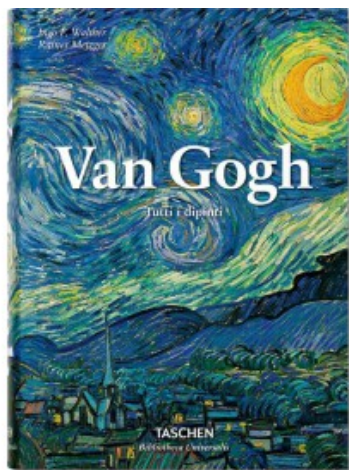
Following this, van Gogh tried his hand at supply teaching and lay preaching, serving in the Belgian coal-mining area of the Borinage amongst the most poverty-stricken of the poor. Yet the penetrating experience of extreme social



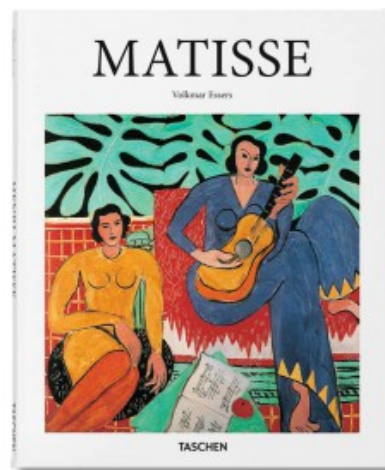
The Sower, 1882
Pen, brush, China ink, 65 x 40 cm (24 x 15 7/8 in.)
Amsterdam, P. & N. de Boer Foundation

FIGURE 6
Head of a Peasant Woman with White Cap
1890
Oil on canvas on panel, 41 x 31.5 cm
(16 x 12 3/8 in.)
Zürich, Stiftung Sammlung E.G. Biele

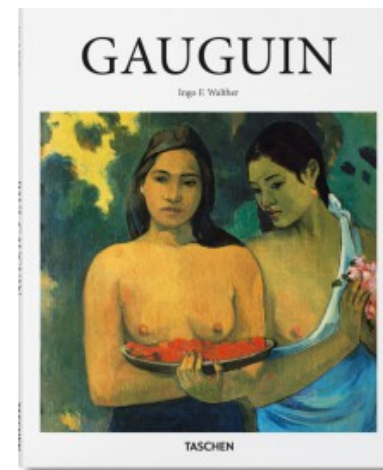
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