

Vincent van Gogh

1853-1889

Vincent

Vincent van Gogh was born in 1853 in the Netherlands (Holland). He was the oldest of 6 children. His father was a pastor and he had a loving, and supportive family but he grew up quite poor. He later made art to express to the rest of the world how hard it can be without food to eat.

He tried and failed at many careers before, at age 27, he decided to become an artist. It was unusual to make this decision so late in life in the 1800's.



The Potato Eaters

Vincent van Gogh's early paintings were quite dark and sad. This painting he created in 1885 was titled "The Potato Eaters". It shows a peasant family eating their evening meal by lamplight.



Café Terrace at Night 1888

Van Gogh later discovered some colourful Japanese artworks that inspired him with their bright colours. His art changed as he began to use bright colours. Van Gogh applied his paint very thick and painted his bright colours with short lines that were placed in a way that made his art seem alive and moving. It was unlike other painters at the time.

Oil paint was very expensive and van Gogh used a lot of it painting with thick lines. He had very little money aside what his family helped him with. He was so passionate about painting, however, that instead of using his money for food, he survived on stale bread and coffee so that he could use his money to buy paint.



Olive Trees

Van Gogh was often too sad to paint. We know about his feelings because he wrote letters constantly to his closest brother Theo and these letters have been saved.

He only ever signed the paintings he thought were good enough and very often he did not think his own work was good.

Van Gogh showed a lot of feeling in his paintings with his choices of bright colours. His choice of what to paint and the way he put the paint onto the canvas expressed his feelings about what he was looking at.



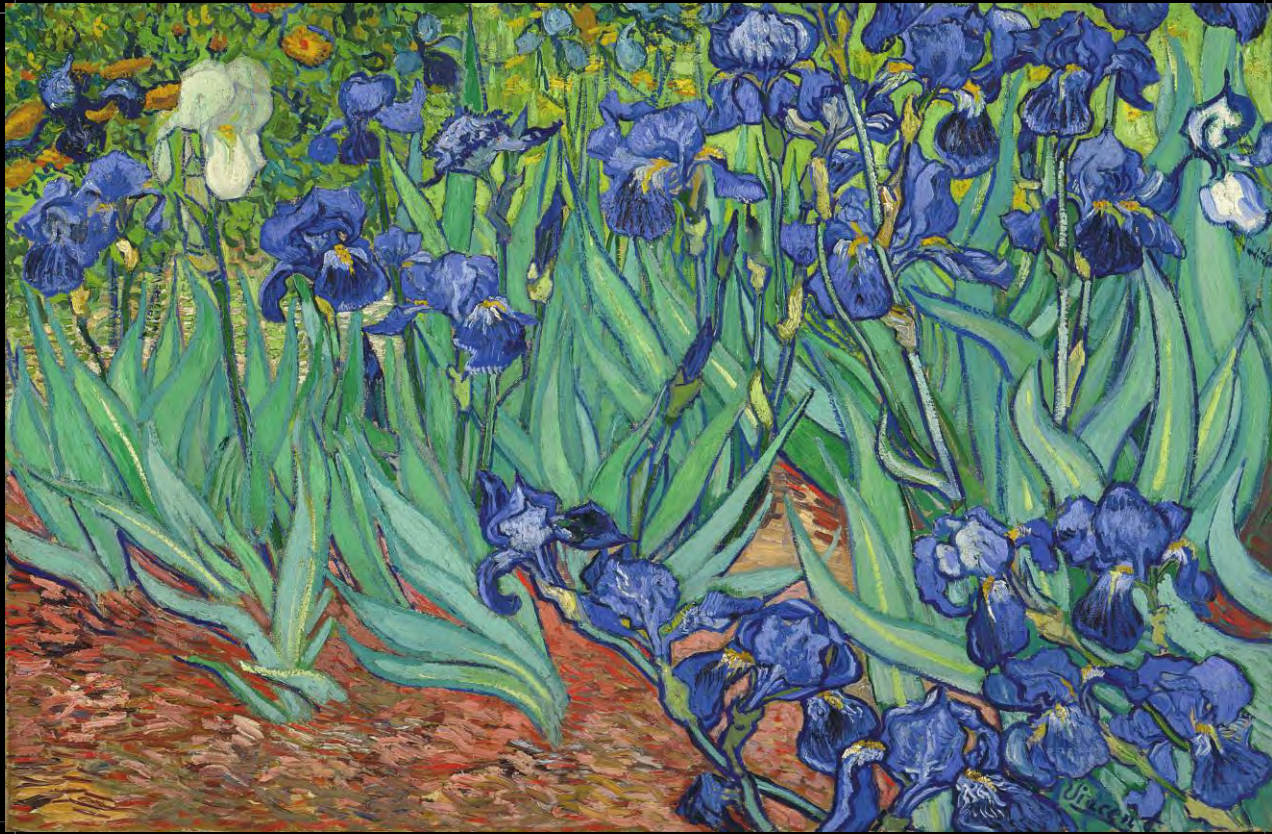
Wheatfield with Crows **1890**

Van Gogh only lived to be 37 years old. Of the hundreds of paintings he created, it is said that only one of his paintings was sold while he was alive.

Now he has paintings that sell for over \$100 million dollars.



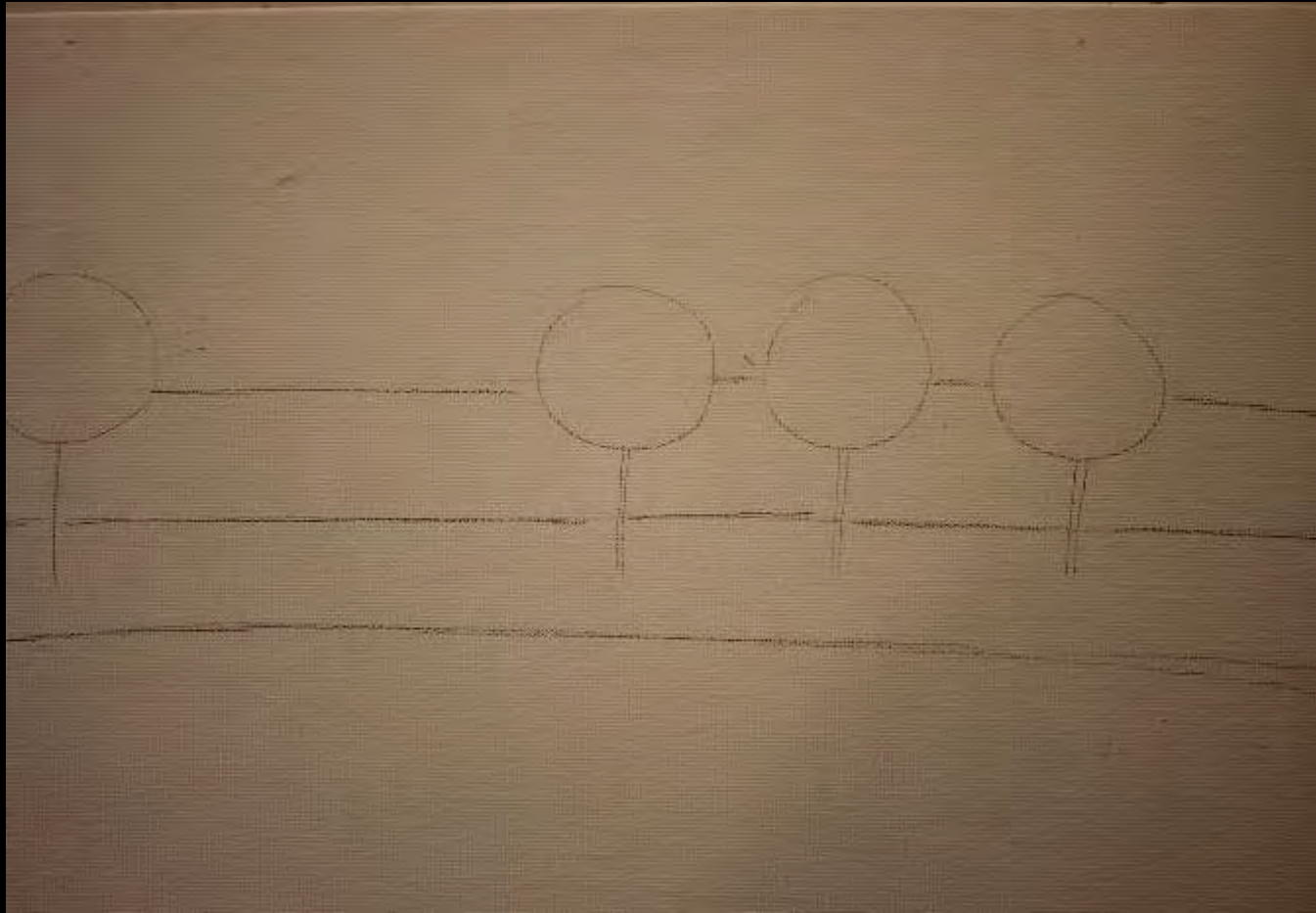
Vincent van Gogh Iris, 1889



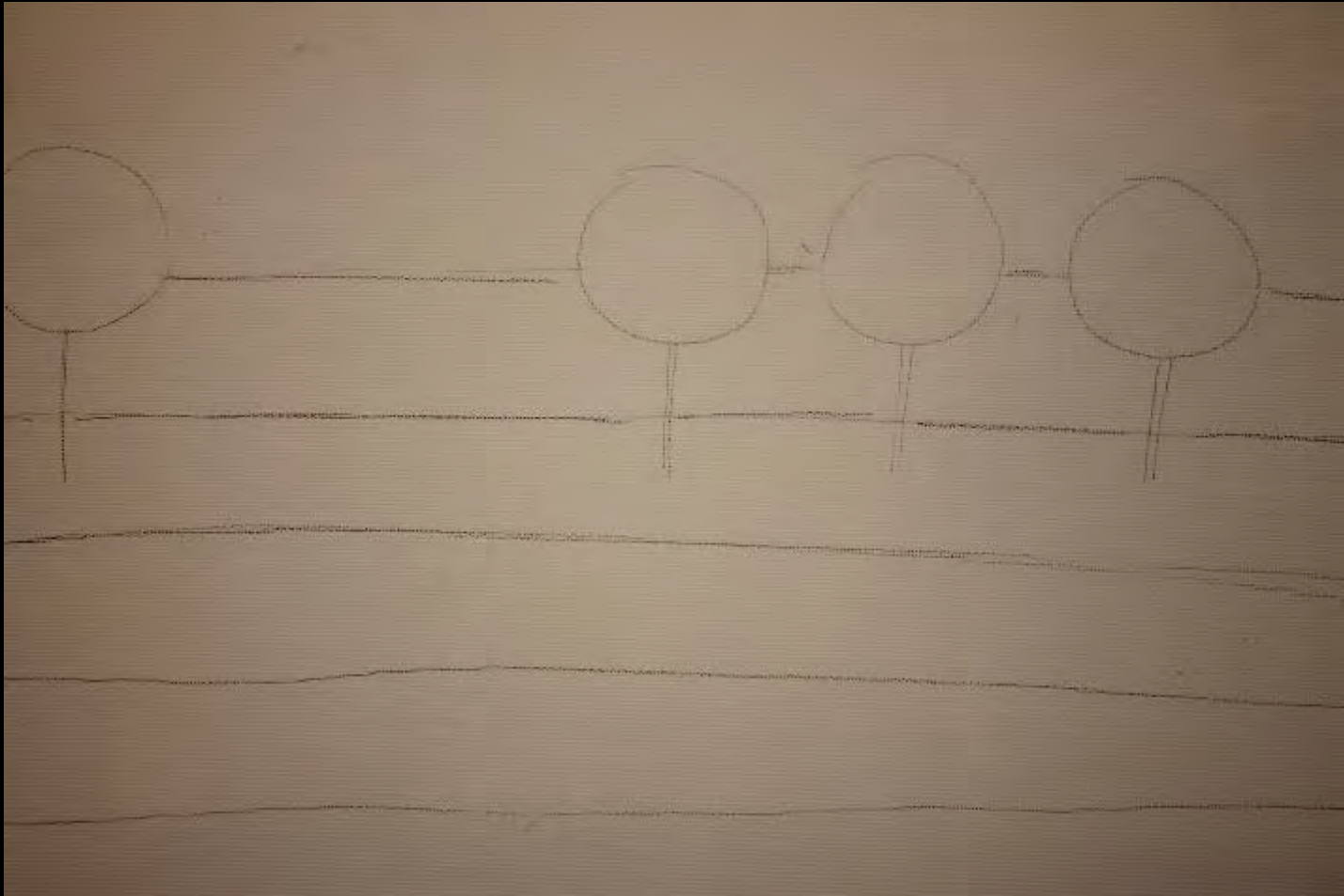
Iris



Step 1



Step 2



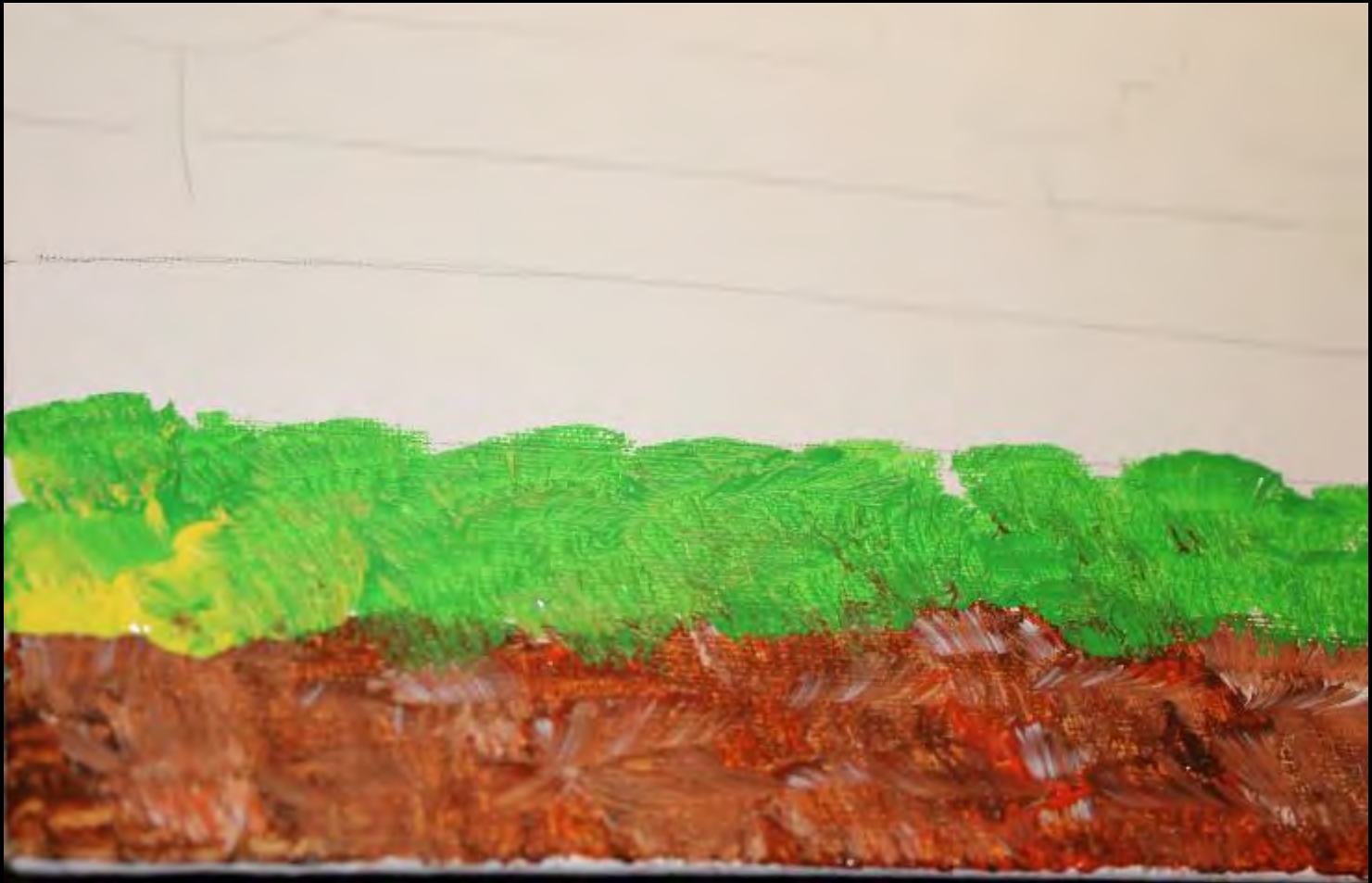
Step 3a



Step 3b



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



Step 7



Step 8



Step 9



Step 10



Step 11



Step 12a



Step 12b



Step 13a



Step 13b



Step 14

