

Joshua Rodriguez

Professor La Follette

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### In Depth Piece

**Response #5 : Create your own intersection of art and protest, focused on an issue important to you. The art could be visual, written, audio, or other form that draws on your strengths.**

Van Gough, The Starry Nights artwork stands out to me the most because of the broad background that is left for society to interpret. This art piece stood out to me because when I started my collegiate career, I was gifted this art and placed it in my dorm as the only piece of decoration to start. The impact it left me with was huge because it was a turning point in my life when I realized it was the first birthday I was going to spend alone. The representation of this artwork left such an impact on me that it brings memories to my head of my college days and my journeys in life as it started with that gift, and no friends yet. The correlation towards my upbringing in college is essential because I started with no connections, or social life due to the new area I had just moved to. It was something I had never experienced before, living in Los Angeles my entire life .The new lifestyle in Monterey Bay allowed me to stare into the sky at times.

In an article by author, Paul Trachtman states, “Van Gogh was also enthralled with night, as he wrote to his brother Theo that same year: "It often seems to me that the night is much more

alive and richly colored than the day....The problem of painting night scenes and effects on the spot and actually by night interests me enormously." This quote shows the importance of the night as well as the day in which society operates consistently. There are large cities that take exception to this but for the norm, it is seen as a period of rest and darkness, rather than embracing the illumination the night sky allows us to gravitate towards. The depiction that is being translated to the audience is the appreciation for the 10 hours that the moon is out instead of seeing it as time for rest, and no active correlation regarding operations in society. The visual appeal that draws the audience in is the swirl in the middle of the painting because it grabs the attention of the human eye along with the brushstroke of the blue shading that are in opposite directions.

In the article, "The Fascinating Story behind the Painting That Led to Van Gogh's 'Starry Night'." by author Kelly Richman-Abdou states, " Van Gogh painted *Starry Night Over the Rhône* from the bank of the Rhône, a major river that runs through Europe. This spot proved ideal for Van Gogh, as he had grown increasingly interested in the effects of light—particularly, the artificial illumination of gas lamps—at night. To evoke the movement of the stars' energetic twinkling and glimmering reflections, he employed his characteristically energetic brushstrokes". This quote shows the impact of Van Gough's perspective to celebrate the luminated night life rather than to dismiss it and take it for granted. I can relate to van gogh because he is viewing this painting from his bedroom window where I spent much of time viewing the sunset along with the coastline and stars that were above because I had little to no plans as I was starting my life in an entirely different area of California. The emphasis that the author wanted to display is the glammoring lights that are highlighted in the photo (yellow sparks) because they represent

the nightlife in which alternative light other than the sun is used, which creates a distinct overview. The creativity that comes to my mind is the aspiration that come at night, when you are alone in your space, without the noise and ambiance of society, comes down to who you really are in solitary confinement.

The depths this artwork takes society to is at large because it shows the interest for the opposite side of life in which, occurs during the dark of the day. The meaning behind the piece shows that life should be appreciated through all aspects and seen for its glamorizing look such as the stars that are in orbit. Their role to light the sky allows society to be able to function and enter the realm of thought regarding themselves and their roles. A strength I have is working at night. I have realized that my goals and aspirations become clear at night when I am alone in my bedroom without distraction. It was nature, and the people living close to it, that first stirred van Gogh's artistic inclinations regarding expanding their interest for art. In this he was not alone. Landscapes remained a popular subject in late-nineteenth-century art.

Driven in part by their dissatisfaction with the modern city, many artists sought out places resembling earthly paradises, where they could observe nature firsthand, feeding its psychological and spiritual resonances into their work. The level of delicacy that is carried in the brush stroke shows the care for the art that was displayed but also this shows how one lives their life, how they want their audience to reflect off the final piece. The interest of their creativity takes place because you can recreate this anywhere in the world, near a window, as long as the stars are out, or a light, to give one hope through the night, that the light is there, even when the sun is down. The history of this piece and the mental health van gogh was in was tough to read about, although he created fantastic representations to leave behind for his legacy. Being able to

use this piece of art and use it for inspiration throughout college has been rewarding because after long days of classes, exams and studying, I come home to the simplicity of that art piece. Oftentimes, college students experience stress from workloads that they take on from their classes and their mental health is affected by such a stir in one's life.

In the article, "A Brief History of Van Gogh's 'Starry Night'" by author Peggy Carothers, she states "Despite having gained a small measure of acclaim in the two years preceding his death, van Gogh lived most of his life in obscurity. Born in the Netherlands in 1853, van Gogh had been interested in art from a young age and worked as an art dealer for a few years in his early adulthood". This quote shows the aspect of art that is taken into account by the creator, whether it is their mental process or physical process to achieve their form of art. The strength of one's mentality carries a long way because it is demonstrated on this canvas where his visuals were put together and oversees the city in France which can resonate with others in society and their views from the window. The effect this has carried onto me is huge because I plan to study abroad next semester and I want to get an ideal image of what the paint got to witness, but also appreciate the appeal of the stars looming over me.

In conclusion, the depths of this art piece is largely expanded through the lens of society as impactful within yourself and your appreciation when in solitude. Appreciating the earth when you are alone is something that is taken for granted because as a society, we are always distracted within our cultures and norms instead of stopping to realize the beautiful stars above us that loom daily. The impact this art piece has had on me over the years is forever going to tie me to my college roots because of how I started here, with little to any connection with anyone and creating a social life for myself after time. For everyone it is different, but I see this art as a form

of endless possibilities, that each night carries with it the opportunity to glare back at the sky in appreciation for our planet and nature. The appeal for audiences to be able to create their goals in their thoughts by looking at the sky for inspiration is something I have dealt with because of the peace of mind that is allowed, at that time of the day.



## Works Cited

[Van Gogh's Night Visions | Arts & Culture| Smithsonian Magazine](#)

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*Richman-Abdou, Kelly. "The Fascinating Story behind the Painting That Led to Van Gogh's 'Starry Night'." My Modern Met, 8 Sept. 2020, <https://mymodernmet.com/starry-night-over-the-rhone/>.*

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*Carouthers, Peggy. "A Brief History of Van Gogh's 'Starry Night.'" Art & Object, <https://www.artandobject.com/news/brief-history-van-goghs-starry-night>.*