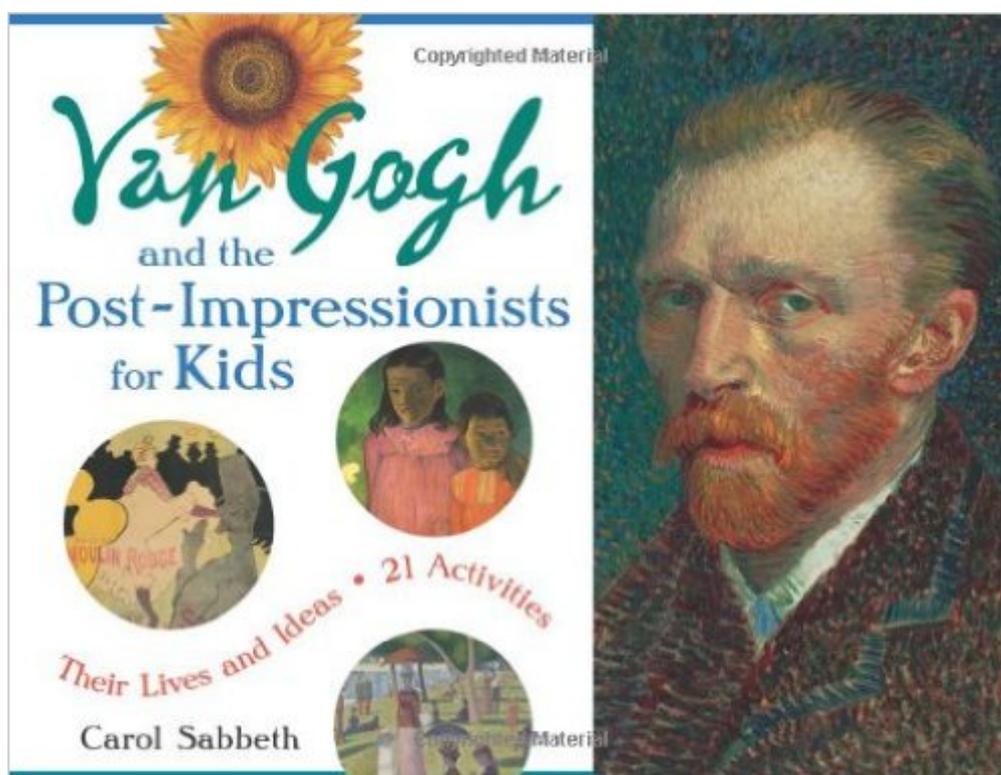


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# Van Gogh And The Post-Impressionists For Kids: Their Lives And Ideas, 21 Activities (For Kids Series)



## Synopsis

Swirling, curling brushstrokes. Vivid colors. Thick layers of paint. These are the hallmarks of a painting by Vincent van Gogh, whose work his fellow artist Paul Cézanne once called "that of a madman." But Van Gogh and the Post-Impressionists for Kids moves beyond the image of the mad pauper to reveal a complex young man who loved nature and reading, spoke four languages, and enjoyed a successful career as a gallery salesman before embarking on studies as a minister and, finally, finding his calling as an artist. Kids journey from the Netherlands to Paris to southern France as they learn about van Gogh's friendships with four other like-minded painters who admired but were determined to depart from Impressionism: Paul Gauguin, Paul Signac, J.M.W. Turner, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. Aspiring artists and history buffs learn not only how these Post-Impressionists' daring shapes, colors, and techniques distinguished their work from what was painted before but also how the men helped one another and whether or not they always got along. Twenty-one creative projects bring history and art to life. Readers will create a Starry Night peep box, make a Pointillist sailboat (that can really sail!), craft a Japanese fold-out album, and much more. The text includes a time line, glossary, and reading list for further study.

## Book Information

Series: For Kids series

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Chicago Review Press (May 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1569762759

ISBN-13: 978-1569762752

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #184,923 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > History #98 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art #1244 in Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > History

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 and up

## Customer Reviews

Great book. My daughter was always curious and would take out my art books to look at and would ask all sorts of questions. I got her this for Christmas this year and she has loved it. She even tries to copy some of the paintings. I minored in art history in college so I am very happy of her interest in the subject. You're never too young to start appreciating the arts!

What a great book! The story is well written, engaging, and personal without getting too melodramatic. The only reason I hold back 5 stars is because, although this book covers Van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Paul Signac & Emile Bernard, I WISH that it would have been a little heavier in everyone to match the depth of Van Gogh. Of the 21 (Creative and diverse!) activity ideas, 13 of them are for Van Gogh and the remaining 8 are for the other 4 artists. However - that is the only con I have found! I love this book, the way the activities tie in, the close-up views of parts of the paintings, and the storytelling.

I love this series! Kids of all ages will love learning about Van Gogh's life and his artistic techniques. There are 21 hands-on activities to bring this period in art history alive. Works of other noteworthy artists of period are included. One of the things I like best is learning how to identify an artist's work. The works of Van Gogh, Seurat, and Gauguin each have unique characteristics. The author places the artists' works within the frameworks of time and place.

Van Gogh is my favorite artist of all time, as one could easily tell by the six Van Gogh prints I have hanging on my walls at home. Ah, if only I could afford to buy the original paintings! Van Gogh and the Post-Impressionists for Kids: Their Lives and Ideas, 21 Activities for Kids by Carol Sabbeth is treasure chest of fascinating information as well as a visual masterpiece of colorful paintings by Van Gogh and other artists of the Post-Impressionist era. The idea for this book came to the author after a 10-year-old boy asked her, "Were Monet and Van Gogh ever friends?" The result of that question is what can best be described as a young reader's version of a collectible coffee table art book. Readers will learn about Van Gogh's life, how he came to be an artist, other artists he interacted with during his life and how his many personal challenges affected his work. It is informative and engaging - written so children can thoroughly understand it, yet adults can thoroughly enjoy it. As with all other Chicago Review Press Kids biographies, there are 21 unique activities in this book for readers to dive into, such as making a value scale of light, medium and dark shades, drawing a mirror image, creating a self-portrait in swirling words and making a pointillist sailboat. These activities are so awesome that I may just try one or two myself. In the back of the book you'll find a

map of the paths of post-impressionists, a useful glossary and bibliography. Van Gogh and the Post-Impressionists for Kids should be a fixture in all classrooms from 4th grade through middle school. It would also be a perfect holiday gift for creative children who love to draw and paint. This is a book that will be cherished for years to come. I envy the author and editor for having had the chance to do this fascinating research and sort through all these amazing images of some of the greatest pieces of art ever created.

This is a perfect book for my grandson. He is a budding artist. The projects are great. He will be excited after seeing the Van Gogh Exhibit in Denver.

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