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凡·高的一生，只有 37 年，他的绘画生涯也只占 10 年，而这 10 年中的华彩乐章则是在阿尔勒地区度过的 15 个月。这是绝无仅有的 15 个月。在此期间，法国南部的光耀和色彩与凡·高相遇了，那种感受充盈而激昂；于是有了《向日葵》《收获》和《播种者》中的色彩表现。当生命与色彩合而为一的时候，对于颜色的感知则不仅限于白昼，还延伸到了夜晚，于是有了《夜间露天咖啡馆》这样的作品。

在阿尔勒地区的创作标志着凡·高作为印象主义画家的巅峰。或许，这也是这个坎坷的生命最为快乐的一段日子。1889 年 5 月，他进入位于圣雷米的休养院，而他的画风也逐渐趋向表现主义，最具代表性的正是那幅《星夜》。

# Unit 1

## Vincent van Gogh 文森特·凡·高

### Part A The Southern Sun of Arles

The brilliant light of southern France flooded into van Gogh's life—and art—at Arles. He arrived in Arles from Paris in February, 1888, just before the **almond** trees **burst into bloom**. After the grays of his native Holland and the **muted** colors of Paris, van Gogh was stunned with pleasure **at the sight of** the colorful countryside. The fields **were alive with** green of growing crops, the **azure** skies were deep and wide, and the magnificent sun caused the land to glow and **vibrate** with rich and subtle **hues**.

During his 15-month stay at Arles, van Gogh worked **feverishly** in one of the most **prolific** and inspired bursts of artistic **creativity** ever recorded. From February 1888 to May 1889, he produced some 200 paintings, as well as **scores of** drawings. Many of these **canvases** are **undisputed masterpieces**; all reflect light, color, and energy.

In Arles, van Gogh pursued his belief that “color expresses something in itself”. To achieve this end, he began to make an almost arbitrary use of color while painting everyday scenes of the south.

One of the artist's best-known works, *Sunflowers*, conveys the warmth of color Vincent found at Arles. He made many of these sunflower **studies** as decorations for his rooms, and each **radiates** his passion for light, color and simplicity. *The Harvest* is a **comparatively tranquil** painting, a subtle **blend** of **lush green** and yellow fields **offset** by violet shadows on the **wagons**, houses and hillsides. **By contrast**, *The Sower* **pits the powerful violet of a freshly plowed field against** the bright yellows of standing wheat and a sun-filled sky. The sower himself seems a bridge between these strong colors; his body **blends with** the field while his eyes are at the level of the yellow horizon. The short, almost harsh, brush **strokes** heighten the **tensions** created by the colors. Using a heavily loaded brush, van Gogh filled the sky with brilliant colors.

Few Arlesiens would **sit for** portraits by van Gogh; they distrusted the

stranger from the north. Some did **befriend** him, however, one of whom is the postman Joseph Roulin. As a **solid** citizen, **posed** in full uniform, Roulin was an **engaging** man. This manner is transmitted by his expression; his eyebrows are raised as though he was constantly startled, yet amused, by the world around him.

Van Gogh worked throughout the **broiling** Arles summer, painting under the sun. Then, instead of resting, he often set up his **easel** outdoors at night and painted until dawn, using candles stuck in his hat to provide him with light. Van Gogh enjoyed the hours after dark. “The night is more alive and more richly colored than the day,” he once wrote. In several **oils**, including *Café Terrace at Night*, he caught the easy **conviviality** of the southern summer evenings. The **lantern** of the café glows **hospitably**; **townspeople** sip drinks, chat and stroll under the stars, which hang like lamps in the **royal blue** sky.

## New Words

**almond** *n.* [植] 扁桃树

**bloom** *n.* 开花期; 最盛期

**mute** *v.* 减弱; 使……变哑 *n.* 哑巴

**alive** *adj.* 活着的; 活泼的, 有生气的

**azure** *adj.* 蔚蓝的

**vibrate** *v.* (使) 振动, (使) 颤动

**hue** *n.* 色度, 色相

**feverishly** *adv.* 兴奋地

**prolific** *adj.* 多产的

**creativity** *n.* 创造力, 创造

**canvas** *n.* 帆布; 油画, 油画布

**undisputed** *adj.* 无可置辩的, 无异议的

**masterpiece** *n.* 杰作, 名著

**study** *n.* 试作, 习作

**radiate** *v.* 放射, 辐射

**comparatively** *adv.* 比较地, 相当地

**tranquil** *adj.* 安静的

**blend** *n.* 混合, 混合色 *v.* 混合

**lush green** *n.* 青绿色

**offset** *v.* 弥补, 抵消

**wagon** *n.* 四轮马车, 货车

**sower** *n.* 播种者, 播种机

**plow** *n.* 犁 *v.* 耕, 犁, 犁耕

**stroke** *n.* 笔触

**tension** *n.* 紧张(状态); 张力; 矛盾

**befriend** *v.* 待人如友, 把……当朋友

**solid** *adj.* 固体的; 可靠的, 可信赖的

**pose** *n.* 姿势, 姿态 *v.* 摆姿势

**engaging** *adj.* 动人的, 有魅力的

**broiling** *adj.* 酷热的, 炽热的

**easel** *n.* 画架, 黑板架

**oil** *n.* 油; 油画

**terrace** *n.* 露台; 阳台; 柱廊

**conviviality** *n.* 欢宴; 高兴, 欢乐

**lantern** *n.* 灯笼, 提灯, 壁灯

**hospitably** *adv.* 亲切地

**townspeople** *n.* 市民, 镇民

**royal blue** *adj.* 品蓝色的, 藏蓝色的

## Phrases

**burst into** 突然开始（某事），突然进入（某种状态）

**at the sight of** 看见……（时）

**be alive with** 充满着；洋溢着

**scores of** 大量的，许多的

**by contrast** 相比之下，相形之下

**pit against** 使与……相斗

**blend with** 混合

**sit for** 这里指“做模特”

## Notes

**Vincent van Gogh** 文森特·凡·高

**Arles** 阿尔勒（法国地名）

**Arlesien** 阿尔勒人（法语）

**Sunflowers** 《向日葵》（凡·高作品）

**The Harvest** 《收获》（凡·高作品）

**The Sower** 《播种者》（凡·高作品）

**Joseph Roulin** 约瑟夫·鲁林（凡·高肖像画模特）

**Café Terrace at Night** 《夜间露天咖啡馆》（凡·高作品）

## Grammar

### 介词（The Preposition）

介词不能独立存在。介词与介词后的名词或代词一起构成介词短语。介词后面的词语称为介词宾语，因此后面如果是人称代词就应该用宾格。

我们要把介词短语看作一个整体，考虑它在句子中充当什么成分。

介词短语在句子结构中充当的成分：

#### 1. 状语

**In Arles**, van Gogh pursued his stated belief that “color expresses something in itself”.

What others might have viewed as a placid scene, van Gogh has rendered **in heaving and churning waves**.

#### 2. 定语

Why shouldn't the shining dots **of the sky** be as accessible as the black dots **on the map of France**?

Vincent van Gogh was a patient **in an asylum at Saint-Rémy in the south of**

**France.**

But van Gogh was not just painting an image **of what he saw**.

## 3. 表语

Vincent van Gogh was **in an asylum**.

Van Gogh is **of strong Christian faith**.

介词与其他词类的搭配（固定词组）：

## 1. 与动词搭配

**Looking at** the stars always makes me dream...

Just as we take the train to **get to** Tarascon or Rouen...

He **wrote to** his brother Theo.

## 2. 与形容词搭配

The fields **were alive with** green of growing crops...

The church spire here **is typical of** Holland.

注意：

1. 有些词既是介词又是副词，要在具体的语境中判断。一般来说，该词后面如果不跟名词或代词，则应是副词。例如：

Look **out** on a summer's day.

They flow **on** one after another.

2. 英语中有两种宾语：动词宾语和介词宾语。

3. 介词短语作定语时，需要放在所修饰词后面，即定语后置。

## Exercises

### **I** Discuss the following questions (pair work).

1. When did van Gogh arrive in Arles? When did he leave?
2. In *The Harvest* and *The Sower*, what are the two complementary colors that balance and enhance each other?
3. Besides being richly colored, what does the work *Café Terrace at Night* convey?

**II Fill in the blanks with the words given below, changing the form when necessary.**

easel	stroke	mute	vibrate	hue
prolific	masterpiece	study	tranquil	offset

- To \_\_\_\_\_ a color means to lower the intensity of it, or to reduce the contrast between this color and the others in the picture.
- Rodin made a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ of hands, with *The Hands of God* being the most famous one.
- Standing aloof from society, he spent the rest of his life in \_\_\_\_\_ hermitage.
- In the art supply shop you could find whatever you want: frames, canvas, \_\_\_\_\_, brushes, pigments...
- When we say a color is \_\_\_\_\_ by another one or other ones, we mean they subtly balance each other in the composition.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ in oil painting came to be visible in the second half of the 19th century, while they had been quite invisible before.
- In Monet's paintings, colors seem to be \_\_\_\_\_ in the air.
- Rockwell is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ illustrator, and he painted numerous covers for *Saturday Evening Post*.
- Most of van Gogh's \_\_\_\_\_ were produced from 1888 to 1890, in Arles and Saint-Rémy.
- Black and white may be considered as colors, but not \_\_\_\_\_; they are just achromatic.

**III Choose the best word to fill in the blanks, changing the form when necessary.**

- live (*adj.*), life, alive
  - It's obvious that this statue is casted from a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ model.
  - Have you ever read van Gogh's biography entitled *Lust for* \_\_\_\_\_?
  - The everyday stuff came \_\_\_\_\_ in the picture as the artist worked.
- create, creation, creative, creativity
  - The photographer found \_\_\_\_\_ possibilities in light and shadows.
  - The goal of education is to release students' \_\_\_\_\_.

- c. He regards his \_\_\_\_\_ as his children.
- d. We've \_\_\_\_\_ a lovely studio from out of an old factory building.
- 3. radio, radiate, radium, radioactivity
  - a. People had no idea of \_\_\_\_\_ before the Curies (居里夫妇) discovered \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Nowadays, computer and internet have replaced the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Railways \_\_\_\_\_ from Beijing in every direction.
- 4. compare, comparable, comparison, comparatively
  - a. Wang Xizhi reached a position in Chinese calligraphy \_\_\_\_\_ to that of Confucius in Chinese philosophy.
  - b. It will be interesting to make a \_\_\_\_\_ between Russian realism and French realism.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ with the brushstrokes, subject matter, and color of the academic paintings, his work was a rude shock.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_, Germany was less advanced than other capitalist power in the first half of the 19th century.
- 5. friend, friendly, befriend
  - a. Most of his models are his \_\_\_\_\_ and neighbors.
  - b. The designers are using renewable and environmentally \_\_\_\_\_ materials.
  - c. The local people \_\_\_\_\_ the young artist who travelled there.
- 6. tension, intensive, intensity
  - a. Pure hues have the highest \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Through \_\_\_\_\_ investigation, they arrived at conclusion beyond all expectations.
  - c. There is a balanced \_\_\_\_\_ between the azure sky and the orangish desert.

#### IV Translate the following sentences into English.

1. “千树万树梨花开。”(burst into)
2. 看到凡·高的作品，人们都会有成为艺术家的冲动。(at the sight of)

3. 星星缀满夜空, 宛如“天上的街市”。( alive with )
4. 19 世纪, 许多年轻艺术家从世界各地涌向巴黎。( scores of, flood into )
5. 相形之下, 拉丁民族对于色彩更加敏感。( by contrast )
6. 对于市场与资源的需求使这两个民族你争我夺。( pit against )

#### V Cloze.

Vincent van Gogh is \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ considered the greatest Dutch painter \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Rembrandt, and a powerful influence on expressionist art. He turned \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 800 oil paintings and 600 sketches, but in his lifetime only \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ of them was sold. However, nearly 100 years after his death, his painting \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ “Sunflower” was auctioned off \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 240 million francs, the highest price ever paid for a work of art at auction.

- |                |              |              |               |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. A. general  | B. generally | C. generate  | D. gene       |
| 2. A. after    | B. before    | C. than      | D. with       |
| 3. A. in       | B. to        | C. off       | D. out        |
| 4. A. one      | B. two       | C. three     | D. four       |
| 5. A. entitled | B. entitle   | C. entitling | D. to entitle |
| 6. A. in       | B. at        | C. with      | D. of         |

### Part B Van Gogh & *The Starry Night*

“... looking at the stars always makes me dream... Why, I ask myself, shouldn't the shining dots of the sky be as **accessible** as the black dots on the map of France? Just as we take the train to get to Tarascon or Rouen, we take death to reach a star.”

—Vincent van Gogh

When Vincent van Gogh was a patient in an **asylum** at Saint-Rémy in the south of France, he wrote to his brother Theo: “This morning I saw the country from my window a long time before sunrise, with **nothing but** the morning star,



which looked very big.” The morning star is another name for Venus, and it may be the large white **pulsating** form. Van Gogh **stayed up** three nights **in a row** to paint the view from his window in the asylum, because, as he said, “the night is more alive and more richly colored than the day.”

But van Gogh was not just painting an image of what he saw. In fact, the church **spire** here **is typical of** Holland, the artist’s native country. So this is a picture rooted in his imagination and memory as well—a **fantastic, apocalyptic vision** of the night sky. What others might have viewed as a **placid** scene, van Gogh has **rendered** in **heaving** and **churning** waves. Each stroke of paint is more than a **dab** of color—it’s a field of energy, as well.

The contrast between the **chaos** of the heavens and the quiet order of the village below is remarkable. The **cypress** tree—**known as** the tree of death for its traditional associations with graveyards and **mourning**—creates a flame-like connection between the earth and sky. But for van Gogh, a man of strong **Christian** faith, death was not **ominous**; it was the path to heaven.

Vincent van Gogh is generally considered the greatest **Dutch** painter after Rembrandt; he **powerfully** influenced the **current** of **expressionism** in modern art. Among his masterpieces is the well-known *The Starry Night*.

## New Words

**starry** *adj.* 布满星星的，繁星满天的  
**accessible** *adj.* 易接近的，可到达的；可理解的  
**asylum** *n.* 救济院，精神病院  
**pulsate** *v.* 搏动，跳动，有规律地跳动  
**spire** *n.* 尖顶  
**fantastic** *adj.* 幻想的，奇异的  
**apocalyptic** *adj.* 启示录的，天启的  
**vision** *n.* 视力，视觉；幻想，幻影；景象  
**placid** *adj.* 平静的  
**render** *v.* 表现，描写  
**heave** *v.* 举起

**churn** *v.* 搅拌，搅动  
**dab** *n.* 少量，一抹  
**chaos** *n.* 混乱，混沌  
**cypress** *n.* 柏树，丝柏  
**mourning** *n.* 哀悼，服丧  
**Christian** *n.* 基督徒，信徒 *adj.* 基督教的  
**ominous** *adj.* 预兆的，恶兆的，不吉利的  
**Dutch** *adj.* 荷兰的  
**powerfully** *adv.* 有力地，强烈地  
**current** *n.* 潮流，趋势  
**expressionism** *n.* 表现主义

## Phrases

**nothing but** 只, 只不过

**stay up** 不睡, 熬夜

**in a row** 成一行, 连续

**be typical of** 是……的特点

**be known as** 被认为是

## Notes

**The Starry Night** 《星夜》(凡·高作品)

**Tarascon, Rouen, Saint-Rémy** 法国地名

**Theo** 提奥(凡·高的弟弟)

**Venus** [罗神]维纳斯; [天]金星

**Holland** 荷兰

**Rembrandt** 伦勃朗(荷兰画家)

## Exercises

### I Discuss the following questions (pair work).

1. Why did van Gogh prefer to paint in the night when he was in the asylum?
2. How did van Gogh represent the scene outside of asylum window?
3. What role does the cypress tree play in van Gogh's painting?
4. What do you think about van Gogh, both as an artist and as a man?

### II Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. "The night is more alive and more richly colored than the day."
2. What others might have viewed as a placid scene, van Gogh has rendered in heaving and churning waves.
3. Vincent van Gogh is generally considered the greatest Dutch painter after Rembrandt; he powerfully influenced the current of expressionism in modern art.