The van Gogh myth


Death

The death of Vincent van Gogh, the Dutch post-impressionist painter, occurred in the early morning of 29 July 1890, in his room at the Auberge Ravoux in the village of Auvers-sur-Oise in northern France. He suffered a gunshot wound two days before the date of his death, not far from the local inn. It has always been assumed that he shot himself in the chest, wishing to end his life.

However, Van Gogh's 2011 biographers Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith argue that van Gogh did not commit suicide but was shot accidentally by a boy he knew who had "a malfunctioning gun". A curator at the Van Gogh Museum has warned that experts "cannot yet agree" with the authors' conclusions about the painter's death.