

Vincent van Gogh

1. Vincent van Gogh was born on March 30, 1853, in the Netherlands. He was named after his grandfather and his stillborn brother who died one year before he was born.
2. Van Gogh was 27 years old when he painted his first piece.
3. When Van Gogh first began painting, he used peasants as models. He would later paint flowers, landscapes and himself, mostly because he was too poor to pay the models.
4. During one of his seizures, Van Gogh attempted to attack his friend Paul Gauguin with an open razor. This ultimately resulted in Vincent cutting off a piece of his own ear (the lobe) – but not the whole ear as is often rumoured.
5. Van Gogh created his most famous work “The Starry Night” while staying in an asylum in Saint-Remy-de-Provence, France.
6. In a short period of ten years, Van Gogh made approximately 900 paintings.
7. It is thought that Vincent shot himself in a wheatfield in Auvers, France but did not die until 2 days later at the age of 37. His last words were “La tristesse durera toujours,” which means “the sadness will last forever.”

Formal Elements

Line

Line can be used to show many different qualities, such as:

- contours – showing the shape and form of something
- feelings or expressions – a short, hard line gives a different feeling to a more flowing one

Shape

A shape is an area enclosed by a line. It could be just an outline or it could be shaded in.

Shapes can be either **geometric**.

Form

Form is a **three dimensional shape**, such as a cube, sphere or cone.

Sculpture and 3D design are about creating forms.

Tone

This refers to the lightness or darkness of something. This could be a shade or how dark or light a colour appears.

Texture

Actual texture really exists, so you can feel it or touch it.

Visual texture is created using marks to represent actual texture. It gives the illusion of a texture or surface but if you touched it, it would be smooth.

Pattern

A design that is created by repeating lines, shapes, tones or colours. They can be man made or natural.

Colour

Red, yellow and blue are **primary colours**, which means they can't be mixed using any other colours. In theory, all other colours can be mixed from these three colours.

Two primary colours mixed together make a **secondary colour**.



Fact 1: Women were not the first humans to wear high heels, it was men.

- According to fashion historians, in the 10th century men wore high heels to stay in their stirrups while riding their horses.
- Also, since having a horse was a sign of wealth in this period, having heels also confirmed the high social status of the men.

Fact 2: The term 'sneakers' was derived from the idea that these shoes didn't make too much noise.

- The term was first used in the late 1800s when this type of shoe was introduced.
- Since it has a rubber sole, it doesn't create a sound (or at least minimal) making it easier to sneak around.

Fact 3: Andy Warhol's drawing inspired the red sole of Louboutins.

- According to an article in the New Yorker, the owner of Louboutins really wanted to make a creation based on Andy Warhol's drawing named “Flowers.”
- When the prototype arrived, he grabbed the red nail polish of his assistant and painted the sole red to make it more inspiring.

Fact 4: According to studies, your shoes determine how much you earn.

- In a poll conducted by Beso.com, 71% of women who never wore heels at work earned around \$40,000 a year.
- Around 21% of those who participated in the study were earning \$150,000 a year, and were wearing heels every day.

Fact 5: Shoe addiction is real. The prefrontal cortex in the brain, gets triggered whenever you see a shoe that you like.

- This part of the brain is also known as ‘collector’s spot’.
- It's also the reason behind women displaying their shoes in organized racks for others to see.

Fact 6: 'Dr Martens' were originally created for work men because of their air-cushioned soles.

- When Dr Martens were first released in the 1960s, they were marketed at labourers and working-class men.
- However, the rise of punk culture, and Britain's counterculture made these shoes popular with wider audiences.

Fact 7: 'Wedge' shoes were invented in the 1940s because of trade sanctions in Italy.

- During the 1940s, Ferragamo couldn't export steel to be used in their heels because of economic sanctions.
- That's why they experimented using corks. Which later went on to become one of the most popular shoe designs.

Fact 8: Tribes around the world use the skin of animals and tree sap to make their shoes.

- Amazonian-Indians use the tree-sap of a Rubber tree to create their own shoes, and have done so since prehistoric times.
- Palau-Islanders use the skins of Sea Cucumbers to make their shoes.

Fact 9: The Nike founder was inspired by the pattern made by waffle makers, when he designed the soles of his shoes.

- In 1971, when Nike co-founder Bill Bowerman was having breakfast, he saw the waffle iron print as the perfect mold for a shoe sole.
- He wanted to create the perfect sole, without spikes but would work well on grass and pavements.

Fact 10: In Mexico, cowboy's boots can have a pointed toe that reaches up to 1 meter long.

- Mexican pointy boots or tribal boots are popular in menswear in Mexico.
- It's the preferred footwear of dance troupes and performance acts in Mexico.