

# What is Modern Art?

Hello Students!

This week, we are going to look at the Museum of Modern Art's take on Modern Art. Museums are amazing resources, as they can provide us with so much information about a particular time period or subject in art. MoMA, as it's called, is in New York City and hosts several thousands of visitors from all over the world each year. The PowerPoint slides, paired with my narrations from "*What is Modern Art?*" give us some insight into what makes this museum and the modernist art movement so special.



Vincent Van Gogh, The Starry Night, 1889, oil on canvas

## TASK

**Listen to the presentation "*What is Modern Art?*" prior to writing down responses to the question below on a separate sheet of paper.**

### Slide 1

- Look at the figure. What do you notice about his stance and gaze?
- Do you think Cézanne painted from real life or a from a photograph? (another modern technique)

### Slide 2

- Picasso invented a new way of painting called Cubism because of its geometric forms.
- What do you notice about the figures and the setting? Do the fractured planes make the setting difficult to identify?
- What else do you think is 'modern' about this picture?

**Slide 3**

- Take a moment to notice how van Gogh used small brush strokes and color to create *The Starry Night's* moving sky.
- What might the shimmering stars, moon, and swirling night air symbolize to van Gogh? What mood or feeling do you think van Gogh was trying to convey?

**Slide 4**

- Atget documented Paris for 30 years, capturing the culture and modern architecture of this vibrant and artistic city.
- How do you think this picture captures the concept of a 'modern' city?

**Slide 5**

- Toulouse-Lautrec's posters were noteworthy for their simplified and abstracted designs. In *Divan Japonais*, he depicts a well-known Parisian cabaret singer, Jane Avril.
- Is this art or is this advertising? What do you think?