



Vincent van Gogh, *Olive Grove, Saint-Rémy*, 1889. Oil on canvas, 74 x 93 cm

GÖTEBORGS KONSTMUSEUM

“All things considered I am compelled to return to Paris. Vincent and I are absolutely unable to live side by side without trouble caused by incompatibility of temperament and he like I needs tranquillity for his work. He is a man of remarkable intelligence whom I esteem greatly and I leave with regret, but I repeat it is necessary.”

- Paul Gauguin, 1888, in letter to Vincent van Gogh's brother, the art dealer Theo van Gogh.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE GREATEST DRAMA IN ART HISTORY

7 FEBRUARY – 22 JUNE 2014

VAN GOGH, GAUGUIN, BERNARD. FRICTION OF IDEAS

Ordrupgaard takes us into the heart of one of the most talked-about dramas in art history, namely the rift between Paul Gauguin and Vincent van Gogh. Through an array of high-profile works, the exhibition *Van Gogh, Gauguin, Bernard: Friction of Ideas* focuses on the stormy friendship and partnership which came to a violent end in 1888 in Van Gogh's Yellow House in Arles.

When art makes sparks fly

The tragic story of Van Gogh continues to fascinate. Today we can admire his works in museums around the world, but during his lifetime he sold very few paintings, and the tortured artistic genius finally took his own life after one of the most dramatic events in the history of world art – the fateful clash with Gauguin in the Yellow House in Arles in 1888.

Many people know about the rift, which culminated in Van Gogh's famous partially-severed ear and his subsequent admission to an asylum, together with Gauguin's hasty departure to Paris. Few people, on the other hand, are aware that the conflict had its root in artistic disagreements – or "friction of ideas" as Van Gogh called it. In the extensive exhibition, *Van Gogh, Gauguin, Bernard: Friction of Ideas* Ordrupgaard, tells the story of the now legendary friendship between Gauguin and Van Gogh, their exchange of ideas, and in particular, their fundamentally different views of art, which ended with the two artists parting, never to see each other again. Less than two years after the clash, Van Gogh took his own life on 27 July 1890, surrounded by the wheat fields he immortalised in his canvases.

The third man

Gauguin and Van Gogh may have been the leading figures in the drama, but a third man, the young Émile Bernard, also played a significant role. The exhibition introduces Bernard as an important catalyst in the heated exchanges of opinion that not only made sparks fly in the Yellow House, but also manifested themselves in the three artists' letters and works from the period: works that paved the way for a new kind of art, which was to blow away all established conventions and divide the history of art into a period before and after.

Ordrupgaard's most ambitious venture since the Hadid extension

Van Gogh, Gauguin, Bernard: Friction of Ideas is the first exhibition of both Van Gogh and Gauguin in Denmark for 30 years. The last time the two artists' masterpieces could be seen together was at Ordrupgaard in 1984, but the story of the legendary friendship between Van Gogh and Gauguin has most recently been illuminated in spectacular exhibitions, including in Chicago, Amsterdam and Vienna. Museum director Anne-Birgitte Fonsmark says: "It is widely known in the museum world that an exhibition of Van Gogh is one of the most difficult exhibitions of all to put on. We were therefore very aware of the tough legwork of obtaining loans that lay ahead when we began planning the exhibition several years ago. It is truly the museum's most ambitious exhibition to date, which in the scale of its ambition could be compared with the building of the Zaha Hadid extension back in 2005."

Exhibition opening

HRH The Crown Princess will open the exhibition. The opening speeches will be delivered by Minister for Cultural Affairs Marianne Jelved and museum director Anne-Birgitte Fonsmark.

For more information, please contact project leader
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The exhibition will be presented at a PRESS CONFERENCE
at 11:00 am on Thursday 6 February.

Registration, with your full name and the name of your medium,
with Lene Dahl Kristensen:

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The exhibition will be accompanied by a richly-illustrated catalogue in Danish and English, written by museum director Anne-Birgitte Fonsmark.

Press photographs may be downloaded from:

<http://www.ordrupgaard.dk/maintenance/press/press-archive/friction-of-ideas-van-gogh-gauguin-bernard.aspx>

or on inquiry to press officer Sara Hatla Krogsgaard:

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