

## Present and Past Passive – Famous Contemporary and Modern Art

View the slideshow and take notes.

### Forming present and past passive:

#### • Present passive:

– Subject + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

– Active: People know Yayoi Kasuma's artwork for its signature dots.

#### – Passive:

– Active: Banksy shows his street art, installations, and studio-produced works in Los Angeles, New York, London, etc.

#### – Passive:

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#### • Past passive:

– Subject \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

– Active: Art Review magazine ranked Ai Weiwei as one of the most influential contemporary artists.

#### – Passive:

– Active: Someone nominated Persepolis for an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature Film of the Year in 2008.

#### – Passive:

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Read this short biography of Vincent Van Gogh. Change the underlined verbs to present or past passive (is/are/was/were + past participle) .

Change the active verbs to passive

A. Vincent Van Gogh was born in a small Village in Holland on March 30, 1853. He was an introverted child and he didn't have many friends. However, his younger brother, Theo, was one of them. As he grew up, 1). drawing interested Vincent, but he didn't actually study art until he was 27 years old.

1.

B. In 1886, Vincent Van Gogh moved to Paris to live with his brother Theo, who collected and sold paintings. In Paris, he met other artists, and 2. their work influenced

him. He also became interested in Japanese art and collected woodblock prints. Like other artists at that time, he began to paint outside, where 3. light and color fascinated him. He began to express his feelings in his paintings with bright colors. However, he didn't have much money, and he didn't eat very well because he used the money his brother gave him to buy paints. Sometimes 4. life depressed him, and he argued with his brother Theo.

2.

3.

4.

C. In 1888, he moved to Arles, a town in southern France. The artist Paul Gauguin moved there too, and they became good friends. The weather was beautiful, and 5. the countryside inspired them both. Van Gogh often became sad and couldn't paint. One day he became very angry and argued with Gauguin. Gauguin left Arles, and shortly after, Van Gogh cut off a piece of his own ear.

6.

D. After a while, Van Gogh began to paint again. 6. He sent some paintings to Paris, but Theo couldn't sell them. Then, in 1890, early on a Sunday evening, Van Gogh went out to the countryside with his paints. He took out a gun, and the belief was that he shot himself in the chest, but now people think 7. someone else shot him. Theo travelled from Paris to be with him. Two days later, Van Gogh died.

6.

7.

E. In his short sad life, 8. Van Gogh painted 200 paintings. 9. He sold only one of them. In 1999, 10. someone bought one of his paintings, *Portrait of Dr Gachet* (1890), for \$82.5 million US. In 2021, 11. the Christie's Auction House in New York sold four Van Gogh paintings for a total of \$161 million.

8.

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11.

F. Although he lived a solitary and lonely life, 12. today people around the world know his work.

12.