120. THE STARRY NIGHT. VINCENT VAN GOGH. 1889 C.E. OIL ON CANVAS.
FORM

- POST-IMPRESSIONISM
- Composite landscape
- short, thick brushstrokes
- parts of canvas can be seen through the brushwork, did not need to fill in every bit of the composition
Post-Impressionist Characteristics:

- dynamic brushstrokes
- non-naturalistic
- vibrant color that exaggerates and accentuates, rather than representing reality
- painterly in quality
- inspired Fauvism (later movement)
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**CONTENT**

- Landscape view from artist's hospital room in St.-Rémy
- Mountains in the distance, actual steepness exaggerated in painting
- Composite landscape: Dutch church, crescent moon, Mediterranean cypress tree
- Wave-like movement flows left to right, broken only by verticality of cypress and church steeple
- Cypress tree a traditional symbol of death and eternal life, reaches up to the sky, dominating foreground closest to artist
FUNCTION

- A landscape study, or a study of the nighttime
- Expression of the artist's internal turmoil (suffered from mental illness)
- Desire to experiment with stylized techniques
Van Gogh struggled with mental illness

- painted during his convalescence at mental hospital near St.-Rémy
- following breakdown in which he mutilated his own ear