

## Lesson # 34 Van Gogh Inspired Starry Night

Grade level: 1-12

### Description/Objective

Students create their own version of “Starry Night”. In the evening, look up at the stars for your own inspiration! Or visit your library/go on-line and learn about Vincent Van Gogh and his starry night, which inspired us to create our beautiful fiber art masterpiece.

### Time

45 minutes

### Materials

Blue burlap or black (Approximately 12” X 10”)

Large eye plastic needle

Yarn (black, 2 shades of blue, 2 shades of yellow)

Felt scraps (green and assorted colors)

3-5 Gold celestial sequins (stars, diamonds or celestial shapes)

Poster or tempera paint (any colors, you choose)

Glue

Scissors

Tape

A picture of Van Gogh’s Starry Night (recommended)

### Procedures

1. Once you have your starry night inspiration take a moment to discuss Van Gogh’s work and how the painting makes you feel. Does the scene look calm, scary, beautiful, energetic, cold or warm? What does it evoke for you? Do you want your masterpiece to bring up these same emotions or do you want yours to bring out another feeling? How would you go about expressing your vision? How would you make the sky move or set the tone for the town? What colors might convey certain imagery and feeling?
2. It is a really good idea to have a picture of Van Gogh’s A Starry Night with you for inspiration. Plan your design by first cutting out the homes and buildings, your tree, foliage, your crescent moon of course, windows, doors, chimneys, and other details you may want to include out of your felt. Once you have your pieces cut out arrange them a few times on your burlap and decide on your best composition before you glue them down. Remember to leave enough room around the edges of your burlap so you can sew a nice border with the black yarn. See Photo 1- below
3. Glue your sequins in the sky allowing enough room in between them for sewing the gold yarn in patterns and swirls as if they are dancing around them in the sky. You will find it easiest to secure the yarn in the back of your work with a small piece of tape so it doesn’t pull through while you are working. After gluing your pieces of fabric and the sequins now is the time to sew

in your swirling celestial sky. Next use your 2 blue shades of yarn to sew in rolling hills and forms in your background.

4. You are ready for your final touches. First sew a border around your entire piece with the black yarn, it really helps to unify your work and make it look very finished and tidy. Finally you will want to use a little paint to add some texture and interest to your tree and/or your foliage. Observe Van Gogh's own strong, broad strokes and try a few of your own, we used a bit of orange, yellow and blue on our shrubs and trees. See Photo 2-below

\* Please note that this lesson is easily adaptable to younger kids and fewer supplies by simply using colored construction paper and paint instead of the burlap, felt and yarn.