



The Bedroom

Vincent van Gogh (1853 - 1890), Arles, October 1888

Oil on canvas, 72.4 cm x 91.3 cm

Credits (obliged to state): Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (Vincent van Gogh Foundation)

Artistic Challenge #3: Interior Landscapes

This week's Educational Alliance Art School Artistic Challenge is **Interior Landscapes**. We challenge our community to create an original piece of art based on their immediate physical surroundings, or based their current psychological state. Participants can use whatever media they feel best suits their creative process— photography, pen and ink, oils, acrylic, pastels, etc. Van Gogh famously did a series of paintings based on his bedroom in Arles, France. With this famous piece of art as a stepping-stone, we encourage you to think outside the box and create an emotive landscape of a space that holds a special significance to you in reality or in your memory. Post your interior landscapes with a short description on your social media accounts and add our hashtag, [#eaartchallenge](#).

If you don't use social media, please send a photo of your piece to ehagan@mannycantor.org with a short description attached.

Vincent van Gogh (1853 - 1890), *The Bedroom* (1888)

Description from the [Vincent van Gogh Museum](#)

While he was in Arles, van Gogh made this painting of his bedroom in the Yellow House. He prepared the room himself with simple furniture and with his own work on the wall. The bright colors were meant to express absolute repose or sleep. Research shows that the strongly contrasting colors we see in the work today are the result of discoloration over the years. The walls and doors, for instance, were originally purple rather than blue. The apparently odd angle of the rear wall, meanwhile, is not a mistake on Van Gogh's part— the corner really was skewed. The rules of perspective seem not to have been accurately applied throughout the painting, but this was a deliberate choice. Vincent told Theo in a [letter](#) that he had deliberately flattened the interior and left out the shadows so that his picture would resemble a Japanese print. Van Gogh was very pleased with the painting, "When I saw my canvases again after my illness, what seemed to me the best was the bedroom."