

# Van Gogh



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著者:Steven Naifeh

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Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith galvanized readers with their astonishing *Jackson Pollock: An American Saga*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for biography, a book acclaimed for its miraculous research and overwhelming narrative power. Now Naifeh and Smith have written another tour de force—an exquisitely detailed, compellingly readable, and ultimately heartbreaking portrait of creative genius Vincent van Gogh.

Working with the full cooperation of the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, Naifeh and Smith have accessed a wealth of previously untapped materials. While drawing liberally from the artist's famously eloquent letters, they have also delved into hundreds of unpublished family correspondences, illuminating with poignancy the wanderings of Van Gogh's troubled, restless soul. Naifeh and Smith bring a crucial understanding to the larger-than-life mythology of this great artist—his early struggles to find his place in the world; his intense relationship with his brother Theo; his impetus for turning to brush and canvas; and his move to Provence, where in a brief burst of incandescent productivity he painted some of the best-loved works in Western art.

The authors also shed new light on many unexplored aspects of Van Gogh's inner

world: his deep immersion in literature and art; his erratic and tumultuous romantic life; and his bouts of depression and mental illness.

Though countless books have been written about Van Gogh, and though the broad outlines of his tragedy have long inhabited popular culture, no serious, ambitious examination of his life has been attempted in more than seventy years. Naifeh and Smith have re-created Van Gogh’s life with an astounding vividness and psychological acuity that bring a completely new and sympathetic understanding to this unique artistic genius whose signature images of sunflowers and starry nights have won a permanent place in the human imagination.

## Praise

### Advance praise for Van Gogh: The Life

“The definitive biography for decades to come.” —Leo Jansen, curator, the Van Gogh Museum, and co-editor of *Vincent van Gogh: The Complete Letters*

### Praise for Jackson Pollock: An American Saga

“A superb biography [that] reads with the fluid grace of a fine novel. . . . In a period of many fine biographies, this ranks among the best.” —Detroit Free Press

“Amazing . . . An extraordinarily riveting work, full of miraculous research.” —Chicago Sun-Times

“Brilliant and definitive . . . so absorbing in its narrative drive and so exhaustingly detailed that it makes everything that came before seem like trial balloons.” —The Philadelphia Inquirer

“Monumental and impressive.” —The Washington Post

“Unprecedented . . . Never before have we had such a thorough and affecting account of an American artist.” —Los Angeles Times

“As imposing as a history book, as entertaining as a novel, and as close as the reader may ever come to sharing the breadth—and sensing the madness—of artistic genius and the genesis of a masterpiece.” —USA Today

## 作者介绍:

### Gregory White Smith

Gregory White Smith and Steven Naifeh have collaborated on many books, including *The Mormon Murders*, *Final Justice*, *A Stranger in the Family*, and *Jackson Pollock: An American Saga*, which was a National Book Award finalist and the winner of the Pulitzer Prize. They are also co-editors of the well-known reference works *The Best Doctors in America* and *The Best Lawyers in America*. Their most recent book was *On a Street Called Easy, in a Cottage Called Joye*. They live in South Carolina.

## 目录:

[Van Gogh 下载链接1](#)

## 标签

艺术

传记

van\_gogh

people

梵高

艺术史

美国

Art

## 评论

文字很流畅，读起来像是读纽约时报上的文章。

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时至今日，我的一生从未如此深远地被一本书影响过，我的心灵从未如此彻底地被一本书打动过，我的灵魂从未如此赤裸地被一本书窥探过。这半年来，我有了一个心心念念的密友，多了一份难以言说的痛楚。默默流泪过，无声哽咽过，号啕大哭过，如今结束了，却几乎被颓唐无力吞噬。我很想说点什么，说一说梵高，说一说命运，说一说我的无力。可谁又懂无言的书页也会呢喃着连绵的哀愁伤人至深。

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A fantastic insight into a tragic life. This well researched biography is painful at times to read, because of the shrill cries of agony and the searing loneliness of Vincent; his suffering, poured into his letters with increasingly desperate pleas for help, and ever diminishing hope into the ears of his captive.

我最近才知道那个画家，现在听到他的名字我就不会那么糊涂了。

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## 书评

1889年，新锐评论家艾尔贝·奥里耶在唐吉老伯的画材商店橱窗里看到了两幅“向日葵”，旋即在1890年1月的《法兰西信使》创刊号上发表文章《孤独的灵魂》，将溢美之词雨点一样泼向文森特·梵高：“一个象征主义者”、“一个狂热分子”、“一个喝醉酒的巨人”、“一个亢奋的唯...

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“人们时常不知道自己能做什么，但他一定生来就知道自己擅长某事！他一定知道他的存在并非一无是处……怎样才能成为有用的人？在我身上，一定藏有某种潜质，但那又会是什么？”梵高在给弟弟提奥的信中呼唤道。梵高一生都在寻找自己最擅长的事情，他希望为穷人传播福音，希望...

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终于花了五个多月读完了这本书，自己经历从迷茫懒散，孤独难耐，分离伤痛，生病难受，到生活与工作终于稍有起色，却猛地被背叛与伤害，终于能在今晚静下心来，翻开最后一页，从心底由衷感谢生命中出现了短暂的梵高。

五个月多前的某天，靠在床头，盯着墙壁上梵高的1889年所作...

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这本传记内容极其详细，和梵高留给后世的上千封信有关。好在作者能够从海量资料里面提取有用信息，没有形成资料堆积的感觉，行文比较流畅。但是，仍然有些内容比较啰嗦，作者想要完全还原一个真实的梵高，但是也不至于把所有细枝末节都写进去。看这本书要做好思想准备...

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我对文森特·梵高的画作初次产生强烈的印象，大概是在我十四岁第一次从一本书里看到

完成于1889年的那幅《梵高在阿尔的卧室》的时候。在那之前也许我已经看过《向日葵》或《星夜》，但都不及卧室给我带来的感触那样深刻，柔和的色彩和安详的氛围，让我在看它时内心突然产生出许多...

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因为看了电影「至爱梵高」后蹦出千百个谜而又好奇心爆棚才读的梵高传。然后断断续续在本来就伤感的3月读完了忧郁的梵高，心情瞬间降到冰点。梵高母亲把他整个人完全掏空，然后把自己的焦虑、势利、世俗的观念统统塞进他的内心，把这个像大换血却伴有强烈排异反应的梵高推到现...

《至爱梵高：星空之谜》上映之后，很多期待被“惊艳”的人感到了失望。这部“全球首部手绘油画电影”被说成是梵高画作的PPT或者动图展示，而且大多数的观众确实不知道每幅画有什么故事。当然，准确知晓每幅画绘于梵高艺术生涯的哪个阶段，这或许交给艺术研究者更适合。电影的核...

每个人的心里都有一把火，而路人只看到了烟。-----梵高  
诗人波德莱尔曾这样评价梵高：“他生下来，他画画，他死去，麦田里一片金黄，一群乌鸦惊叫着飞过天空。”当清风抹去最后一叠雾霭，梵高用他的画笔为天空带去一抹傲蓝，而那片蓝天正是他的舞台，只不过他是一位独舞者。...

茨威格说，理解杰作，一定要知道它创作的过程。从这个意义上，这是一本打六分都不为过的传记，因为保留了这类作品少有的不加掩饰的真实。梵高的作品胜在表达力。它们呈现的喷薄的热情却植根于梵高的乖戾倔犟和与之共生却无处释放的炙烈的浪漫。可是在现实里，这样的人是无法被...

一生的开始总是充满希望。  
中间有一部分厌倦的不想读下去。不是不喜欢，就好像一些画，你很喜欢但不想长久地看着他们。渐渐的发现，外面的世界才是疯人院。因为思念哥哥，所以活成了哥哥。

喜欢梵高，加上很喜欢Vincent这首歌，听说是读过梵高传有感而发，所以读了这本书。梵...

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这部近90万字的《梵高传》，如果用一句话概括，大约就是“被嫌弃的文森特的一生”吧。

这本书也彻底颠覆了我之前对梵高的印象。他狼狈不堪的生活，对商业成功的极度渴求（梵高不是淡泊名利，他太渴望成功了，只是画真的卖不出去！），以及他与高更的所谓友谊。在被贴上“天才...

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天才艺术家身上的古怪和偏执，激烈的感情，矛盾的灵魂，表达的渴望，在文森特梵高身上只多不会少。

文森特年轻的一生，崇尚大自然的美，渴盼永恒亲密的感情，追索灵魂的安宁，但总是事与愿违。每当现实中的人和事向他残忍的背过身，他便转而追寻脑海中的幻觉，用画笔悉心重塑现...

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这条路一直是上坡么？是的一直到尽头都是。这段旅程要走上一整天么？  
从日走到夜，我的朋友。

电影《杰出公民》里，作家面对读者的提问“悲伤是否是艺术创作的最佳状态？”，回答说“梵高一生坎坷曲折，他确实留下了伟大的作品，但有些艺术家一生幸福，依然成就了不朽。”读...

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读完了900页，90万字，历时10年写成的《梵高传》是目前为止读过最好的人物传记  
因为它真实、残酷、矛盾重重、去英雄化却又诗意非凡  
充满让人心碎又无限珍惜的哀愁 就像生活本来的样子  
小时候曾深深感动的欧文斯通版《渴望生活》现在看来浮夸、恶俗、无法忍受  
不会推荐给自己...

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