

EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATURE AND ART

From the greatest painters of yesteryears to some of today's most promising talent, nature has undeniably proven itself to be one of the most treasured of muses known to man.

One of the most remarkable artists to ever live, **Henry Matisse** once said: "An artist must possess Nature. He must identify himself with her rhythm, by efforts that will prepare the mastery which will later enable him to express himself in his own language."

For as long as there has been art, artists have been enthused by nature. Apart from providing endless inspiration, many of the mediums that artists use to create their masterpieces such as wood, charcoal, clay, graphite, and water are all products from nature.

Although **Vincent van Gogh** only sold one painting during his lifetime "starry night", he was in a league of his own. He had the ability to bring aspects of nature, such as simple flowers, to life in his paintings. Claude Monet is another of the world's greatest artist who drew inspiration from nature. His series of paintings entitled Lilies is a beautiful showcase of shadows, light, and water and portray his garden in France. Monet's flowers were one of the main focuses of his work for the latter 30 years of his life, perfectly illustrating what an immense influence the natural beauty around us can have on the imagination of an artist.



"Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh"



"Water Lilies by Claude Monet"

Despite the world becoming more technology-driven by the minute, there are very few things that can inspire artistic brilliance quite like nature does. From a single rose petal spiralling to the ground to a mighty fish eagle swooping in on its prey, the countless faces of Mother Nature will continue to mesmerize and provide inspiration for some of the most renowned works of art the world has ever seen.

