



**AUVERS-SUR-OISE**  
VILLAGE D'ARTISTES

Sur les pas  
de **VAN  
GOGH**

**PRESS RELEASE**  
THE 2015 CULTURAL SEASON

# Press Release

## “In the footsteps of Van Gogh”

Auvers-sur-Oise // 4 April – 20 September 2015

THE 2015 CULTURAL SEASON IN AUVERS-SUR-OISE IS DEDICATED TO VINCENT VAN GOGH

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4 April – 20 September 2015

In 2015 a great number of European places and institutions will be organizing a variety of exhibitions, experiences and events to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Vincent van Gogh on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1890.

In a short life of just 37 years the artist had no fewer than 38 different addresses in The Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom and finally France.

It was in France, his adoptive country, that Van Gogh in just under five years painted all the pictures that were to make him famous. It was also in France, in the village of Auvers-sur-Oise, that his doom-haunted existence came to an end. This was where he breathed his last in tragic circumstances that are destined forever to be veiled in mystery. Should it be regarded as the culmination of a yearning for the infinite, or the brutal rupture of a mythic destiny? Van Gogh carried the answer with him to his tomb...

Today Auvers-sur-Oise is a veritable open-air museum where there is a kind of emotional truth that counts for more than historical fact.

Auvers-sur-Oise is where one comes to meditate at the twin tombs of the Van Gogh brothers and commune with their occupants. Just a few feet away, over the cemetery wall, the communicant can see and hear the wind whistling in the fields of wheat, all the while listening to the tolling of the bells in the church immortalized by Vincent. It is painted in colours that only he was capable of finding on his palette and through which he stripped his soul naked to the gaze of the art-lover.

And then, finally, if almost every place where the artist paused on his journey through life has been destroyed or irrevocably changed by the course of events, Auvers-sur-Oise is where one can discover the very last room where Van Gogh lived, miraculously preserved in its original state on the attic floor of the Auberge Ravoux.

Auvers-sur-Oise is a village in the Paris hinterland that has managed to retain its authentic character and quaintness while still being a living, breathing place keeping up with the movement of time. In 2015, in partnership with the Paris Region Tourist Board, those responsible for cultural life in this artists' village have devised a rich and varied programme on a theme entitled “In the footsteps of Van Gogh”. This is what awaits the increasing numbers of visitors to Auvers-sur-Oise; they have averaged 220,000 in recent years.

**In the press dossier “In the footsteps of Van Gogh” you will find files on:**

Auberge Ravoux known as “The House of Van Gogh”, The House of Dr Gachet, The Château of Auvers, Musée Daubigny, The Absinth Museum, The Auvers Gallery of Contemporary Art, The House and Studio of Daubigny, the Festival of Auvers-sur-Oise, the Auvers-sur-Oise Tourist Office.

\* Auvers is welcoming 220 000 visitors/year

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### IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF VAN GOGH

#### CULTURAL PROGRAM 2015: 4 APRIL – 20 SEPTEMBER

Details in the files of the partner organizations

#### SITES RUN BY THE VAL D'OISE DEPARTMENT:

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- Château d’Auvers: Exhibition – Immersion “The Van Gogh experience at the Orangerie Sud”
- House of Dr Gachet: Exhibition “Goupil Publisher and Art dealer from G r me to the Van Gogh brothers – A century of circulating pictures and images”  
(in partnership with the Goupil Museum, Bordeaux)

#### PUBLIC ACCESS SITES IN AUVERS-SUR-OISE:

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- The Daubigny Museum: Exhibition “Van Gogh: the film-maker’s eye – Minnelli, Kurosawa, Pialat”  
(in partnership with the “Images and Cinema” service of the General Council of Val d’Oise and the French Cinematheque)
- Tourist Office: opening of a new structure in the heart of the village
- Gallery of Contemporary Art: Exhibition of the work of Herv  Di Rosa  
(in partnership with the Festival of Auvers)
- The Church of Notre Dame d’Auvers
- Town Cemetery: graves of the Van Gogh brothers and many other artists

#### PRIVATELY RUN SITES:

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- The Absinth Museum: Exhibition “Absinth in films: Van Gogh, Renoir, Coppola...”
- The House and Studio of Daubigny
- The Auberge Ravoux, known as the “House of Van Gogh”

#### OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

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- The Auvers Festival
- Van Gogh Europe
- The Institut Van Gogh / Dr Wouter van der Veen
- The Paris Region Tourist Board
- The Auvers Town Council



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### Van Gogh Europe – cooperation in a European context

The *Van Gogh Europe* initiative is the fruit of collaboration between four institutions: the Van Gogh Museum Amsterdam, the Kröller-Müller Museum, Van Gogh Brabant and the Mons Foundation 2015, which is a European capital of culture in 2015. These four pillars, grouped under the title “*Van Gogh Europe*”, are the foundation of an alliance between some thirty institutions in the Netherlands, Belgium, France and England.

The 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015 is the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vincent van Gogh’s death in Auvers-sur-Oise. The Van Gogh Europe Foundation is marking the occasion by paying tribute to the artist on the theme of “125 years of inspiration”. All the towns and villages in Europe which played a significant part in Van Gogh’s life and work are collaborating to create a program of high profile exhibitions and cultural events.

### The Institut Van Gogh

The Institut Van Gogh, which was created in 1987, has the mission of preserving the spirit and soul of Van Gogh in Auvers-sur-Oise. Here, in the Auberge Ravoux, is where Van Gogh’s short life came to an end, and the Institute exists to honour the memory of the artist at this time. The site is a “place of memory - place of life” and has been a French classified “Historic Monument” since 1985. Van Gogh had many abodes in his life but this is the only one to survive in its original state. Since 2014, the Institut Van Gogh, in partnership with the Paris Region Tourist Board, is coordinating and supporting the harmonious development of quality cultural tourism on a theme entitled “In the Footsteps of Van Gogh”.

### NOTE FOR EDITORS

The press dossier on the whole of the 2015 cultural program in Auvers-sur-Oise can be downloaded from the sites [www.surlespasdevangogh.eu](http://www.surlespasdevangogh.eu) and [pro.visitparisregion.com](http://pro.visitparisregion.com)

The site contains high resolution images of certain Van Gogh paintings and photographs of Auvers-sur-Oise, all royalty-free.

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