

Van Gogh's Sunflowers

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(Vincent Van Gogh: Unmentioned age. He is currently in a mental facility corresponding with his brother.)

A French writer says that all painters are mad to some degree. And for that matter my fellow painters also often complain that the profession makes one so powerless. Or that it's the powerless who practise it. The relatively superstitious ideas people have here about painting make me melancholy, because there's always basically some truth in it, that as a man a painter is too absorbed by what his eyes see and doesn't have enough mastery of the rest of his life. These days, to think that that fellow whatshisname wept as he started painting, that Giotto, that Angelico painted on their knees, Delacroix so utterly sad and moved... almost smiling. Thinking like this, the desire comes over me to remake myself and try to have myself forgiven for the fact that my paintings are, however, almost a cry of anguish while symbolizing gratitude in the rustic sunflower.