

AAD011 CASE STUDY

SARAH MCDONALD

Module: Contextual research and Understanding

Theme: Aesthetics



Vincent Van Gogh 'starry night over the rhone', 1888.

Van Gogh was moved by this scene and described in a letter that he thought it was beautiful. "Once I went for a walk along the deserted shore at night. It was not cheerful, it was not sad - it was beautiful." He was very enthusiastic about this place and his empathic viewpoint was presumably more profound than an indulgence in aesthetics. Van Gogh wanted to capture Rhones' beauty by capturing the glimmering waters and the velvety night sky. The houses surrounding the bank and the stars peaking through the dark sky, reflect down on the water below creating a warm glow.

This painting is very pleasant to look at with the colour scheme and mix of warm and cool tones and also the contrast between light and dark- the overall feel to this piece is magical.