

**Artists inspired by sunflowers**

**William Blake – 1794 ‘Ah! Sunflower’**. An illustrated poem, published as part of his collection ‘Songs of Experience’. William Blake was a poet, painter and printmaker.

**Claude Monet – 1881 – ‘Sunflowers’.** This paintingwas exhibited at the seventh Impressionist exhibition. The sunflowers for this still life were taken from Monet’s garden in Vétheuil, France. Monet concentrated on the composition of a bunch of sunflowers with a high level of detail, fresh from the garden with no sign of decay.

**Vincent Van Gogh – 1887/1888 – two series of sunflower paintings.** The first series was painted in Paris, depicting the flowers lying on the ground. The second series, made a year later in Arles, shows a bouquet of sunflowers in a vase. Van Gogh painted five large canvases with sunflowers in a vase, with three shades of yellow and nothing else. The 1888 series is the better known.

**Paul Gaugin – 1888 – ‘The Painter of Sunflowers’**. A portrait of Vincent Van Gogh by Gaugin. The two painters shared a house in Arles, South of France. Gaugin also painted sunflowers in Tahiti in 1901.

**Gustav Klimt – 1907 – ‘The Sunflower’.** An incredibly tall sunflower with a thick, luscious, green stalk with many leaves. The leaves have been painted with a slightly blue hue, which helps to add definition and a majestic quality. The sunflower is painted in an upright form, almost as if it is a triangle. It resembles Klimt’s other image of the lovers in ‘The Kiss’.

