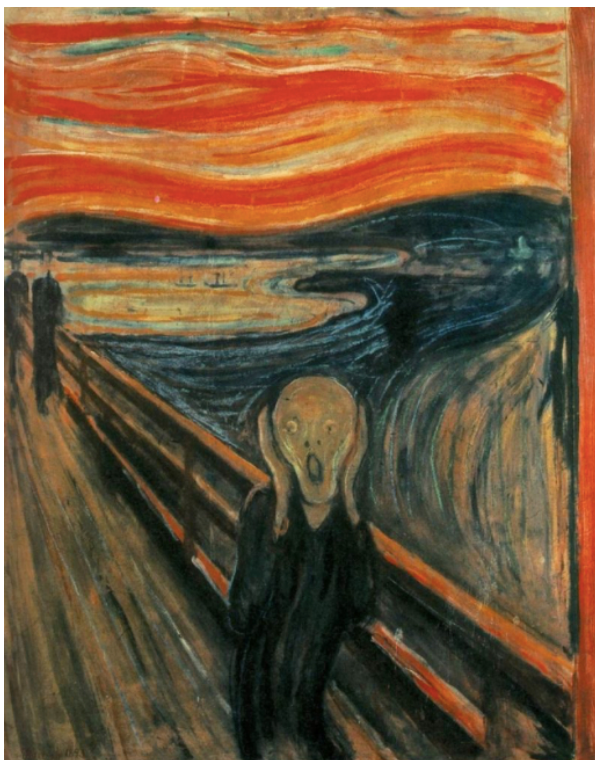


Philosophy @ The Virtual Art Museum: Expressionism

Vincent Van Gogh, *Bedroom in Arles*, 1888, Van Gogh Museum

1. What features of this painting make it different from a photograph that might have been taken of this room?
2. Does the fact that it was the room Van Gogh lived in change your understanding of it?
3. What distortions do you notice in the painting?
4. Why do you think Van Gogh painted such a distorted version of his room?



Edvard Munch, *The Scream*, 1893, National Gallery Oslo, Norway

1. What strikes you immediately about this painting?
2. How does the painting differ from a photograph that might have been taken of the person on the bridge?
3. What emotion is the person experiencing? What emotion do you feel when looking at the painting?
4. Do you think this is a good painting? Why or why not?

Philosophy @ The Virtual Art Museum: Expressionism



Willem de Kooning, *Woman V* (1952–53), National Gallery of Australia

1. What is the subject of this painting?
2. Why do you think it is painted in this odd way?
3. What about this painting makes it a work of abstract expressionism, in your opinion?
4. Does this painting convey an emotion? Which one(s) and how?

Philosophy Questions:

1. Name some emotions including the ones that you thought the paintings conveyed.
2. Do emotions have a specific feeling associated with them? Are they identical with those feelings? Where do you experience emotions, in your body or your mind? Do you associate specific emotions with different parts of your body?
3. When you experience an emotion, is it "directed" at a particular person or thing? Give an example of an emotion and how it relates to something outside of you. Are there, on the other hand, some emotions that are not so directed to something external to you? Give an example. [Hint: Consider happiness. Can you just be happy or do you have to be happy about something? If the latter, then happiness has what philosophers call "an object," whatever you are happy about. What about anxiety, an emotion that many philosophers think is especially significant?]
4. Is there a difference between an emotion and a mood? How would you describe that difference, if any?
5. Can you tell what emotions another person is experiencing? How do you know?
6. How important are emotions in your life? How important do you think they should be?

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