

HISTORY IN ART

Paul Gauguin

2 November 2022

- 1848 – Paul Gauguin is born in Paris but when he is 18 months old, the family is taken to Peru by his father, who dies of a heart attack en route. Paul spends his early childhood in Lima until political unrest forces his mother to take the family back to Paris.
- 1859 – He becomes a student at the Petit Séminaire de la Chapelle-Saint-Mesmin outside Orléans. This is a boarding school known for the high quality of its education and later in his life he expressed his gratitude for the teaching he received there.
- 1865 – Gauguin begins his national service on a merchant ship travelling between Le Havre and Rio de Janeiro. He later becomes a sailor on a French navy ship
- 1871 – He completes his national service and begins work for a stockbroker. He meets a Danish woman, Mette-Sophie Gad, and they are married two years later.
- 1876 – He is increasingly devoting his time to painting and this year has a painting accepted by the Paris Salon. He also begins to collect artworks, particularly Impressionism.
- 1879 – Gauguin and Camille Pissarro work together in Pontoise. They both exhibit at the fourth “Impressionist” exhibition and do so at more of these exhibitions in future.
- 1883 – Gauguin decides to become a full-time artist and art dealer.
- 1884 – He moves with his wife and children to Copenhagen but leaves them the year after and moves to Paris to pursue his career as an artist.
- 1887 – Gauguin visits to Panama and Martinique, where he falls seriously ill with dysentery and malaria.
 - 1888 – On his return to France, he settles with other artists in Pont-Aven in Brittany.
- 1888 – From October to December Gauguin shares a house with Vincent van Gogh in Arles in southern France, where the famous incident occurs in which Van Gogh’s ear is partly cut off.
- 1891 – Gauguin leaves France for Tahiti where he paints the people and their culture. He suffers periods of great poverty but produces work of great originality very different from the Impressionist style that he had admired.
- 1893 – He returns to France but finds that his paintings are not well received there, despite the efforts of Paul Durand-Ruel to promote them. But some of his paintings are entered into

an exhibition in Copenhagen by his ex-wife and are a success. Collectors from elsewhere in Scandinavia and Germany also buy his works.

- 1895 – He returns to Tahiti but eventually finds it too expensive to live there.
- 1901 – Gauguin moves to Hiva Oa in the Marquesas Islands, where he dies of multiple health conditions in May 1903.