



FILM: **LOVING VINCENT**

FDG RATING: 3.9   
Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

Dorota Kobiela & Hugh Welchman: *Directors/Writers*  
125 professional oil painters from all over the world  
Ensemble cast for live action

DATE: November 19, 2017

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **LOVING VINCENT**

<http://lovingvincent.com/>

Anyone who overcame their hesitation to see an animated film was richly rewarded with the interesting story and amazing visual mastery in *Loving Vincent*. We have probably seen some of Vincent Van Gogh's 900 paintings in exhibits or books and can instantly recognize his art by the thick, heavily gestured brush strokes and saturated, sometimes screaming colors. Some attributed his intense painting style to his erratic mental state. All this is captured frame by frame (65,000 hand-painted drawings in total) using a technique that is actually a combination of live-action scenes, stop motion, traditional animation, and visual effects. 125 professional oil-painters from all over the world were carefully selected to tediously and expertly hand-paint each frame. The film took 6 years to complete.

As the story unfolds, we meet the people in Van Gogh's portraits and hear them talk about Vincent. We visit the places they live, (familiar scenes from his vibrant paintings) as part of Armand Roulin's fictionalized journey to understand the mystery of Van Gogh's death (suicide?) in 1890 at the age of 37 (he had only been painting for 10 years). The journey began at the request of Roulin's father, a Postman, who wants Armand to deliver a letter to Theo, Vincent's brother in Paris. Evidently, Theo, distraught over the death of his brother, died soon after. Armand learns from a paint supplier that Theo was instrumental in helping Vincent survive as a struggling artist for many years. Van Gogh only sold one painting during his lifetime but now, after 10 years, he had finally started to achieve some recognition. So why would he commit suicide? Armand hopes to find the answer by continuing his journey to Vincent's final destination, the quiet village of Auvers-sur-Oise, an hour outside Paris, to meet the Doctor who treated Vincent just before his death. He talks to many others along the way and each encounter brings another Van Gogh painting to life.

The narrative approach is extremely unique, creative, and original combined with visually mesmerizing, stylized-realism for animation. One resident reviewer, who was hesitant to watch the animated film, said it was the most visually stunning film he had seen since *The Yellow Submarine*. Another described the film as an amazing technical masterpiece. Another participant who generally avoids animation, was an enthusiastic convert. An artist, resident film reviewer appreciated how Van Gogh's expressive brush strokes were perfectly captured in the animation. We agreed that the challenge of bringing Van Gogh's art "to life" both in terms of the story as well as the technical aspect was a very brave and ambitious endeavor.

More details on the film production:

<http://www.animationmagazine.net/features/a-hand-painted-valentine-to-van-gogh/>

For writers-directors, husband and wife team, Kobiela & Welchman, this film was a 6 year labor of love. For almost all of our film discussion group, it was 95 minutes of pure amazing enjoyment, resulting in a brightly painted 3.9 on our scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best.)



See you at the movies!

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[www.filmdiscussiongroup.com](http://www.filmdiscussiongroup.com)