



ESSENTIAL WORKERS

VINCENT VAN GOGH, *A WOMAN WITH A SPADE, SEEN FROM BEHIND*

Vincent van Gogh, one of the most famous European artists from the 1800s, was influenced by Dutch and French artists who focused on rural life. He immersed himself in the lives of the people who worked on the land and even dressed like them. In this painting, Van Gogh invites us to empathize with the woman's hard labour. The artist has chosen colours that blend the woman with the land.

Line drawing of: Vincent van Gogh, *A woman with a spade, seen from behind*, 1885. Oil on canvas on wood panel. Overall: 41.7 x 32.3 cm.
Gift of Ann and Lawrence Heisey, 1997. © Art Gallery of Ontario. 97/156.

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QUESTION

Based on this painting, who do you think this woman is?

ACTIVITY

Imagine you stepped inside this painting; how would it feel? What do you see, smell and hear?

Draw everything that's around you!

1. If you have access to a printer, print the activity card, draw what you would see and colour the drawing.
2. If you do not have access to a printer, draw what you imagine is around the woman. Colour it and share it.
3. Make your drawing as realistic or not as your wish!



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