

Vincent Van Gogh: His earliest oil paintings.

Hello: I hope this finds you well and reading a good book



Vincent Van Gogh: *Beach at Scheveningen in Calm Weather*, August 1882

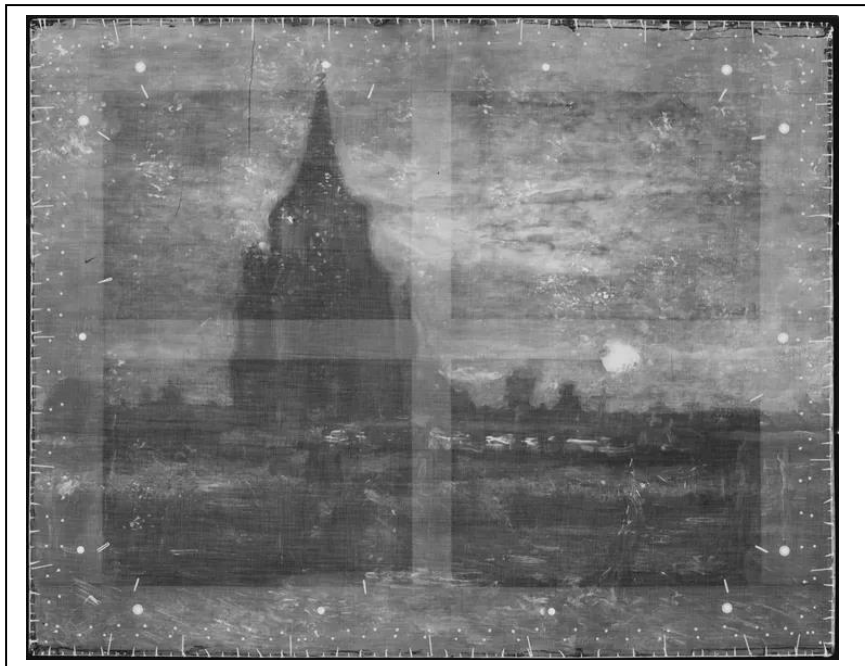
Letter # 864: To Anna van Gogh-Carbentus and Willemien van Gogh. Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, Tuesday, 29 April 1890. “Do you still happen to have any of my old studies and drawings?”

Vincent Van Gogh wrote to his sister asking about a crate of 40 assorted drawings and paintings from his early career. Among the paintings in the crate that later turned up, was *Beach at Scheveningen in Calm Weather*, painted in August 1882. The early work sold for 2.8 million dollars—considerably more than the one *guilder* (about 50 cents) that a local junk dealer paid for the abandoned crate containing some of Van Gogh’s earliest oil paintings.

Another of Van Gogh’s early oil paintings holds an interesting surprise. Pictured below, *Poplars near Nuenen*, painted in November, 1885, originally featured the cemetery where Van Gogh’s father was buried.



Vincent Van Gogh: *Poplars near Nuenen* November, 1885



The original canvas showing the cemetery and a close-up view of the church, complete with three crosses.

If you haven't already, please take a moment to leave a review on Amazon. It is really helpful with sales. Here is the link to my latest book, "[Stealing Picasso](#)." Thank you.

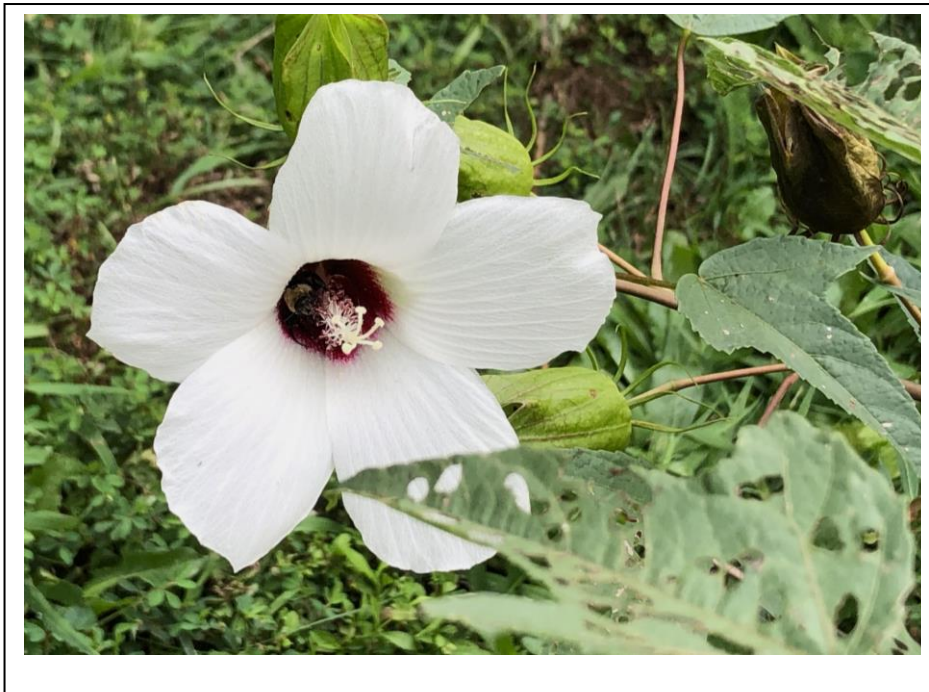
If you know of anyone who is looking for a speaker, the Kentucky Humanities Speakers Bureau is great about helping to subsidize appearances. I'm available as a speaker to talk about "[Stealing Renoir](#)," and how World War II was the largest art theft in history.

Or, if Kentucky history is appropriate for audiences, the Speakers Bureau will subsidize my appearance to discuss the findings from my research grant into the Underground Railroad in Kentucky. I'm also available to talk about gardening with native plants and "[Let The Earth Breathe](#)." If you or anyone you know would like to schedule a talk, here's the [link](#).

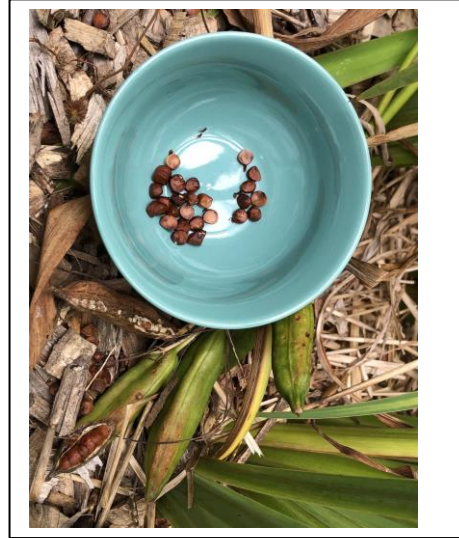
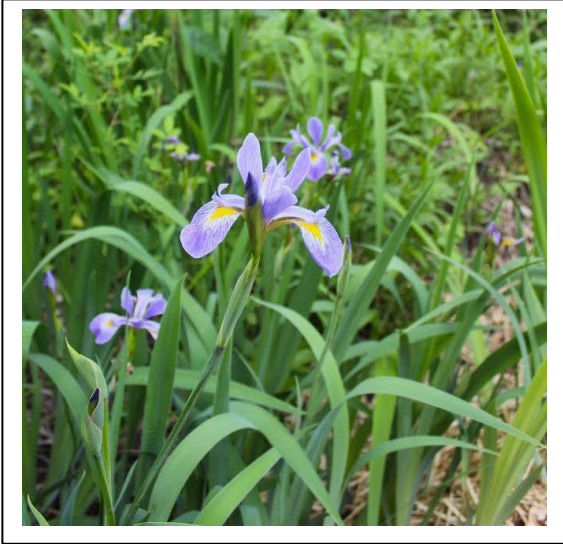
More about "Letting The Earth Breathe:"

I have been gathering seeds in preparation for the upcoming native plant and seed swaps. The swaps are free, as are the plants and seeds. If you aren't already a member and are interested, here is the link: [Kentucky Native Plants Swap](#)

Halberd Hibiscus (*Hibiscus laevis*) also known as halberd-leaf rosemallow, is one of those rare native plants that has blossoms and seed pods at the same time. The bees like to crawl inside and take naps. If you look closely, you'll see a bumblebee checking out the interior.



Blue flag Iris (*Iris Virginica*), pictured below, is one of my favorites. The plant comes back from roots every year and is thriving. As you can see from the picture on the lower right, we will have plenty of seeds.



That's about all the news that fits.

[Here's the link to my website for the most up-to-date schedule of talks.](#)

Happy reading.

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