

Critical Transitions in Mental Health: Van Gogh Case Study

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Vincent Van Gogh was a talented, yet troubled painter whose artistic career was undermined by mental instability which eventually resulted in suicide. Tools from nonlinear dynamics used to predict regime shifts in ecological systems have previously been applied to the study of mental health - or the stability of an individual's mental health. Applying such methodology to the study of Van Gogh provides insight into the artist's mental decay. Studying the progression of the artist's use of color in relation to the artist's mental state further offers a nuanced picture of the relationship between Van Gogh's art and emotional state.