1: Vincent Van Gogh
Born in 1853 in the Netherlands, Vincent van Gogh has become one of the most recognized and notable artists of Impressionism. However, they ways in which we joyously view his art today, does not always lend itself the internal battles Van Gogh faced as an artist. He was a highly emotional individual who struggled with self-confidence — he often viewed his art as worthless, imperfect, and lacking in detail. It took years for him to develop his own sense of style, and although his passionate technique with bold colors and harsh brush strokes were not valued by the Academy during his lifetime, his paintings have become an emblem of modern art. Painting landscapes, still lives, and portraits, Van Gogh created powerful content full with passion, drama, rhythm, and emotion.

Examine It:
*Starry Night with Cypresses* (1889), oil on canvas, located at the Museum of Modern Art (New York)
[https://www.vangoghgallery.com/painting/starry-night.html](https://www.vangoghgallery.com/painting/starry-night.html)

Re-create It:
**Materials**
- white paper, or watercolor paper
- crayons
- water color paints
- star stickers (optional)
- additional construction paper (optional)

**Procedure**
1. On your blank sheet of white paper use crayons to create your own design. You can mimic the Starry Night composition; create your own landscape inspired by your own
visions of the night sky or other landscapes; or you can draw an imaginative picture inspired by your own dreams. To mimic Van Gogh’s techniques use the crayons to create a series of dashed lines, swirls, and circular shapes. Be sure to press hard on the crayons to achieve bright colors and defined shapes/lines — this is a key component because the waxy crayon surface prevents the watercolor from ruining your drawn design and image. You can add in star stickers or other stickers to your scene, if desired.

2. Once you have drawn and colored the subject matter of your image, take the watercolor paints and paint over the image. Cover the entire paper with watercolors; you can use one color or multiple colors to create the sky/ background of your picture. The watercolors add a dramatic effect to the work while keeping your original crayon-image in pristine condition!

3. You can also cut out other shapes from construction paper (such as trees, hills, houses) and glue them onto your image once the watercolor background has dried.