

Response to an article from the Art Newspaper by Martin Bailey - a self-anointed Van Gogh expert - via Facebook - Dec 6, 2019

https://www.theartnewspaper.com/blog/ten-myths-about-van-gogh?fbclid=IwAR3M4_TF3YeB57jIAIvT2pUkJGylysbomynhQ7-kNfaj-uoaEERJao-Bet4

As myths go, all of these presented - from one to ten - are valid - EXCEPT, that is, for number 9. There is no proof that VG cut off his ear and more of an inclination, among scholars, that it was sliced off by a close friend and ally with serious anger issues. But then, that too is not proven and therefore neither a myth nor a reality. Both of these are but suppositions which need many more years of factual based “wonderings” to be validated - if validated they will ever be. As to the purported suicide or murder - neither has been proven one way or the other, either. Interesting how some articles are written to make a point of highlighting beliefs which are more in keeping with our times than that of Van Gogh’s. And how better to do that than to present a multitude of obvious myths in one go - thus giving pseudo-credibility to the one notion which has none.

Naturally, romantics are afraid (sign of the times) that concerns with “factuality” would kill all the romanticism instilled in the life of VG by none other than “us”. We, today, tend to thrive on a need to give our contemporary perceptions (and our own experiences of anxiety and depression) a romanticized rationality; a virtual reality as that we have imposed upon our victimhood poster boy Vincent.

Could that be called "transference neurosis"?

Bernard Poulin