



Brussels

26 August 1878 – early December 1878

early October 1880 – late April 1881

Vincent lived in Brussels twice: in 1878 and for a longer period of time in 1880–81. In 1878, he followed a three-month course to become an evangelist. This plan had originated when Vincent was rejected to an enrolment of Theology studies in Amsterdam. In Brussels the duration of the training was shorter and with less requirements, so he applied there.

After a trial period of three months, he was not accepted for further schooling but he was allowed to practice as an evangelist in the Borinage mining area. It was there that Vincent ultimately decided to become an artist in 1881. This ambition brought him once more to Brussels, where he hoped to be educated and meet other artists. Vincent enrolled at

the Art Academy and worked in the studio of artist friend Anthon van Rappard. Despite allowances provided by his father and brother Theo, Vincent was struggling financially. And, when Van Rappard left town, Vincent no longer had a place to work. This misfortune led him to leave Brussels behind again to live with his parents in Etten.



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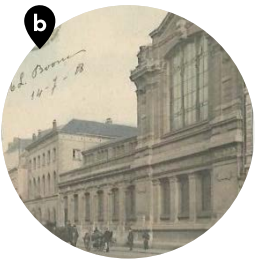
- a** **Flemish school for Evangelists**
Place Sainte Catherine / Sint-Katelijneplein 5
- b** **Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts**
rue du Midi / Zuidstraat 144
- c** **Tobias Schmidt**
rue Marché aux herbes / Grasmart 89
- d** **Musée des Beaux-Arts**
rue de la Régence / Regentschapsstraat 3



Flemish school for Evangelists

Address Place Sainte Catherine / Sint-Katelijneplein 5

From mid-August 1878, Vincent took lessons at the Flemish School for Evangelists on Sint-Katelijneplein. Including Vincent, there were just three students in the class. One of them, Pieter Jozef Chrispeels, recalled that Vincent's attitude in school was apathetic and that he was sober and harsh for himself. After the three-month trial period, Vincent had to terminate his studies because he had failed to meet the requirements, which were stricter for foreign students than for Belgians. He left Brussels for the Borinage region to preach among the miners.



Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts

Address rue du Midi / Zuidstraat 144

After Vincent had returned to Brussels in 1880, he followed the advice of two friends and registered for a course in drawing from antiquity at the Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts in the city. He initially had little interest in such an academic education but it was free and it offered him the opportunity to work in a warm and well-lit studio during the winter. The benefits convinced Vincent. On 5 December, he entered a drawing competition in which he finished last. He left the academy soon after.



Tobias Schmidt

Address rue Marché aux herbes / Grasmarkt 89

Tobias Victor Schmidt was the manager for the art dealers Goupil & Cie in Brussels, where Vincent's brother Theo had also worked. Vincent hoped Schmidt would do him the favour of introducing him to other artists in the city. During his visits, Vincent saw reproductions of Jean François Millet's *The Diggers* and *The Angelus* at Schmidt's gallery. He borrowed them and used them as a reference for his own creations.



Musée des Beaux-Arts

Address rue de la Régence / Regentschapsstraat 3

In November 1878, Vincent and his brother Theo visited the Musée des Beaux-Arts where he was impressed by "so many remarkable paintings". In a letter to his brother, he mentioned the work of artists Charles De Groux, Henri Leys and Joseph Théodore Coosemans in particular. At the time, the museum was still located in the Oude Hof. When Vincent visited the museum in 1881 for an exhibition of works on paper, the museum had relocated to a new building, in which it is still housed today.



Van Rappard's Studio

Address rue Traversière / Dwarsstraat 8 (Please note that this location is far from the city centre)

A close friendship developed in early 1881 between Vincent and the Dutch artist Anthon van Rappard, who was also studying in Brussels at the time. Vincent worked with him in his studio for several months as he only had a small room himself, which was also poorly lit. They both left the city in the spring of 1881 but remained in contact through letters and visits until 1885. There is some uncertainty about where exactly Van Rappard lived and where his studio was located. Nevertheless, a commemorative plaque was placed on the building at 8 rue Traversière.