Tricoteuse Assie (Seated Girl, Knitting)

Vincent van Gogh

Lead pencil on paper, circa 1882

Gift of Mary Musser Gilmore in memory of Mrs. Gilmore's mother and father, Sarah Walker Musser and Richard Drew Musser
Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890)

Vincent van Gogh was born in a village in the southern Netherlands and spent his young adult life working for art dealers. He also took an interest in the vocation of his father, and became a missionary worker in an impoverished mining region in Belgium in 1879. In the following year Vincent took the suggestion of his brother Theo, and decided to become a painter. After several years of study he completed his first major work, *The Potato Eaters*, in 1885.

Van Gogh produced more than 2,000 paintings, drawings and sketches in the last ten years of his life. His best-known works were created in the last two years, a time in which he suffered from mental illness that eventually led to his suicide. Van Gogh pioneered the art movement that came to be known as Expressionism, and dramatically influenced the art of the 20th century, and specifically the Fauves (The Wild Beasts) and German Expressionists.