

A self-portrait of Vincent van Gogh. He is wearing a blue cap and a dark green jacket. His right ear is bandaged, and the bandage is reflected in the mirror image on the left side of his face. In the background, there is a painting of a Japanese scene with figures in traditional clothing.

Today in History

December 23, 1888

▲ In a fit of depression Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh cut off his left ear. A self portrait shows the right one bandaged because he painted the mirror image

1933: Emperor Akihito of Japan was born; he ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne in 1990 on his father's death

1973: Iran said that the six main Gulf oil producers would raise export prices by 100% from January 1974

1996: Four women were ordained as priests in Jamaica, the first in the history of the Anglican church

2000: A U.S. motorist in Oregon was rescued after 16 days trapped in his car which was buried by deep snow