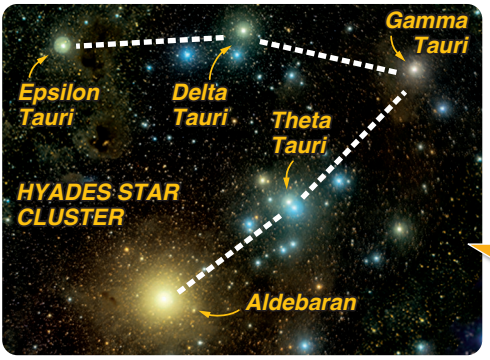
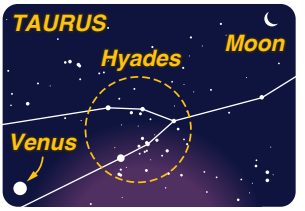
Starry Night layout matches real sky

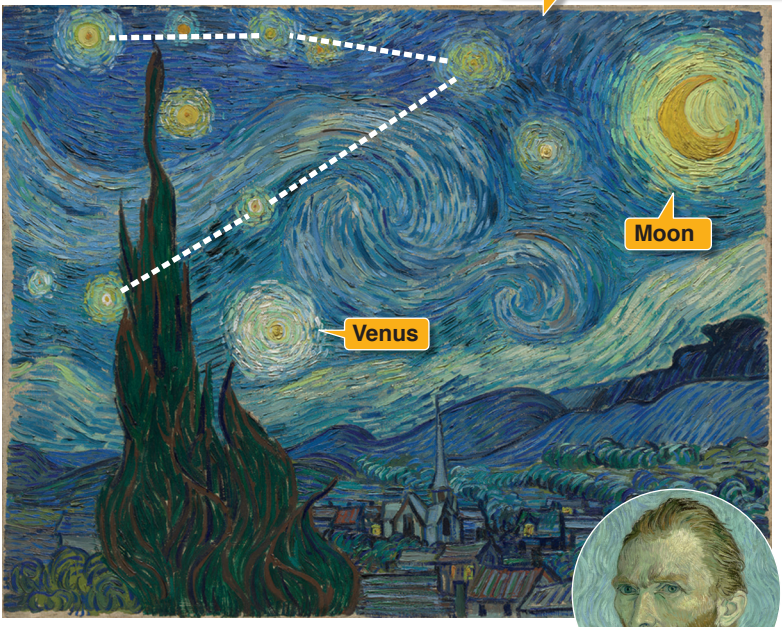
Researchers combining astronomical simulations and star-position data suggest the sky in Van Gogh's *The Starry Night* was based on real observation, rather than pure imagination

● **Around Jul 22, 1889:** Pre-dawn sky over Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France, seen from where ***Vincent Van Gogh*** painted, matches artwork, with waning crescent moon, Venus and Hyades star cluster close together





Shape analysis confirms match between five central stars in painting and Hyades cluster, part of Taurus constellation



● *Van Gogh took inspiration from his window view at Saint-Paul-de-Mausole asylum in Saint-Rémy, where he sought treatment for mental illness in 1889-90*

Sources: Nature, MoMA Picture: NOIRLab/NSF/AURA/Digitized Sky Survey 2 © GRAPHIC NEWS