



## Vincent Van Gogh's Cypresses at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Thursday, August 3

**6:45 am** - Park and board the bus in the State Street parking lot located directly across from the Springfield Main Library. **7 am** - Departure from the State Street parking lot.

**10:15 am** – Estimated arrival at the Metropolitan Museum of Art - Enjoy a self- guided tour of the Met's permanent collection and special exhibit of *Van Gogh's Cypresses*, the first exhibition to focus on the trees—among the most famous in the history of art—immortalized in signature images by Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890). Such iconic pictures as *Wheat Field with Cypresses* and *The Starry Night* take their place as the centerpiece in a presentation that affords an unprecedented perspective on a motif virtually synonymous with the Dutch artist's fiercely original power of expression. Major works are featured along with precious drawings and illustrated letters—many rarely, if ever, lent or exhibited together—this tightly conceived thematic exhibition offers an extraordinary opportunity to appreciate anew some of Van Gogh's most celebrated works in a context that reveals the backstory of their invention for the first time.

### **Other exhibits on view:**

***In Praise of Painting: Dutch Masterpieces at The Met*** - Dutch paintings of the 17th century—the Golden Age of Rembrandt, Hals, and Vermeer—have been a highlight of The Met collection since the Museum's founding purchase in 1871. This exhibition brings together some of the Museum's greatest paintings to present this remarkable chapter of art history in a new light. Through sixty-seven works of art organized thematically, *In Praise of Painting* orients visitors to key issues in seventeenth-century Dutch culture—from debates about religion and conspicuous consumption to painters' fascination with the domestic lives of women.

***Cecily Brown: Death and the Maid*** - For more than twenty-five years, Cecily Brown (b. 1969) has transfixed viewers with sumptuous color, bravura brushwork, and complex narratives that relate to some of Western art history's grandest and oldest themes. After moving to New York from London in the 1990s, she revived painting for a new generation alongside a handful of other artists—many of them also women—at the very moment critics were questioning its import and relevance. The first full-fledged museum survey of Brown's work in New York since she made the city her home, *Cecily Brown: Death and the Maid* assembles a select group of some fifty paintings, drawings, sketchbooks, and monotypes from across her career to explore the intertwined themes of still life, memento mori, mirroring, and vanitas—symbolic depictions of human vanity or life's brevity—that have propelled her dynamic and impactful practice for decades.

**3 pm** – Meet the bus at our drop off point and depart for Springfield with an estimated return by **7 pm**.

**What to bring:** Camera, comfortable walking shoes, water, and snacks for the bus. Water provided for the return home.

**Cost:** \$145, Members, \$170, nonmembers; includes self-guided tour, bus travel and driver tip.