



Vincent Willem van Gogh[pronunciation 1] (30 March 1853 – 29 July 1890) was a Dutch Post-Impressionist painter whose work had a far-reaching influence on 20th century art for its vivid colors and emotional impact. He suffered from anxiety and increasingly frequent bouts of mental illness throughout his life, and died largely unknown, at the age of 37, from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Little appreciated during his lifetime, his fame grew in the years after his death. Today, he is widely regarded as one of history's greatest painters and an important contributor to the foundations of modern art. Van Gogh did not begin painting until his late twenties, and most of his best-known works were produced during his final two years. He produced more than 2,000 artworks, consisting of around 900 paintings and 1,100 drawings and sketches. He was little known during his lifetime, however his work was a strong influence on the Modernist art that followed, and today many of his pieces—including his numerous self portraits, landscapes, portraits and sunflowers—are among the world's most recognizable and expensive works of art.



Ralph McQuarrie (b. June 13, 1929, Gary, Indiana) is a conceptual designer and futurist responsible for the look of Star Wars (all of the original trilogy), the original Battlestar Galactica (TV), E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial and Cocoon, for which he won an Academy Award.



He is a contemporary of Syd Mead, another conceptual designer/futurist, with whom he attended school. "RMQ", as he is known to sign original works, has provided illustrations to supplement several Isaac Asimov publications, including Robot Dreams and Robot Visions. When George Lucas announced in 1995 that he was going to be making a Star Wars prequel, RMQ was invited to head up the design team, as he had done with Joe Johnston twenty years before. After arriving, however, he decided that the existing design team (led by ILM illustrator Doug Chiang) was more than sufficient, and declined to participate -- much to the eventual disappointment of many "Original Trilogy" fans.

