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Paul Gauguin

To achieve your life's goal by doing what you love. Not everyone will aware of their capabilities of doing what they love, but some, who can realize how great their capability is, they will be attracted by those things they love and keep doing and practicing their skills in order to be the best of doing what they love. Paul Gauguin, the famous oil-color painting expert, he is one of the people who had abandoned his stable career and started to work on painting, what he loved and painted for his spare time for the whole life. He turned to be a famous French Post-Impressionist<sup>1</sup> artist. His experiment, a use of color, had influenced many other artists' painting behavior to a new impressionism style, a Synthetist style<sup>2</sup>. But, unfortunately, his works were well appreciated after his death<sup>3</sup>.

Paul Gauguin was born in Paris, France, on 7 June 1848. His father was a journalist and his mother was a daughter of a socialist leader. He and his family had moved from France to Peru because of a political crisis. His father died on a journey. They lived with his uncle in a town, Lima. In this town, there was an intention to him to create many art

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia Contributors. "Post-Impressionism." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. 1 February 2013<  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-Impressionism>>

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia Contributors. "Synthetism." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. 1 February 2013<  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synthetism>>

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia Contributors. "Paul Gauguin." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. 1 February 2013<  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul\\_Gauguin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Gauguin)>

works later on. At the age seven, he moved back to France, and at seventeen, he joined a crew in a merchant marine. Then, three years later he joined a French Navy in order to serve his military service for two years. When he was discharged from a navy, he started a secured job as a stockbroker. At age twenty-three, He became a very successful French businessman at that time. He married to a Danish woman and had five children. It was such a very happy family with a high quality financial position. Till now, he had been painting for his hobby consistently.

Gauguin had an opportunity to meet up with a French Impressionist artist, Camille Pissarro. He invited Gauguin to many famous artists and told him to continue his painting. He rent a studio to collect his impressionism arts and to do painting. Then, he moved his family to Copenhagen, Denmark and left them to Paris to go painting with Paul Cezanne<sup>4</sup> and Vincent van Gogh<sup>5</sup>. At this point, he had decided to leave away his stable career and his nice family to do a painting with famous Impressionist artists back to Paris. He put his art works to show up in the gallery and started to have fame in Paris.

At that time, Eastern and African arts were leaking into the Western world, especially, folk arts and Japanese prints. With his intention to the folk arts, so, Gauguin decided to leave the European civilization to the island called “*Tahiti*”. In Tahiti, he was

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<sup>4</sup> Wikipedia Contributors. “Vincent van Gogh.” *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. 1 February 2013<  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincent\\_van\\_Gogh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincent_van_Gogh)>

<sup>5</sup> Wikipedia Contributors. “Paul Cezanne.” *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. 1 February 2013<  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul\\_Cezanne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Cezanne)>

inspired to create many art works to show up the world, and also wrote a book “*Noa Noa*<sup>6</sup>” which talked about his experiences in Tahiti.

With the influence of folk arts and Japanese prints, Gauguin tended his works to Cloisonnism<sup>7</sup> (a style of Impressionism art works with bold and flat forms separated by dark contours)<sup>8</sup>, started an experiment about the use of colors and adapted to a new style of his own. He had made up a Synthetist style of his own which was well appreciated and accepted after his death as his fame.

In the end of his life, he lived in a Marquesas island located in a French Polynesia<sup>9</sup>. He was blind and suffered from the syphilis. Finally, he had died here on 8 May 1903, before his body was moved to be buried in Calvary Cemetery at Atuona Bay where he loved most.

Gauguin’s paintings after he became an islander were painted with a colorful arrangement, simple shapes, twisted and flat because of no shadow. These paintings were full of stories and life styles of the local islanders. Later, this style of painting is named as “*Synthetism*” Gauguin believed that artists would create a great art if they were inspired by a power of nature. He was a Post-Impressionist artist as Paul Cezanne and Vincent van Gogh, who had a high influence of the evolution of a modern art.

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<sup>6</sup> Wikipedia Contributors. “Paul Gauguin.” *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. 1 February 2013<  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul\\_Gauguin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Gauguin)>

<sup>7</sup> Wikipedia Contributors. “Cloisonnism.” *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. 1 February 2013<  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloisonnism>>

<sup>8</sup> Wikipedia Contributors. “Cloisonnism.” *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. 1 February 2013<  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloisonnism>>

<sup>9</sup>

Paul Gauguin was a very real rebel artist, who could sacrifice everything to work on the art he loved and became success from the choice he had chosen. He could not know that one day would become a famous artist. From a very successful businessman and stockbroker to a great famous artist by turning a favorite hobby to a job, he could fulfill his life. It might use some luck to reach his point, with an opportunity to meet up with Pissarro, but most of it came from his sacrifice and endeavors. He could form a new style of art by his own style and by many inspirations. He, Paul Gauguin, is an example of people who keep doing what they love even they have to give up on something, such as a stable career, their family, home town or civilization, in order to fulfill their happiness from it.