

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910666111803321
Autore	Grant Patrick
Titolo	The letters of Vincent van Gogh : a critical study // Patrick Grant
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Edmonton, [Alberta] : , : AU Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	1-927356-75-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (239 pages)
Collana	Cultural Dialectics, , 1915-8378
Disciplina	759.9492
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Letters as Literature -- Part I Vincent Agonistes: Religion, Morality, Art. Religious Convictions, Moral Imperatives -- The Artistic Life and Its Limits -- Part II Thinking in Images. Birds' Nests: Art and Nature, Exile and Return -- The Mistral: Creativity and Adversity -- Cab Horses: Despair and Optimism -- Part III Exploring with Ideas. By Heart: The Creative Unconscious -- A Handshake Till Your Fingers Hurt: Autonomy and Dependency -- Something New Without a Name: Beyond Religion, Morality, Art -- Conclusion: "My Own Portrait in Writing".
Sommario/riassunto	When he died at the age of thirty-seven, Vincent van Gogh left a legacy of over two thousand artworks, for which he is now justly famous. But van Gogh was also a prodigious writer of letters - more than eight hundred of them, addressed to his parents, to friends such as Paul Gauguin, and, above all, to his brother Theo. His letters have long been admired for their exceptional literary quality, and art historians have sometimes drawn on the letters in their analysis of the paintings. And yet, to date, no one has undertaken a critical assessment of this remarkable body of writing - not as a footnote to the paintings but as a highly sophisticated literary achievement in its own right. Patrick Grant's long-awaited study provides such an assessment and, as such, redresses a significant omission in the field of van Gogh studies. As Grant demonstrates, quite apart from furnishing a highly revealing

self-portrait of their author, the letters are compelling for their imaginative and expressive power, as well as for the perceptive commentary they offer on universal human themes. Through a subtle exploration of van Gogh's contrastive style of thinking and his fascination with the notion of imperfection, Grant illuminates gradual shifts in van Gogh's ideas on religion, ethics, and the meaning of art. He also analyzes the metaphorical significance of a number of key images in the letters, which prove to yield unexpected psychological and conceptual connections, and probes the relationships that surface when the letters are viewed as a cohesive literary product. The result is a wealth of new insights into van Gogh's inner landscape.
