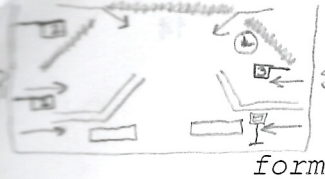
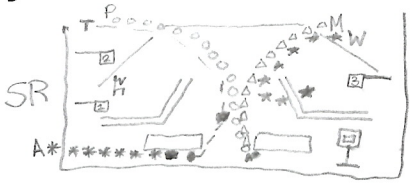


Scene 4

A TRAIN STATION - VINCENT is sketching passersby. They form pictures in the station. We see a collage of movement. VARIOUS TOWNSPEOPLE speak.



PA

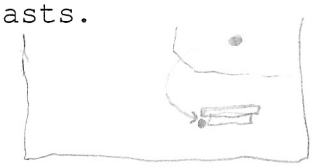
The worry over Vincent overshadows our family's happiness. He refused to attend church on Christmas. I don't know him.

MA

Theo is doing so well in Paris. He has taken on the burden of his brother Vincent. If only he can remove the burden from my heart.

ANNA

I loathe him. He has made life a misery for our family. He is irrational and combative. I stayed with him in London for a time. It ended badly. Nothing with my brother lasts.



WIL

Both Vincent and my brother Theo write to me. They know I will keep their confidence.

MA

If only he was responsible and could care for himself. He refuses to eat properly.

ANNA

He is judgmental and delusional.

WIL

He wants to make something of himself. He tries hard. He upset my sister Anna at her wedding. He calls her the charming sister. He always did have a sense of humor.

SEIN

If that time came then yes.

VINCENT

Our situation grows even more desperate. I will write to him again.

(VINCENT takes out another letter and begins to write.)

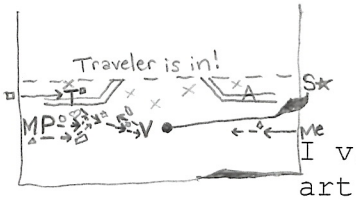
My Dearest Theo it has been two weeks since your last letter.

*Think about where extra bodies could go! (X)

ACT I

Scene 6

As the scene changes, that bed leaves the stage and it is now an empty stage. VINCENT stands DS center. Slowly, various people enter the picture around VINCENT talking to the audience.



ANTON

I visit him. I give him a little money and we talk about art.

*Each time someone talks about/to Vincent or another person, two steps closer

THEO

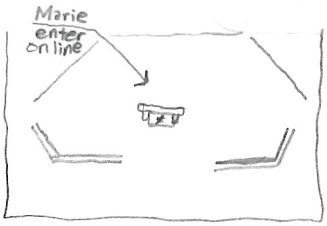
I stay silent.

PA

Ma worries endlessly and I have no great hope for him.

MA

There is no color of happiness when he is around.



ACT I

Scene 7

THEO is at his apartment in Paris with MARIE.

MARIE

My darling, a third letter has arrived from your brother today. Is something wrong?

Standing up an walking around couch

THEO

What a question! With Vincent it could be nothing and everything.

Leaning on left side middle of couch

Put hand on his shoulder, try to look at letter

MARIE

Read this one to me will you.

Ignoring her, scanning letter

THEO

[Why? So you can hear him droning on and on about how I should marry you.] If only life was as simple as Vincent would make it.

Look up & out

Hand off shoulder, now annoyed

MARIE

And why couldn't it be that simple?

Turn to face her

THEO

Well for one, you are a Catholic.

MARIE

Yes, and the second reason.

Walk us of her, annoyed, then go around to sit on couch

THEO

Dear Marie, don't make me say this to you again. It pains me to hear the words from my mouth.

Angry @ him, hovering

MARIE

Perhaps if you said it again you would hear the absurdity for yourself.

Turning on couch to face her

THEO

You know my parents will not support me marrying a woman from a lower class. I did not create the rules.

Turn away from her

(She walks away from him.) ← Marie scoffs and goes to exis US left

Stand up & follow her, grab her hand/ wrist

My dear, look at Vincent. Look at the situation he found himself in. Supporting a woman with children. A noble cause yes but the family. It was an outrage.

Rip your hand away

MARIE

How could you compare me to a woman from the streets!

This is an argument you've had before, but he's NEVER insulted you like this!

Angry! She should know better!

THEO

Have I not been supporting you? Caring for you? Why always talk of marriage?

Slap the letter in his hand

MARIE

← Storm DS of Theo to sit on couch

[Read the letter.] [Let's hear what fine advice your brother has for you today.] [Sometimes I feel as if he is the only one you truly love.]

← more like muttering (energy- not volume-wise)

THEO glares at her as he opens the letter.

Calming slightly as you think of Vincent, walking over to behind couch

THEO

(Looking over the contents of the letter.)

He talks of art. The drawings he has been doing.

Turn to face him

MARIE

And?

Looking at her, you know what she wants you to say & this is getting ridiculous

THEO

Vincent has always been a romantic. He loves the idea of love. [He calls it life's great mystery.] This is BS in your mind

You LOVE that idea (genuinely)!

MARIE

[That is certainly the truth isn't it.] [So are the contents of this letter.] [Keep reading.] mocking (contents are also a mystery) command him

[THEO] eyeroll energy while looking back @ letter

He says that he is terribly lonely without Sein and the children. [Did I tell you how he has been living back with my parents? Pa has told me the challenges of living with Vincent in his most recent letter. I hope that they can remain civil this time.] Back to conversation, desperately trying to change topic

Get up & walk around to back of couch

MARIE

[What did he say about ME in the letter?] Annoyed, you are NOT letting up on this!

A-DUH! Annoyed w/ her!

Turn away

THEO

Mocking him mildly

Turn to face her

[He thinks we should marry.] [He thinks I would be happy if I had a child.] [But that is what Vincent thinks. You don't seem to want to know what I think in the matter.] Really f-ing annoyed! She never cares about your feelings in this!

★Bring yourself back to her, putting letter down on couch

MARIE

Yelling energy

[I don't know if you have your own thoughts at all.] [Between your parents and Vincent, there isn't enough space for your own thinking.] Walking to exit US left while saying this. Take letter with you.

Grab letter and wave it at him

Turn to face her & follow her

THEO

That isn't fair. You know I care for you, love you even. [I need more time.] Take her hands

Grab her hand and turn her around

-- Marie shakes Theo off and exits --

Enter right onto platform

[*VINCENT appears on the DSL side of the stage.*] *He is writing a letter to THEO.* [*THEO crosses to the DSR side of the stage to mirror him.*] still affected by ongoing argument

Be on platform

VINCENT

I need more time. I am working at drawing, painting, and figures.

Focusing out, as if on their letters

THEO

You are making such slow progress. I don't know how long I can support you.

VINCENT

Turn to face Theo

I should have never become an artist. [I need more time.]

Turn to face Vincent

THEO

When did you decide to become a painter?

VINCENT

I can learn. We can learn together. We can be artists together.

THEO

Will you give up these childish ideals? We had a plan, you and I. [You were going to learn a trade to support yourself.]

↑Turn away from Vincent, angered

Take a step towards him

VINCENT

Let us not grow distant from each other. You are all I have.

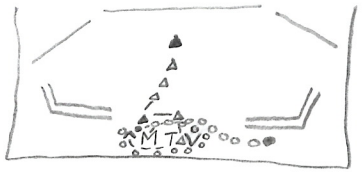
Glance at him, cold

THEO

Keep the peace with the family.

From US left entrance

MARIE crosses DSC joining the brothers in a line across DS.



THEO

(Speaking to the audience.)

Let me tell you a little about perspective. Depending on where you are standing, the picture begins to change.

(VINCENT, MARIE, and THEO begin to shift the picture abstractly.)

Shift a little to the left, or a little to the right, you see a completely different image. The closer the object, the larger it appears. The farther away the object, the smaller it seems. All on a two dimensional canvas.

(THEO and MARIE are now DS, VINCENT is US.)

The distance grows with Vincent. Perspective.

(THEO turns to Marie taking her hands.)

I need more time.

THEO and MARIE cross US as VINCENT crosses DS. The Paris apartment starts to disappear along with THEO and MARIE as the focus shifts entirely to VINCENT.

VINCENT

Theo, everything has started to change for me. I have tried taking your advice. Lightening up my pallet. Moving away from the muted browns and blacks of the Dutch masters. Started to practice color theory, oranges and blues, greens and yellows. Can I still use black at all? Is it permissible? I try squinting my eyes to see the world through shapes and outlines. You speak of impressionists and how they paint the light. I wish I could see what you mean. I wish I could come to Paris and see these colors with my own eyes. But it is more than practicalities that keep the distance between us for now dear brother. I have good news to report. It seems a fire of color has grown inside me as well for I am in love yet again.

ACT I

Scene 8

VINCENT enters SR. There is a small bench on SL, MARGOT sits staring out lethargically.