

Vinnie

*"All I would ask would be that people do not meddle
with me when I am busy painting, or eating, or sleeping, or taking a turn at the brothel,
since I haven't a wife." van Gogh*

my idol
my starry starry night
my symbol of the misunderstood
you are all too easy
to understand.
i've looked at each painting
i've read every letter:
it is a portrait of a young man
as a commercial artist.

you're not trying hard enough to sell
my pretty flowers and sceneries
you scold your brother as he supports you
too incompetent or too greedy or too selfish
to support yourself, to support your own art.

and that bit with the ear--
the madness of genius?
hardly.
a childish tantrum is more likely
or the madness of syphilis.