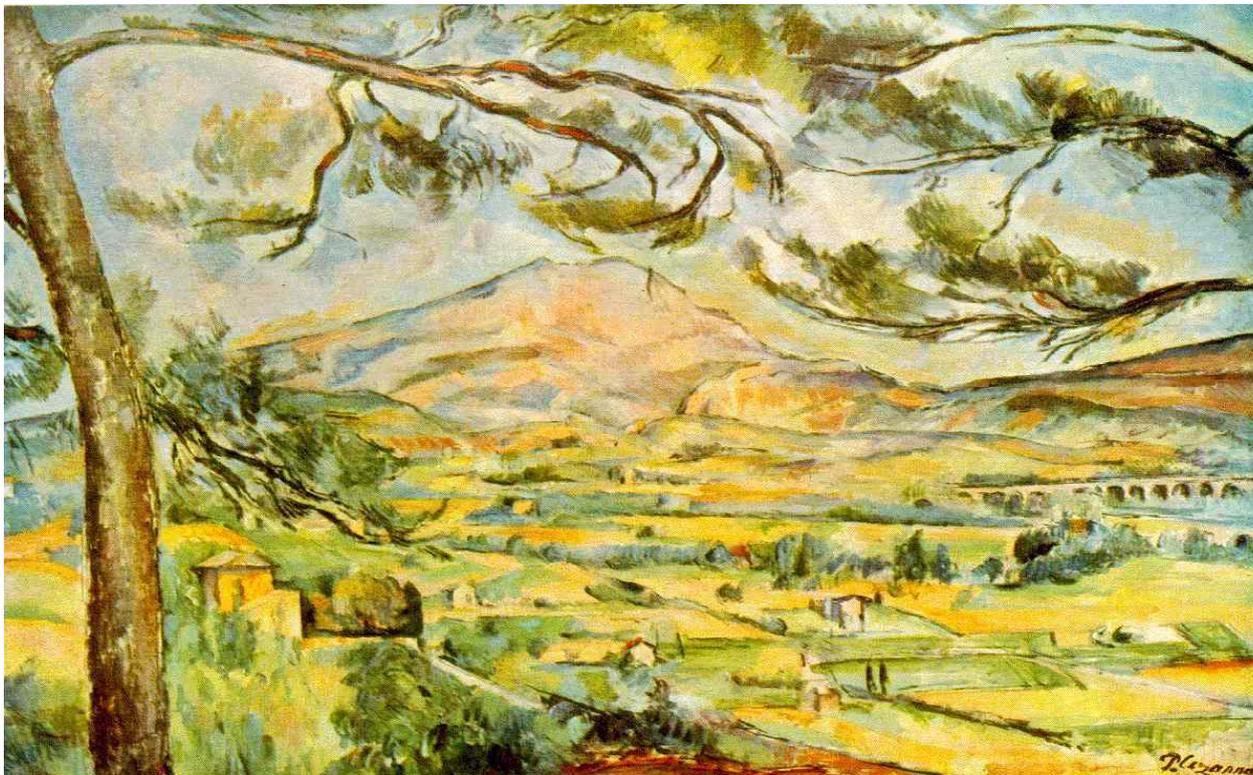


# Paul Cézanne

## Mont Saint-Victoire



*Mont Sainte-Victoire, 1885-1887. Oil on canvas, 26 x 35 3/8 in*

Paul Cézanne painted the view of Mont Sainte-Victoire many times. This view held a fascination for him, and each time he produced a painting of it, he tried to show a different aspect of light, or of colour, or composition.

In this particular work, the slopes of the mountain are viewed through the branches of a tree - its branches curve and follow the shape of the mountain exactly, *framing* it for the viewer. As you glance along the branch of the tree, your eye is led naturally to the bridge to the right of the scene. Cézanne has used this form of composition very cleverly then, as he makes sure that you take in most of the view before settling on the hills to the rear.

Cézanne has used a broken-line technique when painting here. Colours have been dabbed on with quick, short dashes or brush strokes, and he has captured the light of a summer day by using *pastel* tones throughout.

The way he has applied the paint also helps to make the whole scene look light and airy - very appropriate for an outdoor setting!



*An alternative version of Cézanne's Mont Sainte-Victoire. This time Cézanne has not used any compositional aids, such as the tree in the main image.*

Cézanne is best known for his involvement in the 'Cubist' movement: the artists who worked within this movement believed strongly that all natural objects and shapes could be seen as coming from the cone, the cylinder, the cube, and the sphere. By basing most drawing around this idea, artists were quickly able to capture the *form* of their subject.

There is not too much evidence of the Cubist style within this painting however. Instead, Cézanne has used a lot of gestural brushstrokes, meaning that he suggests the shape of a tree, for example, by flicking his brush in the direction of the leaves (rather than using lots of detail).

**Main points to remember when talking about Cézanne's 'Mont Sainte-Victoire':**

**Bright, airy atmosphere; effective use of composition, using the tree branches as a 'frame' for the mountain; broken application of paint, adding to the bright and breezy feeling of the sunny day.**