

# ***Painting #19***

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

**Title: *American Gothic***

**Artist: Grant Wood**

(United States, Ames, Iowa)

**Date of Painting: 1930**

(Style, Regionalism - rural scenes of Mid America, a rejection of the abstract painting styles popular in Europe)

The artist's sister, Nan, and his dentist modeled for the painting. The female appears to be half the age of the man, which embarrassed his sister. So he agreed the woman is a daughter, not a wife.

The pitch fork represents hard work. You can see this symbol in the stitching on the man's overalls, in the gothic window and in the shape of the man's face. The woman wears an apron and you see flowers over her right shoulder. These suggest her role in rural America. Some critics thought Wood was making fun of rural folks. He said no. The painting is often made fun of (lampooned). It is considered to be on the list of the world's fifteen most famous paintings.