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Painting with Disputed van Gogh Attribution Sells for \$651,000 in Germany

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A detail of *The Wijk Mill*, which has been attributed to Vincent van Gogh.
COURTESY DECHOW

A painting attributed to Vincent van Gogh, which the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam has rejected, has sold at the German auction house Dechow for €550,000 (about \$651,100). According to a report by *Monopol*, Dechow has not revealed the identity of the buyer. The work, titled *The Wijk Mill*, was presented by Dechow as one of the earliest surviving oil paintings by the famed Post-Impressionist. It bears great resemblance to 17th-century Dutch painter Jacob van Ruisdael's *The Windmill at Wijk* (1670).

“We cannot prove that it is real, but there is a lot of evidence,” Jens-Peter Franz, Dechow project manager, told *Monopol* ahead of the September 1 auction.

While the Van Gogh Museum has told the German Press Agency that it “has examined this painting and does not think that the work was made by Vincent van Gogh,” Ulrich Kuder, a professor at the University of Kiel in Germany, believes that van Gogh created the *The Wijk Mill* while studying at the Hague School in the Netherlands between 1883 and 1885.

Kuder has also argued that lettering on the canvas of *The Wijk Mill* matches van Gogh’s handwriting. Uncharacteristically, however, the painting is signed “van Gogh,” rather than “Vincent,” the signature the artist typically employed for his artworks.