

Grant Wood



February 13, 1891 - February 12, 1942

American Artist

- **Artist name:** Grant Wood
- **Born:** Anamosa, Iowa - February 13, 1892
- **Died:** Iowa City, Iowa - February 12, 1942
- **Country:** USA
- **Medium:** Painting
- **Artistic Style:** American Regionalism
- **Time Period:** 20th Century, 1930s
- **Known for:** Paintings of American Midwest
- **Famous Artwork:** “American Gothic”

Wood's style

- Considered an American Regionalist
- Contemporary of Thomas Hart Benton and John Stewart Curry
- Art of the Midwest in the 1930s



Stone City
1930



*The Birthplace of Herbert Hoover,
West Banch, Iowa, 1931*



Between 1935 and 1937, Grant Wood created nine drawings to illustrate a special edition of Sinclair Lewis' *Main Street*.





Grant Wood
Self-portrait

What is Grant Wood most famous for?



- Grant painted his most famous work, "American Gothic," in which he applied his style of being meticulous and detailed to the decorative adventures of his native surroundings.

How Grant Wood got his fame:

With "American Gothic," Grant Wood tells the story of Midwestern life and culture through the use of many traditional symbols: the rick-rack on the woman's apron, the gothic window, the pitchfork held in the tight fist of the somber farmer.

At the annual juried exhibition in Chicago, the piece won the Art Institute's \$300 purchase prize. And it propelled the artist's career from local to national recognition.



American Gothic

Oil on beaverboard, 1930; 74.3 x 62.4 cm
Friends of American Art Collection, 1930.934

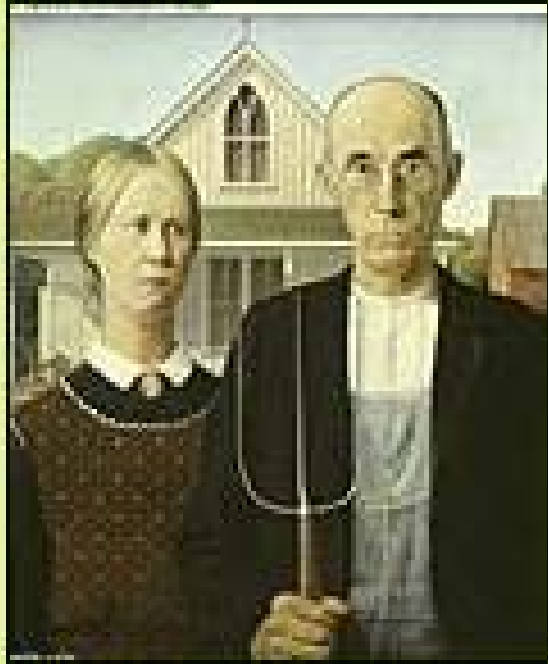
Grant Wood adopted the precise realism of 15th-century northern European artists, but his native Iowa provided the artist with his subject matter.

American Gothic depicts a farmer and his spinster daughter posing before their house, whose gabled window and tracery, in the American gothic style, inspired the painting's title. In fact, the models were the painter's sister and their dentist. Wood was accused of creating in this work a satire on the intolerance and rigidity that the insular nature of rural life can produce; he denied the accusation.

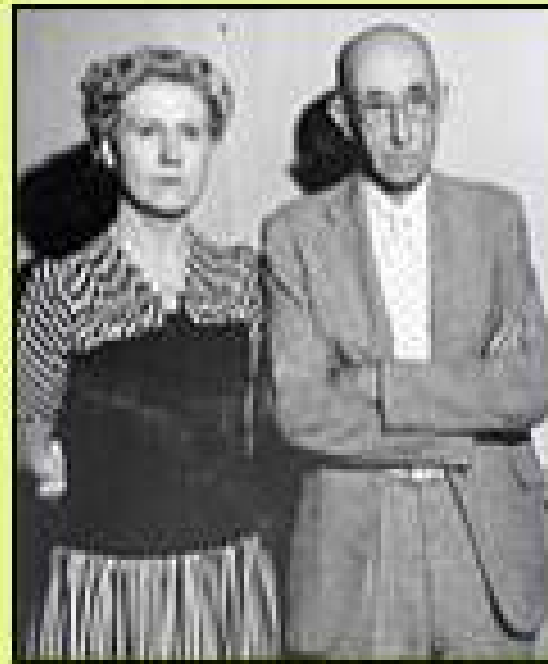
American Gothic is an image that epitomizes the Puritan ethic and virtues that he believed dignified the Midwestern character.

Why is it parodied?

The painting, which glorified and satirized rural Americans, remains in the running for the most parodied work of art. The model for the farmer's wife in the picture was Grant's sister, Nan Wood Graham. Her face competes with Whistler's mother and the sitter for the Mona Lisa as the most well-known female subjects in a painting.



**American
Gothic**



Models

Parodies

