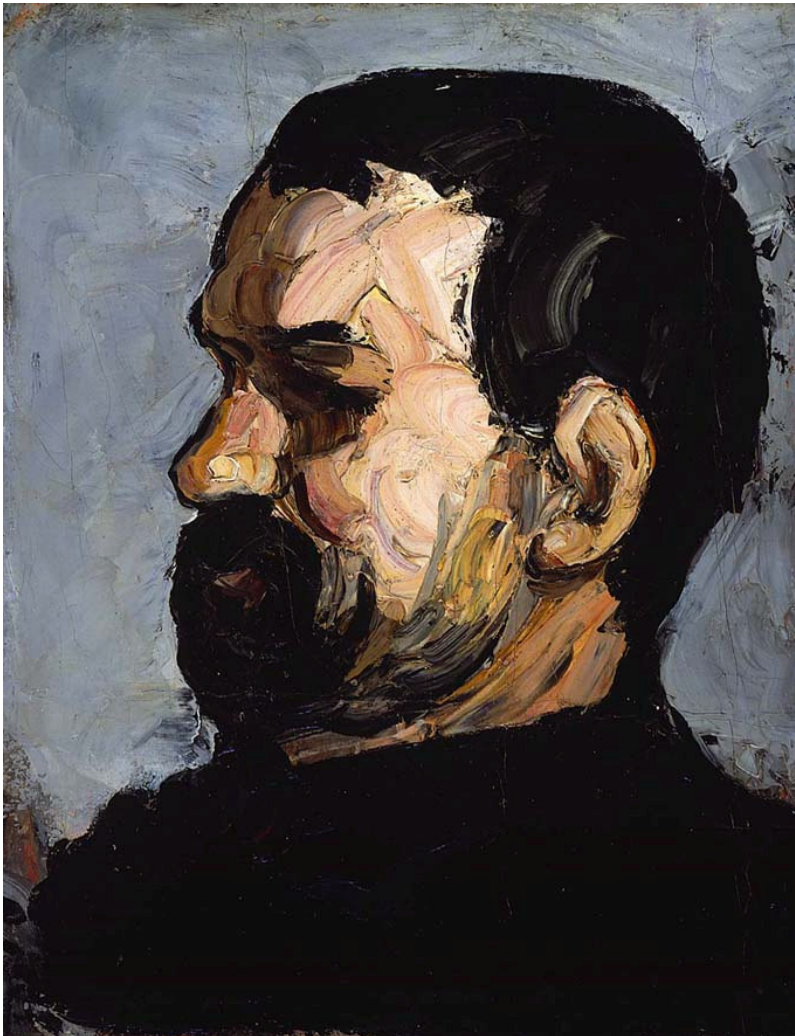


THE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Fact Sheet

Uncle Dominique by Paul Cézanne



Title:	Uncle Dominique
Maker:	Paul Cézanne (1839-1906)
Medium:	Oil on canvas
Date:	c. 1866-1867
Dimensions:	h. 39 x w. 30.5 cm
Museum No:	On loan from The Provost and Fellows of King's College (Keynes Collection)
Gallery:	5

Key Dates for Cézanne

1839	Born in Aix-en-Provence to prosperous commercial family
1852	Enters Bourbon College in Aix, excellent scholar, meets Emile Zola there
1859	Studies law in Aix for 2 years
1861	Moves to Paris to paint, returns home
1862	Returns to Paris, lives alternately in Paris and Aix from then on
1864-9	Submits work to official Salon – consistently rejected
1866-7	PAINTS SEVERAL PORTRAITS OF UNCLE DOMINIQUE
1869	Meets Hortense
1870	Turns increasingly to landscape subjects. Visits L'Estaque nr Marseilles to paint and avoid conscription to Franco-Prussian War
1872	Son Paul born
1872-4	Works in Pontoise with Pissarro who introduces him to Impressionist techniques
1874	Exhibits in first Impressionist show
Late 1870s – early 90s	Constructive phase of his art – his work shows grouping of parallel hatch brushstrokes in formations
1886	Marries Hortense. Ends friendship with Zola because he thought the failed artist in 'L'Oeuvre' was based on him. Father dies and leaves Paul wealthy.
1886 onwards	Mainly paints in Aix. Withdraws from Paris art world. Range of subjects – still lives, bathers and successive views on Mont-Sainte Victoire
1895	One-man show in Paris organised by dealer Ambroise Vollard
1897	Vollard visits Cézanne in studio in Fontainebleau and buys every painting
1899	Sells family home in Aix
1900-04	Paints <i>Landscape: The Forest Clearing</i> . Influenced by his contemporary experience of working with watercolour
1901-02	Builds studio on Chemin des Lauves
1906	Dies in Aix

Paul Cézanne painted portraits throughout his career and completed over 50 self-portraits in various media from about 1866 until his death. In the early 1860s he drew people from his close circle of friends and family. In particular he chose his maternal uncle Dominique Aubert, a local bailiff, whom he painted on at least ten occasions and in a variety of different costumes and guises such as a lawyer, a monk or wearing a nightcap.

All of Cézanne's portraits of his uncle, usually head and shoulder studies, were painted between October 1866 and January 1867, after which the artist returned to Paris. Each portrait is thought to have been done in a single afternoon session, completed in real time as the model posed for the artist, painted in strong contrasting colours, vigorously applied with a palette knife and lit by a single light source. The robust handling of the paint is typical of Cézanne's work at this time, and was in part inspired by Cézanne's knowledge of Courbet's work. His uncle's strong features made Dominique Aubert a suitable model for this style of portrait. Cézanne's close friend, the writer Antoine Valabrègue also modelled for the artist and wrote in November 1866:

'Fortunately I only posed for one day. The uncle is asked to serve as a model more often. Every afternoon a portrait of him appears'.