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MY SECOND FAVORITE DERRIDA QUOTE

Out of the deconstructivist fireworks that constitute Jacques Derrida's Restitutions de la vérité en peinture (pun on *peinture* and *pointure*, "painting" and "shoe size"), come flashes of a more enduring clarity that cheer the reeling mind.

Discussing Van Gogh's painting of a pair of shoes, he remarks (my translation and underlining): "Vincent signed a self-portrait there, he illustrated his signature, the subject of the painted shoes, and if he concealed the feet in this self-portrait, it will not have been to abandon some empty shoes (left behind), but because these shoes *are* Vincent's face: the leather of his aged and wrinkled skin, burdened with experience and fatigue, scored by life, and above all very *familiar* (*heimlich*)."*
(see entry 18)

* *There is an error here: "heimelig" can mean cozy, but "heimlich" means secret, hidden.*

Derrida's own initials, "JD", were "illustrated" twice by André Masson in a special issue of Lettres françaises in 1972.



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