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By **MARK SMITH**

10:00 AM, APRIL 1 2013

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## Souvenir Find: Vincent Van Gogh Doll Keychain from Amsterdam

As it's exactly one month until the grand reopening of the **Van Gogh Museum** on Amsterdam's Museumplein, I thought I'd pay a final visit to the "Vincent" exhibition at Hermitage Amsterdam across town, home to a capsule collection of the one-eared wonder's work since the closure last September of the museum bearing his name. Once again, I was thrilled. Liberated, perhaps, by the temporary nature of the exhibition, the curators have clearly had fun with the bright colours that were Van Gogh's calling card. Instead of standard white, famous paintings such as *Sunflowers* are displayed against vibrant hues more typical of the gastropub than the gallery, and the effect is magnificent. A similarly frivolous approach has been applied to the merchandise in the gift shop, which includes this irresistible Kamibashi keychain string doll rendering of the great man (€9.95). Handmade in Thailand, it's amazing how the fibers of the mini-me's beard here resemble those in the actual self-portraits. Masterful.



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