ABSTRACT
The world of art over the past centuries has undergone many shifts and changes and in the process of its evolution has crafted its own mythology and legends. Many of these have been supplemented by the stories and lives of famous painters, writers and musicians who suffered from depression or some other mental disorder, some whose inner turmoil was so great that they took their own lives, which pre-determined their work and destiny. This in itself made people wonder and question why artists have some inner conflict or disorder and if there could be a connection? Could it be that creatively inclined people like artists and musicians are more prone to self-destructive behavior, depression and ultimately suicide? This dissertation attempts to explore this question, using psychology and human behavior to outline the disorders that effect creative people and how they dealt with them. The dissertation is not just limited to painters but also includes writers, poets and musicians from all eras. To cement these notions, interviews have been conducted of relevant people in the fields of psychology and art. After extensive research it was determined that due to certain character attributes that creative people possess, they are more susceptible to mood disorders, which causes them to lead their lives in a very unique manner often resulting in outcomes that further adding to the myths and legends surrounding the art world.