

Pointillism and Landscapes

Art History Studio
Ms. MacLure

Name: _____

Objective: You will create a landscape from reference using complex pointillism techniques learned in class.

Frameworks Objective(8.6): Students will be able to identify pointillism and its influences on future artists (Identify works, genres, or styles that show the influence and how the traditions manifest in other work).



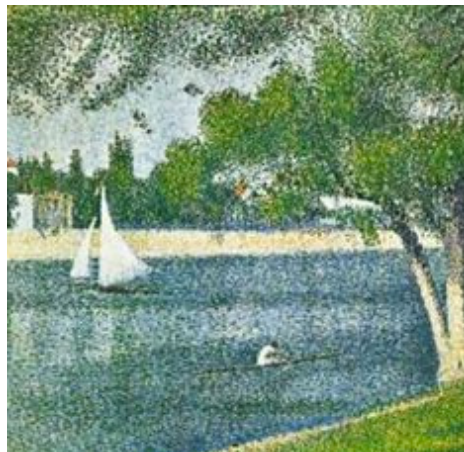
Paul Signac

Materials: Canvas, acrylic paint, small brushes, reference photo/painting

Overview:

Pointillism is a painting technique wherein the artist paints with only a series of small dots to create a larger image. It's the art of placing several colors in close proximity to one another that your eye visually mixes. In the end you have a vibrant and colorful hum of colors. If you look closely there are small bits of white left between the dots that give the painting even more luminosity. The artists responsible for pioneering this technique in the 1880's were **Paul Signac** and **Georges Seurat**. The technique has permeated many artist's repertoire throughout modern and contemporary art.

Paul Signac (1863-1935): An artist from Paris who became enamored by Claude Monet's impressionistic landscapes at the age of 18. He later met Georges Seurat who had already been dabbling in the art of transforming the brushstrokes of impressionism into the small visually color mixing dots of pointillism. The two became close friends and pioneers in the pointillism movement. Signac traveled the coast and painted mostly landscapes. He was also a close friend of Vincent Van Gogh- the two would often paint together in the countryside. Signac would be one of the first to support and influence the movements of Fauvism and Cubism. His work is known for its bold and lush color.



Georges Seurat

Demos:

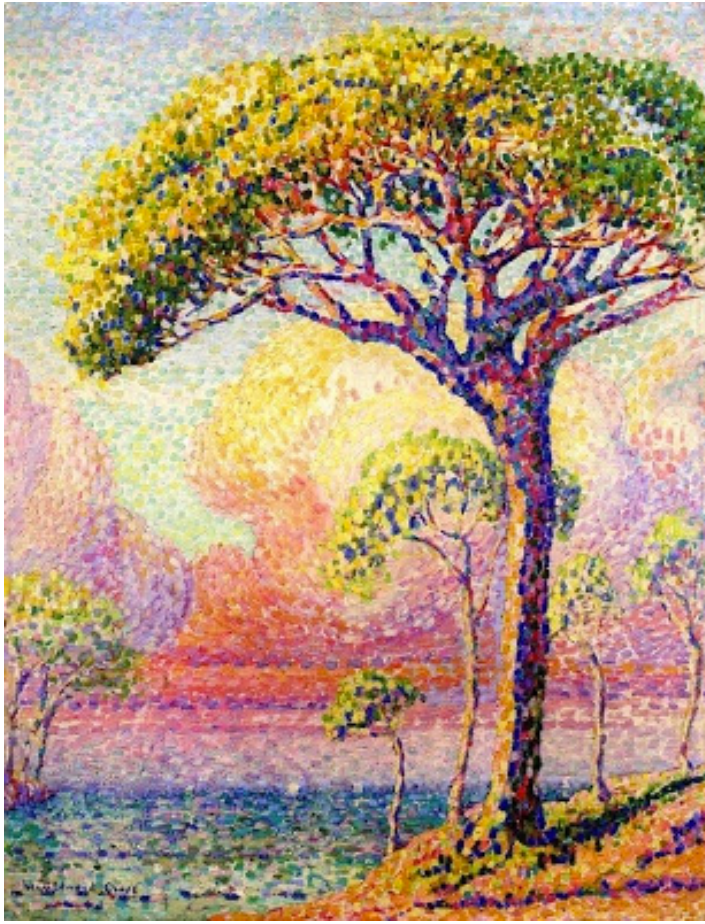
1. Sketching out your landscape from photo
2. Using watercolor sketches for reference, practice placing points of color to "visually" mix

Georges Seurat (1859-1891): A Parisian artist trained in a sculptor's studio to model his work after the old masters like Da Vinci, first began his career mastering the art of drawing. From there he created the paintings that make him famous today; one of which is *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*. Not only was this innovative because of the visually mixing dots of paint (which took him two years to paint), but because he showed all classes of people together in one space. This is permanently housed at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Contact: Questions? Email Ms. Mac at amaclure@valleytech.k12.ma.us

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Assessment:

-Effort: **20 points**

-Applied knowledge of color mixing.
Used color wheel: **10 pts**

-Mastered the art of placing pointed strokes to “visually mix”: **10 pts**

-Shows exploration of color: **10 pts**

-No black included- vibrancy of color: **10 pts**

-Used reference photo and watercolor thumbnail: **10 pts**

-Leaves minimal canvas showing: **10 pts**

-Shows contrast with darks and lights: **10 pts**

-Used care with art materials: **10 pts**

Use the following steps...

-Using a reference photo, make small thumbnail paintings of landscapes with watercolor (focus on the color, not on accuracy).

-Sketch out your landscape with pencil on final canvas.(DEMO in class)

-Practice on a scrap piece of paper achieving simple color mixtures using pointillism techniques: purple, pink, green, orange.. (DEMO in class)

-Using your reference photo, and watercolor thumbnail, begin filling in your final drawing with colored points.(DEMO in class)

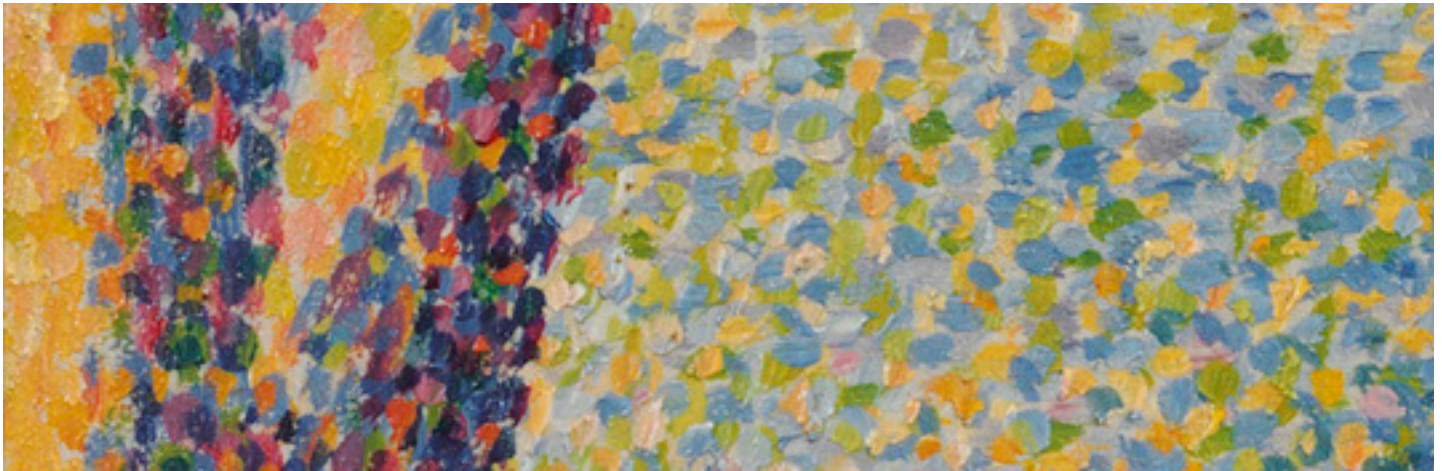
“The golden age has not passed. It lies in the future”.

-Paul Signac



Pointillism and Landscapes: Technique

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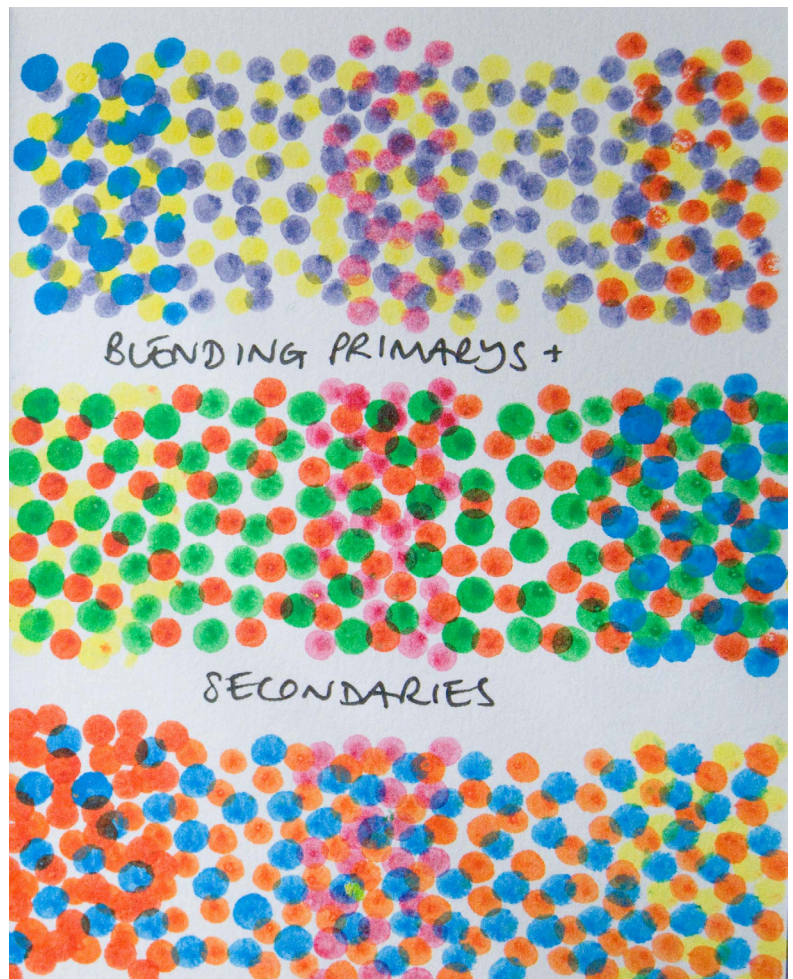
“Some say they see poetry in my paintings. I see only science.

-Georges Seurat



The best way to get a handle on creating these “visually mixing dots” is to practice using a color wheel and some basic colors:

Start with primary colors: **Red**, **Yellow**, **Blue**. Try mixing **Orange**, **Green** and **Purple** by putting dots of those primaries next to one another. (DEMO in class).



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Pointillism and Landscapes: Homework

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1. What makes pointillism different than the impressionism we've studied? What about the technique is different? **20 pts**:
2. Do a little research: Find a contemporary artist that you think may be influenced by pointillism. Explain why you see this technique in their work. **(20pts)?**
5. In the thumbnail spaces below, using your watercolor sketches and reference photos, try pointillism techniques with three different moments from the landscape to practice your visual mixing (Ex: a tree, a rock, or some grass).. **20 pts**.

Three empty rectangular boxes are provided for drawing thumbnails. Each box is outlined with a double-line border and is currently blank, intended for the student to practice pointillism techniques on different landscape elements.