

What is Pointillism?

Pointillism is an art technique that uses small colored dots to create a larger image. When you stand back, the dots automatically blur together to show the image. The style was a reinvention of the Impressionist art style, which used small dabs of paint to create an image.

Pointillism became popular between 1880 and 1890 after the Impressionist art period ended. It was created to change people's perspective on art and what it meant to be an artist.



Who created Pointillism art?

French artist Georges Seurat is called the “father” of Pointillism. His most famous Pointillism painting is called Sunday Afternoon on the Island of LaGrande Jatte. Seurat started it in 1884 and completed it two years later.

Unfortunately, Georges Seurat died at only 31 years old but not before he completed 7 larger works and 40 smaller paintings.

How was Pointillism art created?

Step 1 - Seurat drew 60 sketches of people in a Paris park.

Step 2 - On a canvas, he created a layer of small, horizontal brushstrokes in complementary colors.

Step 3 - He added a series of dots in various colors on top to create the image he wanted. Years later, he added a border of blue, orange, and red dots to help the eye separate the painting from the frame.

Did you know?

Seurat's color choices were inspired by science and the color theories of scientists Michel Eugène Chevreul and Ogden Rood.

Who are the most famous Pointillist Painters?

- Georges Seurat (1859–1891)
- Paul Signac (1863–1935)
- Henri-Edmond Cross (1856–1910)
- Charles Angrand (1854–1926)
- Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890)
- Maximilien Luce (1858–1941)
- Albert Dubois-Pillet (1846–1890)
- Théo van Rysselberghe (1862–1926)
- Anna Boch (1848–1936)



Famous Pointillist Artworks

Spot or Not?

Educator Resources

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**A Sunday Afternoon on the
Island of La Grande Jatte.**
By Georges Seurat (1886)



L'Air du soir.
By Henri-Edmond Cross (1894)



Côte de la Citadelle
By Maximilien Luce (1892)



Portrait de Félix Fénéon
By Paul Signac (1890)



Le Port au Soleil Couchant
By Paul Signac (1892)



This painting
sold for \$25.5
million in 2019 at
Christie's in New
York.