

Dots and Pixels Painting

Pointillism is an art style of painting pictures that are made up of small dots. When you step away from the painting the dots blend together to form images. Famous artists who used this painting style are George Seurat *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* and Paul Signac *Sunday* and there are many others. Roy Lichtenstein, an artist of the Pop Style of art used Ben-Day dots to create his work. Ben-Day dots are the printing style that comics were printed in the 40's and 50's. Dots printed in cyan, magenta, yellow and black blend together optically to create a larger range of color.

If you look at the picture on a color television really closely, you see that it is made up of many red, blue and green dots called pixels. From a distance, the dots merge together so they look like a picture in full color. Computer screens also use pixels to make up the images seen on them.

Create your own spot painting exploring optical color blending.

You will need:

Paper or canvas

Acrylic paints, use red, green, yellow and blue (screens: computer & tv); or transparent magenta, cyan, and yellow (printing: comics)

Pencil with eraser, Q-tips or dauber bottles

Artist palette, small dishes or paper plates

1. Put paints into a palette or small dishes.
2. Dip the end of your pencil or Q-tip into different colors of paints and press it onto the white paper or canvas. Do this over and over, creating images or designs.
3. Make areas of one color, place colors next to each other and intermingle the colors in some areas. Step back from the painting and notice which method you like best, do the primary colors (red, blue, yellow) mix together optically to create the secondary colors (orange, green, violet)? Keep painting and stepping back to view your artwork, until you are pleased with your own Dots and Pixels Painting.