

## Kids @ CAM – At Home Family Projects

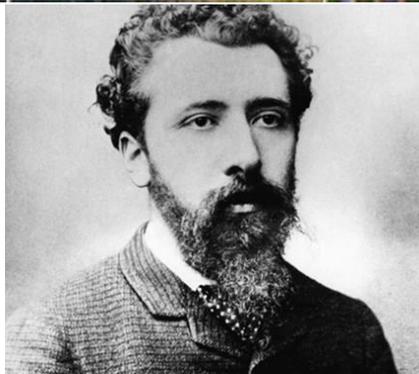
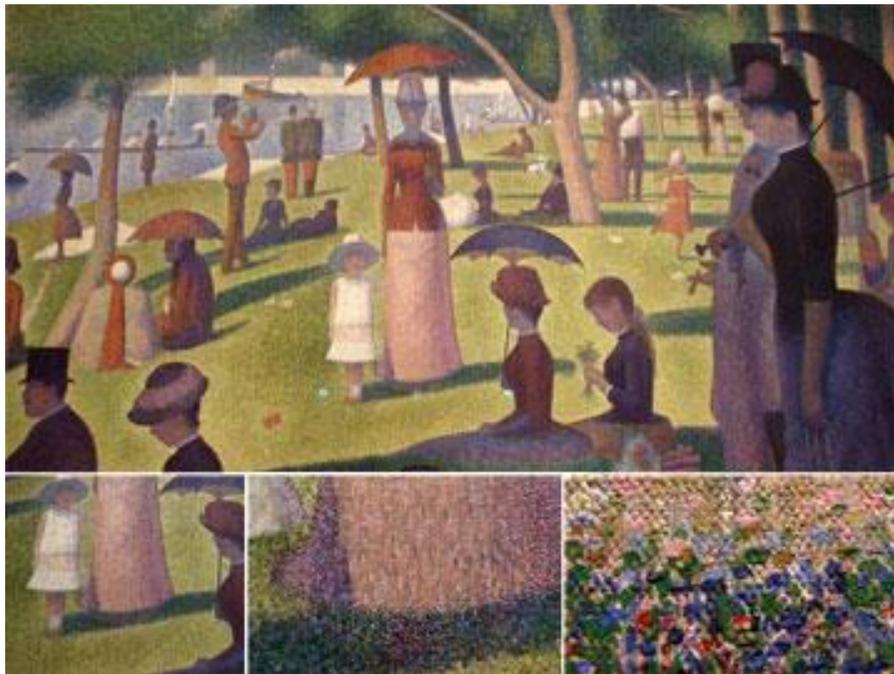
### Spotlight on Art History

#### Georges Seurat

#### About the Artist:

“Originality depends only on the character of the drawing and the vision peculiar to the artist”

Georges-Pierre Seurat (1859 – 1891) was a French post-Impressionist artist. He is best known for devising the painting technique known as pointillism, a technique of painting in which small, distinct dots of color are applied in patterns to form an image. Seurat's artistic personality combined qualities that are usually opposed: on the one hand, his extreme and delicate sensibility, on the other, a passion for logical abstraction and an almost mathematical precision of mind. His large-scale work *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* (1884–1886) altered the direction of modern art by initiating Neo-impressionism, and is one of the icons of late 19th-century painting. The painting shows members of each of the social classes participating in various park activities. The tiny juxtaposed dots of multi-colored paint allow the viewer's eye to blend colors optically, rather than having the colors physically blended on the canvas. It took Seurat two years to complete this 10-foot-wide work.



## ART AT HOME – POINTILIST PICTURE

### What You Will Need:

- Paper
- Sharpie
- Markers
- Pencil with eraser

Look at images of *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* before you begin your project. Also look at details of the painting, so that you can see how Seurat applies the dots.

- Step 1 – Decide what you want to draw and sketch a picture of it – the subject is completely up to you!
- Step 2 – Outline your sketch with the sharpie.
- Step 3 – Within each shape created by the sharpie, begin to apply small dots of color to cover the entire area. You want to have at least a little space between each dot, so that it doesn't become a solid color.
- Step 4 – When applying your dots, you can decide if you want to have one color per area or combine two colors to experiment with how the colors look together. (You can try this out on a separate sheet of paper first).
- Step 5 – When you are done, give your picture a title!
- Step 6 - Help clean up your work area.

### Tips:

- Keep your design simple and use a smaller piece of paper, so that creating the dots doesn't become too overwhelming.
- Either lightly on the sketch itself, or on a separate sheet of paper, make a note of what colors you want to put in each area.
- When drawing your dots, remember that putting them closely together and side by side will give the impression of a darker color. If you want the color to appear lighter, space the dots out a little bit more.

### Questions to ask one another:

- Look at your picture close-up, then far away. How does its appearance change?
- If you combined different colors side by side, how do they appear together? Did it look the way you thought it would, or did it turn out differently than you planned?
- Now that you have created your own small pointillist artwork, how do you think it felt for Seurat to work on *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* for two years? Do you think you would enjoy working like that?

### Follow Up Project Idea:

- Create another pointillist work but this time create the dots using paint. You can apply them with small paint brushes or q-tips!

