

Discover Art

WITH NEWFIELDS



Above: Lucien Pissarro (French, 1863–1944), *Interior of the Studio* (detail), 1887, oil on canvas, 25-1/4 x 31-1/2 in. Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, Gift in memory of Robert S. Ashby by his family and friends, 1995.100 © Estate of Lucien Pissarro.

 When you see this color, click it!

→ CHALLENGE YOURSELF

Time to investigate!

Visit the [Collections Portal](#) on Newfields website and take a closer look at [this painting](#) – use the [Zoom In](#) function to take a careful look at the paint color choices that Lucien Pissarro made.

○ What colors did the artist use ...

- On the chair?
- On the tablecloth?
- On the window frame?
- On the boy's face and hair?

○ Notice the size of the color dots – where are they smaller and closer together? Larger and more spread out?

○ What happens when you look at the painting from far away? Do you see the dots as well? Your eyes blend the colors together and mix the individual colors of the dots into a more uniform shade.

Puzzle it!

Use this link to further explore the details of the painting by completing an online puzzle.

When Parts Become A Whole

→ SHARE IDEAS

- Study the painting carefully noticing the details and objects in the room.
- Put the image away and make a list of every object in the room.
- Have a friendly competition with a friend or family member to see who remembers the most objects.

→ BE CREATIVE

- This type of painting, where colors are separated into individual dots or strokes of pigment, is called Divisionism. Other art terms often used for *Divisionism* are *Neo-Impressionism* and *Pointillism*.
- Neo-Impressionist artists were interested in the SCIENCE of color.
 - For example, when blue dots exist next to red, the area has a purple hue.
 - The artists discovered that when colors are mixed by the viewer's eyes (visually mixed), the paintings had more luminosity (an illusion that there is actual light coming out of the picture which creates a shimmering effect).
- Instead of mixing colors on their palette to blend and create new colors (actual mixing), artists painted by applying tiny dabs of unblended color directly to the canvas (visual mixing).
- When these paintings are viewed, the colors are mixed optically by the viewer's eyes.
- **Your turn!** Using your own art supplies, experiment with the placement of colors adjacent to each other to see the different effects that you can create. For example, you might use shades of green dots for grass, but add yellow and orange dots for sunny areas or blue and purple dots for shady areas. Step back and squint to see how the colors blend!

→ ABOUT THE ARTWORK

○ Lucien Pissarro was the eldest son of celebrated artist Camille Pissarro, who had seven children. As a child, Lucien was in the constant company of his father's peers, including the well-known artists Cézanne, Manet and Monet.

○ In 1885, Lucien and his father met Paul Signac and Georges

Seurat, who influenced their painting style to include experiments in *Divisionist* technique.

○ Lucien was 24 years old when he painted this image of his brother, Georges, working in the family studio outside Paris. His father's hat hangs on the wall.



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