

Georges Seurat

2nd December 1859 - 29th March 1891



twinkl

Paris 1800s

Georges Seurat was born in Paris on 2nd December 1859. He had an older sister and an older brother.



An Education in Art

He studied art at the École Municipale de Sculpture et Dessin.

He finished his schooling in November 1879 and did a year of military service.



Bathers at Asnières



Seurat spent 1883 painting 'Bathers at Asnières'.

Seurat drew crayon pictures of models and made small oil sketches at the riverside to get an idea of how the light would affect his subjects.

The Creation of Pointillism

Georges Seurat created a whole new painting technique. He used the science of optics, and realised that if tiny dots of pure colour were painted close together, then the human eye would blend the dots to make a solid colour.

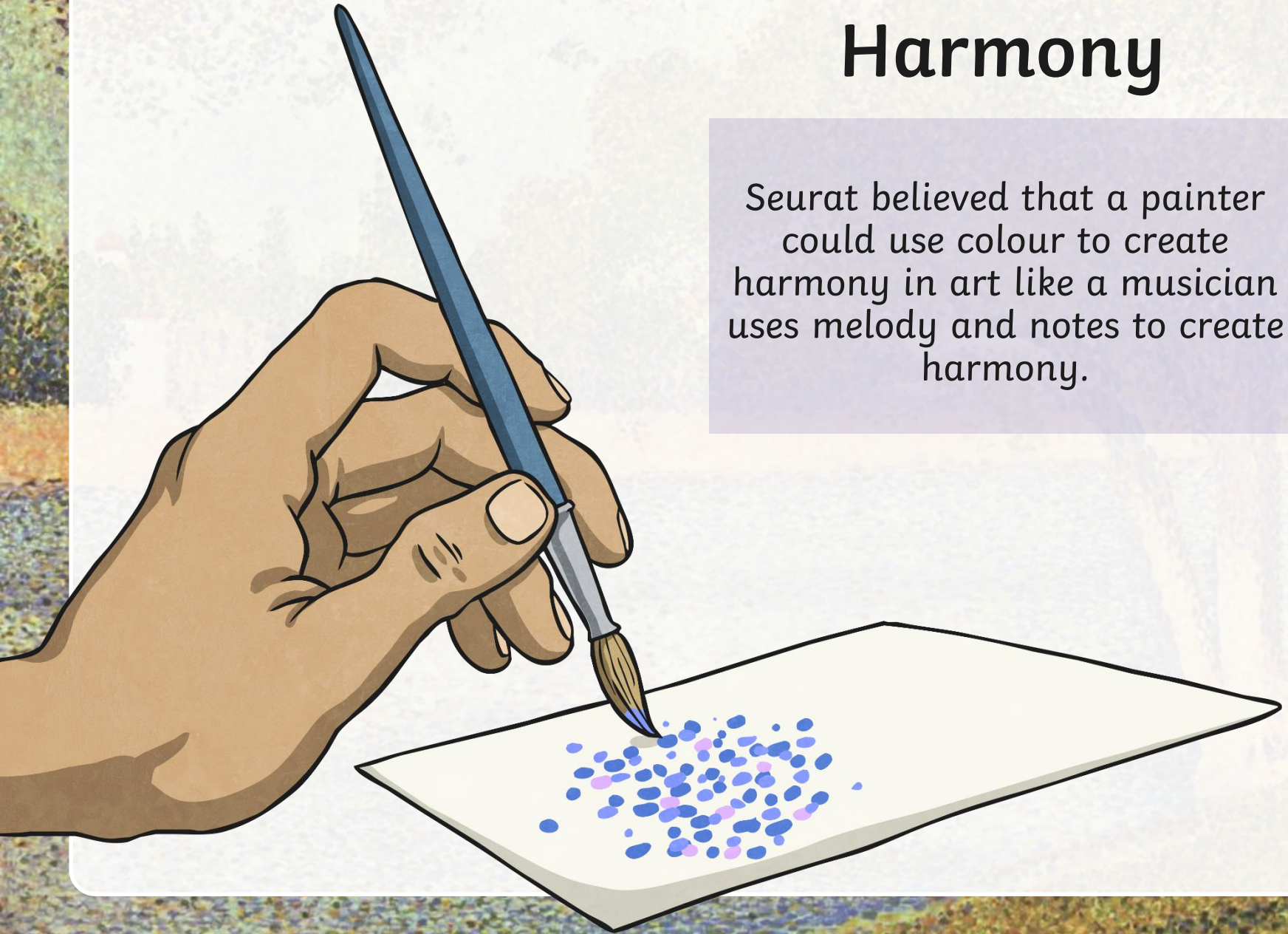
Close up it is hard to see a clear image but when seen from a distance, a whole image of the subject painted can be seen.



Television screens work in the same way; tiny pixels blend together to form a whole image.

Harmony

Seurat believed that a painter could use colour to create harmony in art like a musician uses melody and notes to create harmony.



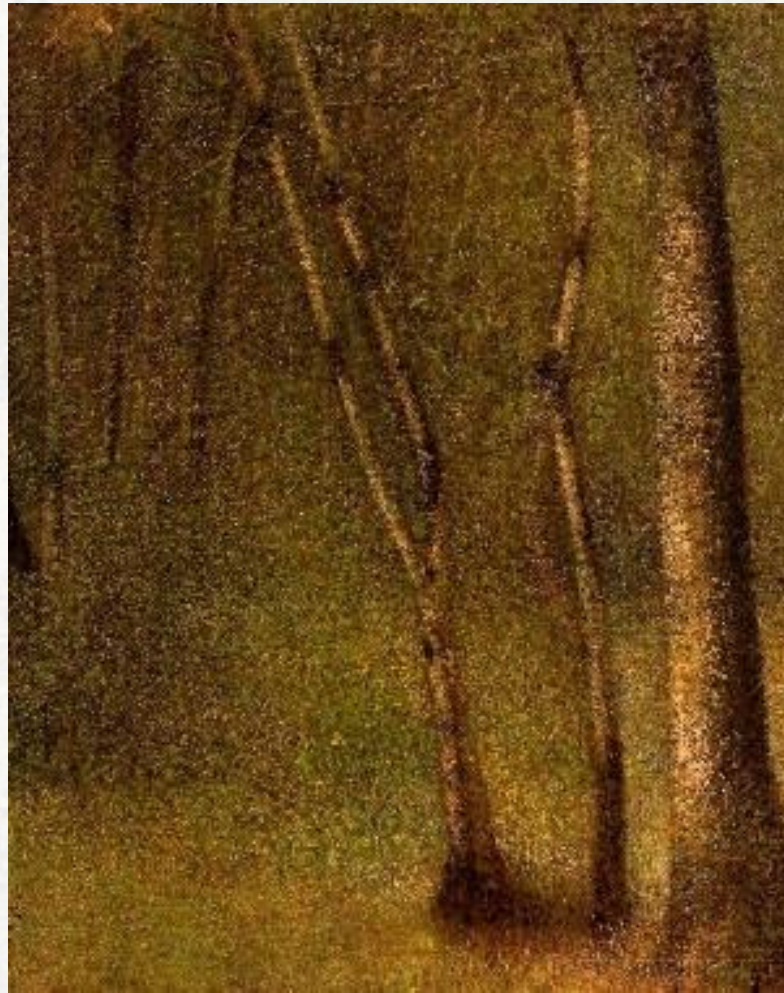
Seurat's First Pointillist Painting

Seurat's first masterpiece where he displayed the pointillist technique was 'A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte'. It took 2 years to paint and was completed in 1886.

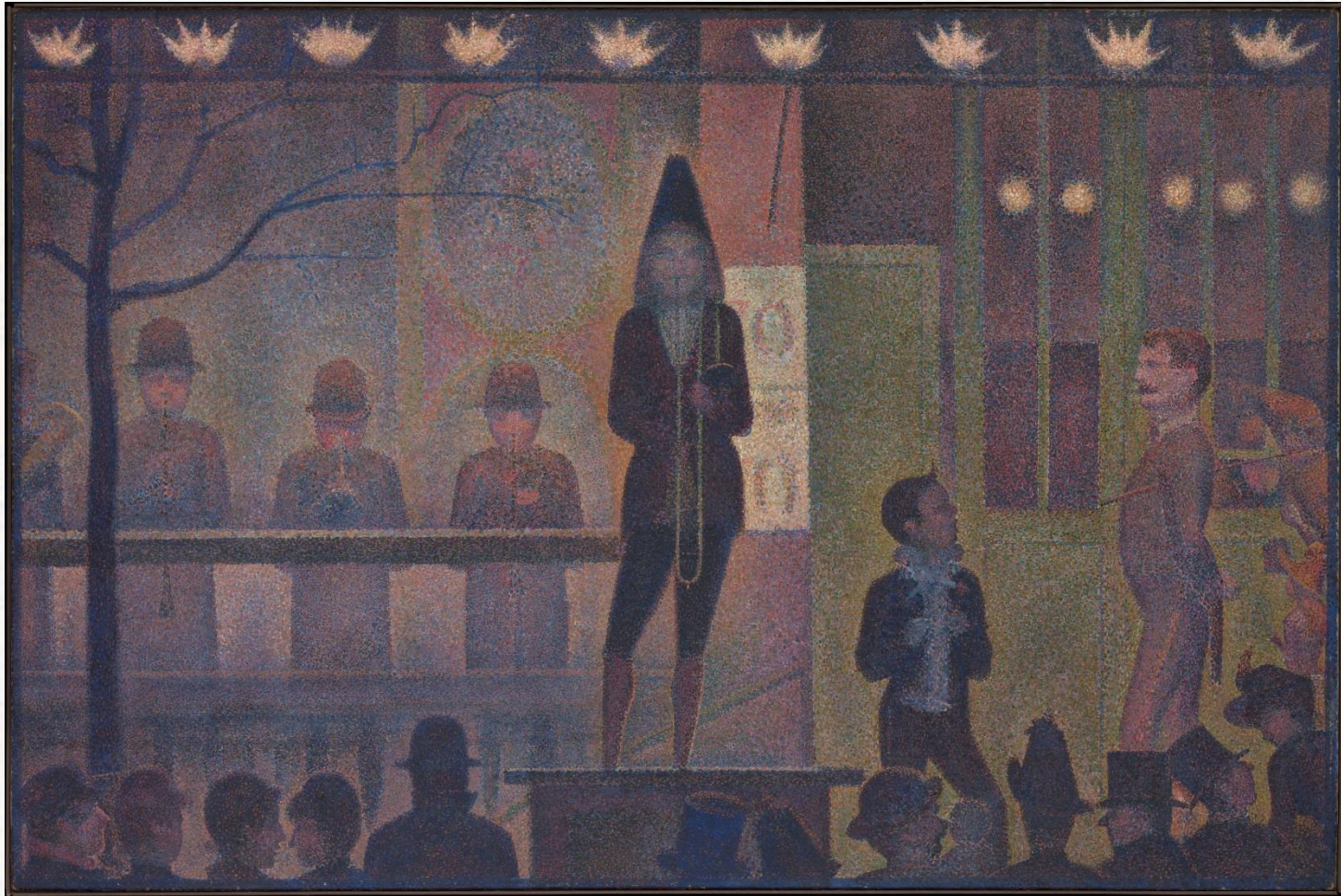


Click on the painting for a closer look.

In the Woods at Pontaubert



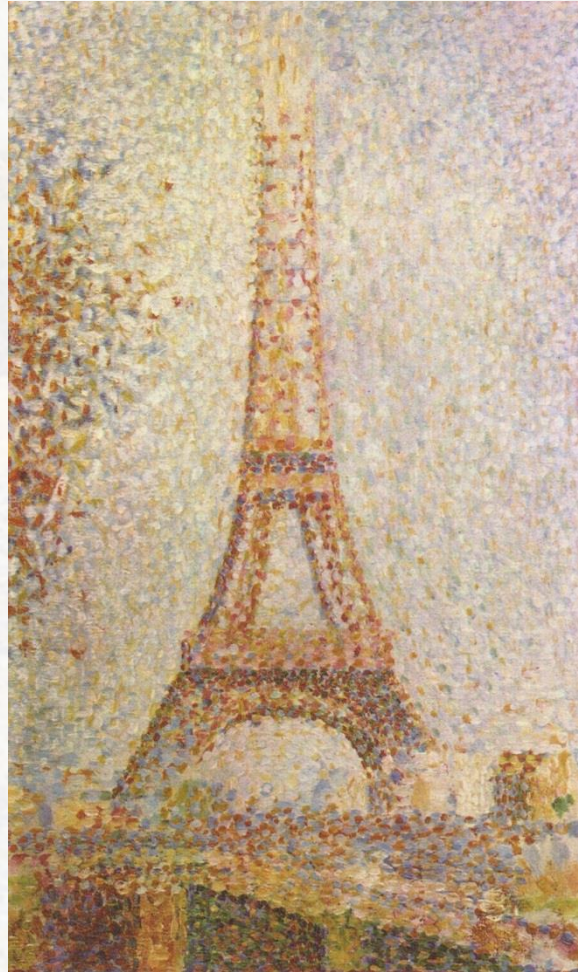
La Parade du Cirque



The Seine at La Grande Jatte



The Eiffel Tower





At the End

Georges Seurat died at the young age of 31 at his parents' house on 29th March 1891. It is thought he died from meningitis, pneumonia or diphtheria. His son died 2 weeks later from the same illness. His final painting, 'The Circus', was left unfinished.

His legacy lived on and his artist friends continued to paint in the new style that Georges Seurat had created – pointillism.