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| Pointillism |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Pointillism is a technique developed by Neo-Impressionist painter Georges Seurat (1859-1891) whereby paint is meticulously applied in small daubs or dots. Interested in colour and optical theories, the Neo-Impressionists (Seurat, Paul Signac, Camille Pissaro, and other artists) applied Pointillist daubs (rather than more sweeping Impressionist brushstrokes) in conjunction with a closely related process known as Divisionism. With the goal of creating well-crafted harmonies of contrasts, the points of paint were applied, in analogous and complementary clusters, over gradated fields of local colours (such as green for grass) to form mutually enhancing fields of complementary hues. Using these techniques, unmixed (or divided) points of pigment were applied with the idea that the colours would blend in the eyes and minds of the viewer. Although this optical blending does not fully occur, these techniques produce a sense of vibrancy as the viewer’s eyes attempt to synthesize the multi-coloured points. Although Pointillist and Divisionist techniques were intended to produce undulating colour and light effects, the Neo-Impressionists’ concern for scientific principles, ordered composition, and artistic craftsmanship tended to result in more rigidly structured paintings than those of the Impressionists. |
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| Further reading:  (Clement and Houzé)  (Harrison)  (Homer)  (Sutter and Herbert) |