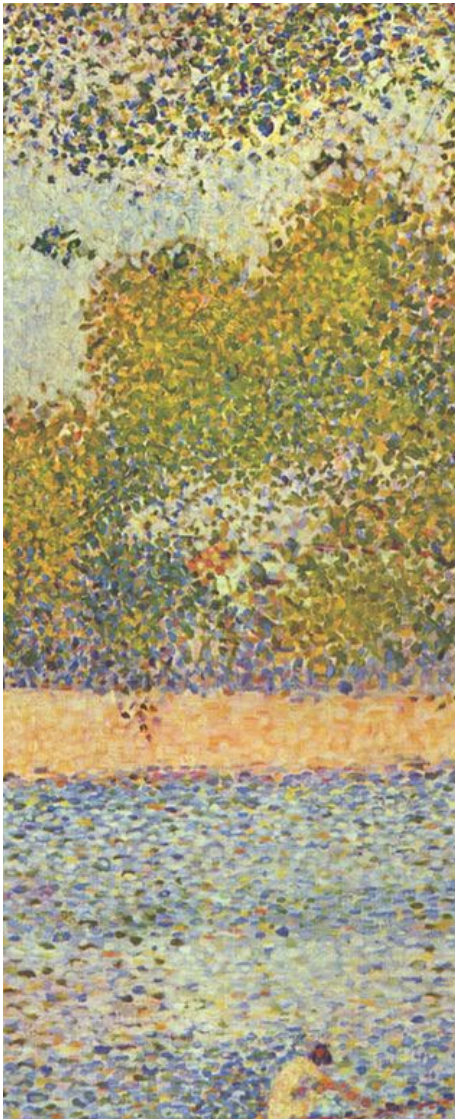


Georges Seurat

1859 – 1891



Georges Pierre Seurat was born on 2nd December 1859 in Paris, France. His parents were wealthy and he had an older brother and sister. From an early age, Georges showed great artistic talent. He attended an art school called École Municipale de Sculpture et Dessin, and later École des Beaux-Arts where he learned about sculpture and drawing.

He had to leave school to do a year of military training, but after this, he returned to the art world. He shared an apartment with his friend and spent much of his time mastering the art of monochrome drawing, which meant everything was in black and white.

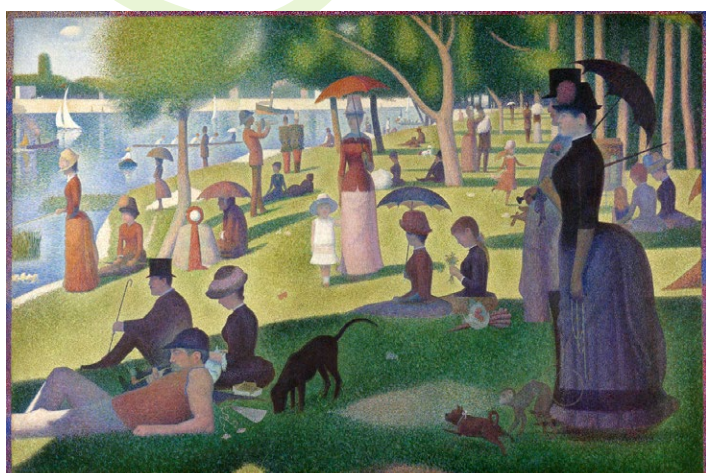
As Georges' parents were wealthy, they helped him set up his own studio. He wasn't a poor artist like many of his friends of that time.

He developed a whole new technique to painting which became known as Pointillism. This is a style that describes the way in which paint is put on to canvas, tiny dots very close together, causing the human eye to blend the colours into an image when seen from a distance. He used the science of optics (the science of the eye) in this new style.



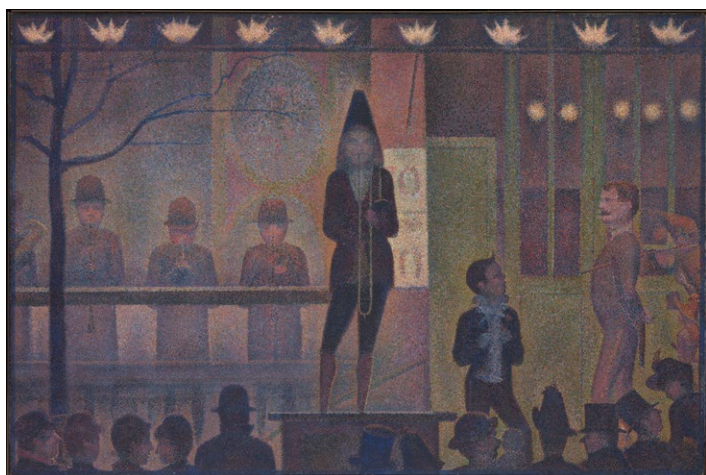
Bathers in Asnières

In 1888, he painted one of his most famous paintings: Bathers in Asnières. It showed people relaxing by the River Seine. Georges was very proud of this work but it was rejected from the Paris Salon, the official French art exhibition. Instead he showed it to the Groupe des Artistes Indépendants, but soon wasn't happy with how the group was organised. So, he set up a group with some other artist friends, called Société des Artistes Indépendants. Paul Signac was one of his friends. He was also an artist and began painting in the pointillist style too.



Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte

In 1884, Seurat began work on a 6.10 x 10.1ft painting called Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte. It took him two years to complete, and he kept it a secret from everyone. He would go to the riverbank each morning to make sketches and return to his studio in the afternoon to continue painting the pointillist masterpiece.



The Circus

Georges Seurat died on 29th March 1891 from an unknown illness. He was just 31 years old. It was likely he died from meningitis or pneumonia. His son died a week later from the same disease. Seurat was buried in the family tomb. His final painting, The Circus, was left unfinished.

He left the world with a legacy of a whole new style of painting and numerous masterpieces now being enjoyed and appreciated by people around the world.