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# Art Study

## The Art of Theo van Rysselberghe

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### Tips for leading an art study with your group:

- Make sure everyone has a good view of the art, either print individual copies of the art or have it displayed on a screen or tablet.
- Introduce the art, artist, title and date it was painted.
- Take time to quietly look at the art, let the art speak.
- Use questions to stimulate discussion.
- Use open ended questions that will solicit opinion.

### Here are some questions that will help get the discussion going:

- What caption would you give this painting?
- Can you tell the time of day or the season in this painting, what clues do you have?
- What is the mood of the painting? Do the colors and lighting help to define the mood? How?
- Pretend you are inside this painting, describe how you feel.
- If money were no object, would you buy this painting?
- Does this painting make you think of any place you have visited.
- What would you ask the artist about this painting if they were here?

## The Art of Theo van Rysselberghe

Theo Van Rysselberghe was born in 1862 in the city of Ghent, Belgium. His talent was recognized at a young age, and at just 18 years old he had his first exhibit in Brussels. His early paintings were influenced by the French Impressionists. When he saw the Post-Impressionist artist Georges Seurat's work he was drawn to the pointillist style. Pointillism is a technique of painting in which small, distinct dots of color are applied in patterns to form an image. Van Rysselberghe adopted the style himself, becoming the leader of the Belgian pointillists. Rather than landscapes which were favored by the majority of post-impressionists, Rysselberghe preferred to paint portraits.

### For Discussion:

Optical color mixing happens when a viewer perceives color in an image as a result of two or more colors that are positioned next to each other. In other words, if a dot of yellow paint is next to a dot of blue paint, the viewer may perceive that the color green is present, even though it is not in the painting at all.

Pointillism relies on optical color mixing for color translation. When our eyes see pure color side-by-side, our eyes blend the colors.

What do you notice about the, clothes, gestures, and expressions of the figures in these paintings?

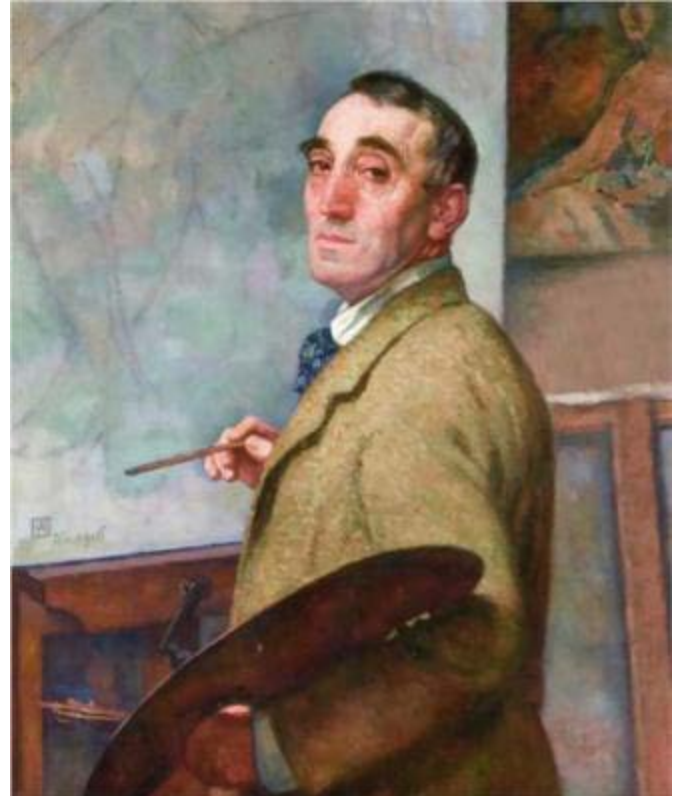
How does the artist create shadow using pointillism?

Find a few accents in these paintings that show a sense of motion.

Take a close-up look at these paintings.

What do you notice, in terms of the use of optical mixing, in these paintings?

Are you able to see the dots of paint used in this work?



**Theo van Rysselberghe**  
**Self-Portrait**

## **The Art of Theo van Rysselberghe**

**Painting:** *The Mill at Kelf*

**Date of Art:** 1894

**Location of Painting:** Private Collection

**Painting:** *Three Children in Blue*

**Date of Art:** 1894

**Location of Painting:** Private Collection

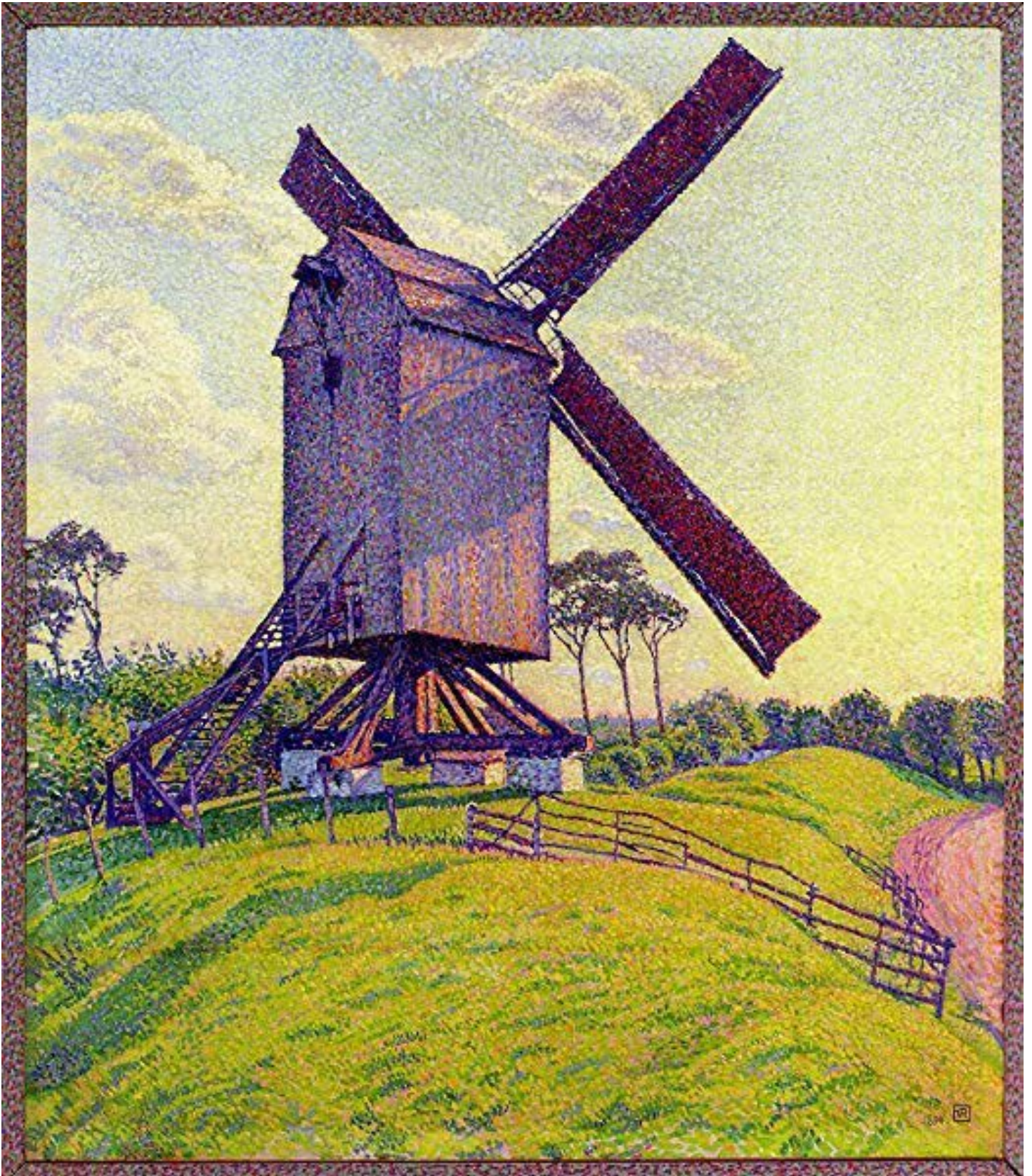
**Painting:** *Anna Boch in Her Studio*

**Date of Art:** 1893

**Location of Painting:** Private Collection

**Note:** While visiting Paris van Rysselberghe met Vincent van Gogh and invited him to the next art exhibition in Brussels. That is where Van Gogh sold his painting, *The Red Vineyard* to artist Anna Boch. This was the only painting van Gogh ever sold in his lifetime.





***The Mill at Kelf* by Theo van Rysselberghe 1894**





*Three Children in Blue* by Theo van Rysselberghe 1894





***Anna Boch in Her Studio* by Theo van Rysselberghe 1893**