



Lucien Pissarro (1863 – 1964)

Cottage at Storrington, 1911

Oil on canvas. Worthing Museum and Art Gallery permanent collection

Dimensions 40.5 x 60.0cm

This work has been chosen to support 'Our Place' – Annual Schools Exhibition 2015 - celebrating the built heritage of the South Downs.

Towner Gallery in partnership with South Downs National Park Authority, Worthing Museum and Art Gallery and the Flora Twort Gallery Petersfield

About the artist

Lucien Pissarro was the eldest son of Camille Pissarro who was a famous French Impressionist painter. Lucien came to England in 1890 and liked it so much he later became naturalised so his work is a good example of the link between French and British Impressionism. His style of painting was also influenced by Seurat and we can see this in **Cottage at Storrington** where the 'pointillist' technique is demonstrated (using small dabs of colour placed together to be mixed by the viewer's eye).

Like his father Lucien worked as both a painter and illustrator, but he was mostly recognised as a landscape painter. Also like his father he preferred to work directly in front of the landscape (also referred to as en plein air and adopted by Monet) or from through a window.

Other influential artists Pissarro met and knew were Van Gogh, Cezanne, Manet and Monet. He exhibited regularly with Salon des Independants and with the New English Art Club. He was one of the founders and also a key influence of the Camden Town Group.

The cottage in this painting is called Waterfall Cottage and still survives today.



Understand & Evaluate

Considering the pointillist technique, how does the painting look different when you view it close up and from far away?

How does Pissarro use colour to create depth and shadow in the painting?

Looking closely at the foliage and grass, how many different colours can you pick out? How many different types of green have been used?

How would you change the colour palette if you were painting the same scene on a winter's day?

Explore and create

Pissarro loved to work en plein air. Can you adopt this technique by finding a view from a window, or an outside location and draw or paint directly what you see?

Practise creating shade and tone using the pointillist technique. Begin by using a black pen on white paper and creating a simple shape such as a sphere. Do not use any straight lines in your drawing. Pay attention to where the light source is and where it hits the object.

Practice the pointillist technique further by using individual colours laid beside each other to give the visual effect of a different colour. Look at how Pissarro uses red, yellow and purple to give the impression of shading in the grass.



Further links to the National Park

Use the South Downs National Park Learning Zone to explore <http://learning.southdowns.gov.uk/>.

[Learning outside the Classroom](#) including links for health and safety and practical support in planning your work away from the classroom.

[About the National Park](#) The South Downs National Park is the newest of the National Parks established in 2009. All National Parks are special places that are recognised for their stunning landscapes, amazing wildlife and rich heritage, as well as providing fantastic opportunities for enjoying and learning about what makes them special.

[Geology and landscape](#) Storrington is located on the edge of the Chalk Escarpment and Footslopes of the South Downs National Park. This landscape is characterised by the dramatic north facing chalk escarpment with panoramic views across the Weald. In the foothills, peaceful settlements are linked to the chalk uplands by zigzagging bostel tracks. Find out more about the different landscape types across the South Downs by looking at the [Sense of Place](#) toolkit that includes fantastic maps and information about each distinctive area.

[Farming and Land management](#) Over 85% of the South Downs National Park is agricultural. Farming, and in particular, traditional mixed farming, has created the distinctive landscape that makes the South Downs such an iconic place. The chalk downland above Storrington is actively managed to prevent the chalk grassland from scrubbing over. Without conservation grazing, scrub clearance and land management this habitat would look very different and the wildlife that can be supported would change significantly.

[Habitats and wildlife](#) This area is dominated by chalk grassland which covers only 4% of the National Park in total. Chalk grassland is often referred to as the European equivalent to tropical rainforest due to the rich diversity of species it supports. Find out more about [chalk grassland](#) on the Learning Zone.

[Culture and heritage](#) Like many towns and villages across the area, Storrington has a high number of buildings built in the local vernacular. These buildings utilise the natural resources found across the National Park including flint, clay, timber, Horsham stone and greensand. For more information about the building materials used across the National Park see the presentation on [Buildings in the South Downs Landscape](#).

[Access and recreation](#) The South Downs National Park is a very accessible landscape with over 3,000 km of rights of way including the South Downs Way, a 160 km National Trail stretching from Winchester to Eastbourne, see: <http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/south-downs-way> for more details.

[Economy and industry](#) Nowadays the industry of the South Downs is dominated by farming and tourist related businesses. There are also a wide range of other businesses, for example new technology and science, which support local employment. You can find out more about these different types of industry in the [State of the National Park Report](#).