**Newark Community Art Club with Elaine Winter**

**Session no. 23 (Summer Term): Optical mixing 1**

**Materials needed:**

Pencil, rubber, sharpener

White paper to draw on (any size you like to work on and whatever you have at hand)

Primary colour ready mixed paints (red, blue, yellow)

Cotton buds

Palette or old plate for the paints

**Introduction:** Optical mixing is a type of paint mixing used by many artists including Georges Seurat and Vincent Van Gogh. Rather than mixing wet paints together on a palette to make a new colour to be painted on and allowed to dry, dabs of paint of different colours are placed next to each other on the canvas and our eyes do the mixing instead hence the term ‘optical mixing’.

**1 –** Take a small piece of paper, something like postcard sized is ideal or quarter of the size of A4. Draw a simple shape on it, something like an apple or a leaf would work. Just draw the outline, do not add any shading with your pencil.

**2 –** Now start to add colour using dots of the primary colours only applied with cotton buds. Start with yellow and then blue followed by red. Where there are big white gaps between the dots keep working on building up the dabs or dots of paint. Notice where they colours are close to each other how they ‘mix’.

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**3 –** Now mix the secondary colours on your palette (Red+Blue = Purple, Yellow+Red = Orange, Yellow + Blue = Green). Start adding dots of these colours to your work.

**4 –** Focus on using the warm colours (yellow, orange, red) for light areas and the cool colours (blues, greens, purples for the shadows.

**Note** – When working in this way it helps to look at your work from a distance as the optical mixing will be more apparent than when you view it close up.