activity 38

university of minnesota duluth

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Helen Turner liked to emphasize the element of texture in her paintings.

In this painting, she used small dots of pure color to create the image. Like many American artists of her generation, she experimented with Impressionist painting techniques, which originated in France.

The diamond patterned rug at the model’s feet and the strong vertical of curtains and windows in the background lend the painting an almost abstract quality despite its realism.

The texture in this painting is both real, caused by the application of thick paint, and illusionistic, created by depictions of cloth, skin, and fabric. In this painting Turner’s style is like that of Pointillism (pwan - till - is - im), where artists used small dots of different colors to construct their forms.
Texture:
Lay a sheet of newsprint or other thin paper over rough sandpaper and other textured surfaces. Try drawing a variety of objects with pastel or the sides of colored or graphite pencils.

Color:
Practice color mixing by pointilism!

| Yellow dots | Yellow and blue dots should produce the optical effect of green | Blue dots |