## COLOR THEORY

# COLOR THEORY 

Color Wheel
Color Values
Color Schemes

## COLOR WHEEL

The color wheel fits together like a puzzle each color in a specific place. Being familiar with the color wheel not only helps you mix colors when painting, but in adding color to all your art creations.

Primary


- Primary colors are not mixed from other elements and they generate all other colors.
- Yellow
- Blue

Secondary


- By mixing two primary colors, a secondary color is created.
+ Yellow = Orange
- Yellow + Blue $=$ Green
- Blue + Red = Purple

Tertiary or • Tertiary or Intermediate colors Intermediate are created by mixing a primary and a secondary.

- Primary + Secondary = Tertiary

Yellow Orange
Blue Purple
Yellow Green
Purple

## NEUTRALS

The principles of color mixing let us describe a variety of colors, but there are still many colors to explore. The neutral colors contain equal parts of each of the three primary colors. Black, white, gray, and sometimes brown are considered "neutral".

## COLOR VALUES



Color values are the lights and darks of a color you create by using black and white ('neutrals") with a color.
This makes hundreds of more colors from the basic 12 colors of the wheel.
white + color = tint color + black = shade

## TINTS

## Tints are lightened colors.

Always begin with white and add a bit of color to the white until the desired tint is obtained. This is an example of a value scale for the tints of blue.

## SHADES

Shades are darkened colors.
Always begin with color you want and add just a bit of black until the desired shade is obtained. This is an example of a value scale for the shades of blue.

## COLOR SCHEMES

Color Schemes are a systematic way of using the color wheel to put colors together... in your art work, putting together the clothes you wear, deciding what colors to paint your room.....

# MONOCHROMATIC 


"Mono" means "one", "chroma" means
"color"... monochromatic color schemes have only one color and its values. The following slide shows a painting done in a monochromatic color scheme.


This non-objective painting has a monochromatic color scheme - green and the values (tints and shades) of green.

## COMPLEMENTARY



Complementary colors are opposite on the color wheel provided a high contrast

- if you want to be noticed wear complementary colors!


This painting has
complementary colors and their values - yellows and purples

## SPLIT-COMPLEMENTARY



The split-complementary color scheme is a variation of the complementary color scheme. In addition to the base color, it uses the two colors adjacent to its complement. This color scheme has the same strong visual
contrast as the complementary color scheme, but has less tension.


This painting has splitcomplementary colors using yellow-green, yelloworange, and purple


The analogous color scheme is $3-5$ colors adjacent to each other on the color wheel. This combination of colors provides very little contrast.


## Analogous colors are

illustrated here: blue, bluegreen, green and yellowgreen.

## TRIADIC



- A triadic color scheme uses colors that are evenly spaced around the color wheel.
- Triadic color harmonies tend to be quite vibrant, even if you use pale or unsaturated versions of your hues.
- To use a triadic harmony successfully, the colors should be carefully balanced - let one color dominate and use the two others for accent.



## Triadic colors are illustrated

 here: blue, yellow-green, red-orange.
## WARM



Warm colors are found on the right side of the color wheel. They are colors found in fire and the sun. Warm colors make objects look closer in a painting or drawing.


This is an illustration of the use of warm colors - reds, oranges and yellows.

Cool colors are found on the left side of the color wheel. They are the colors found in snow and ice and tend to recede in a composition.


Note the cool color scheme in this painting (greens, purples and blues).

