

Notes: Color Theory

Primary Colors:

There are 3 Primary Colors: Blue, Yellow and Red.

Secondary Colors:

Mix any 2 Primary Colors to get a Secondary Color.

Red + Blue = Purple

Blue + Yellow = Green

Red + Yellow = Orange

Tertiary Colors:

Mix a Primary Color with a Secondary Color you get: Tertiary Colors.

(Intermediate)

Red-Orange

Yellow-Orange

Yellow-Green

Blue-Green

Blue-Purple

Red-Purple

Warm Colors:

Warm Colors are Bright Colors such as: Reds, Oranges, Yellows.

Cool Colors:

Cool Colors are: Blues, Greens, Purples.

Neutral Colors:

Neutral Colors are: Browns, Blacks, Grays, Whites.
They contain equal parts of each of the 3 Primary Colors.

Color Values:

Color Values are the Lights and Dark you create by using Black and White with a color.

When you make a color lighter, you are adding White to it. It is called a Tint. You begin with White, and add the Color until the desired Tint is achieved.

When you make a color darker, you are adding Black to it. It is called a Shade. You begin with the Color, and add black until the desired Shade is achieved.

Complimentary Colors:

Complementary Colors are found directly across from each other on the color wheel. Complementary colors contrast because they share no common colors.

Light reflected off objects:

Color has three main characteristics: hue (red, green, blue, etc.), value (how light or dark it is), and intensity (how bright or dull it is). Colors can be described as warm (red, yellow) or cool (blue, gray), depending on which end of the color spectrum they fall.

Value:

Value describes the brightness of color. Artists use color value to create different moods. Dark colors in a composition suggest a lack of light, as in a night or interior scene. Dark colors can often convey a

sense of mystery or foreboding. Light colors often describe a light source or light reflected within the composition.

Intensity:

Intensity describes the purity or strength of a color. Bright colors are undiluted and are often associated with positive energy and heightened emotions. Dull colors have been diluted by mixing with other colors and create a sedate or serious mood.