

Chapter 7:

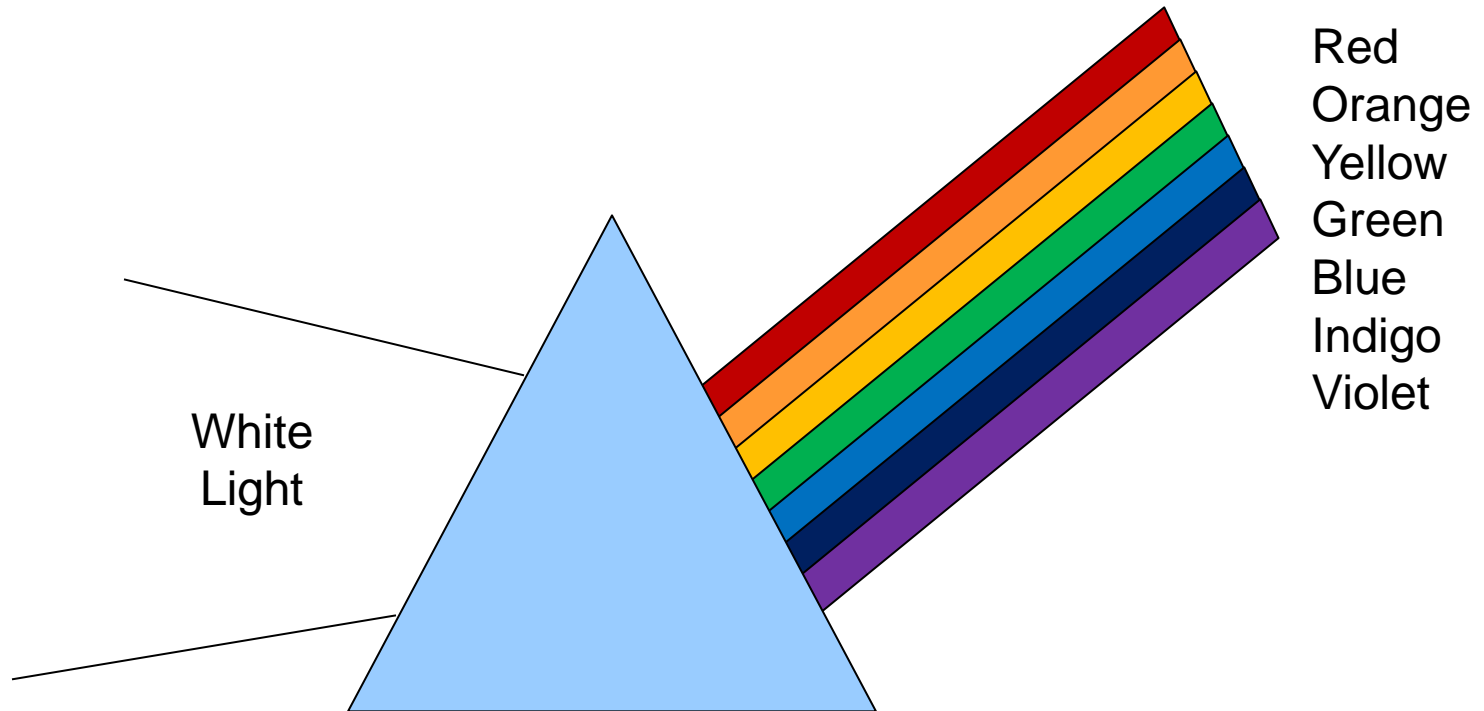
COLOR

What is Color?

- The element of art derived from reflected light.
- Light reflects off objects, sending colors back to our eyes.

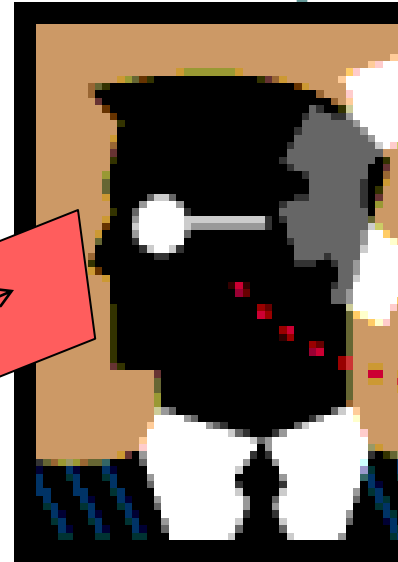
I. Color Spectrum

- Color Spectrum: The bands of color created when white light passes through a prism (a wedge-shaped piece of glass)



I. When Light Hits an Object

- When white light hits a red object, like an apple, the apple reflects red light waves and absorbs all others.

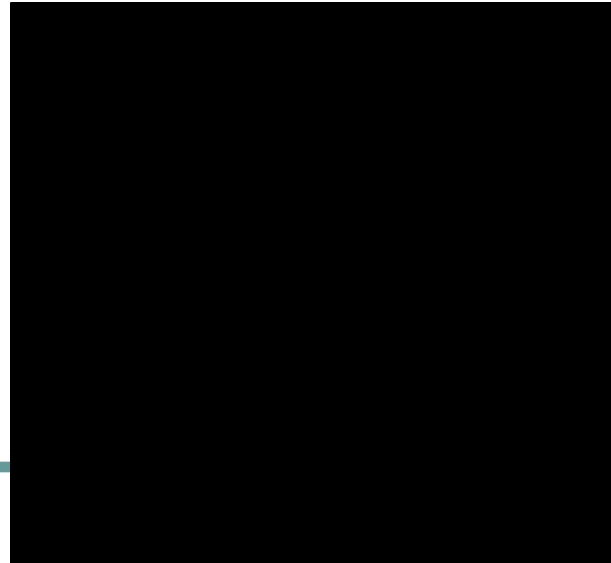


What about Black, White, Gray and Brown?

- Black, white, grey and brown are neutrals.

What about Black, White, Gray and Brown?

- *Black* is the absence of all color.
- Black objects absorb all light waves.
- Think about wearing a black shirt in the summer. It gets hot because its absorbing light.



What about Black, White, Gray and Brown?

- White is the combination of all colors.
- White objects reflect all the light waves.
- A white T-Shirt is a much better choice in the summer.



What about Black, White, Gray and Brown?

- Grey and Brown occur when light waves are reflected in certain combinations.
- Any combination of three primary colors or two complementary colors will result in a grey or brown.

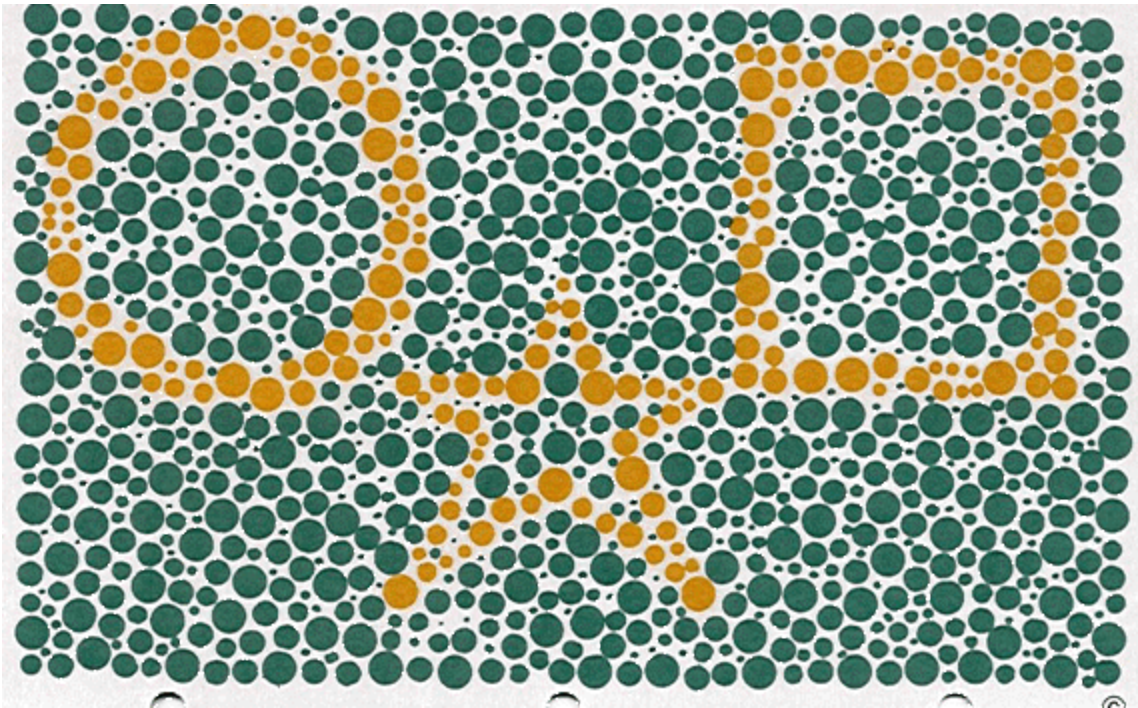


I. Color-Blindness

- Some people are color-blind. Their eyes perceive colors differently than most people.
- Some people have trouble telling the difference between red & green. Others may only see in black, white and grey.
- Some animals see light waves that are invisible to humans.

I. Color-Blindness

- Here is a common test for color-blindness:



Can you see the circle, square or star?

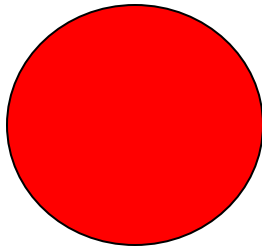
I. Afterimage

- Your eyes also create a phenomenon known as afterimage.
- Afterimage occurs because your eyes retain visual stimulation after it has ceased.
- Stare at the square on the following slide for 30 seconds (try not to blink). Then, quickly flip to the next slide.

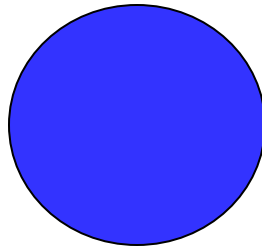


I. Primary Colors

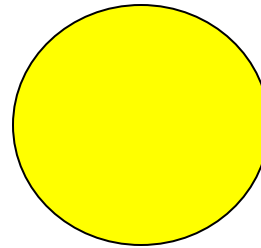
- Hue: The spectral name of a color. The words color and hue are interchangeable.
- Primary Hues: *Colors that cannot be mixed. But, by mixing them with one another, all other colors can be created.*



Red



Blue

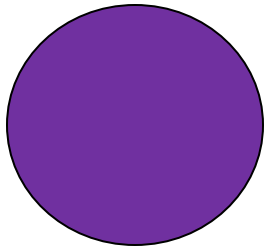


Yellow

I. Secondary Colors

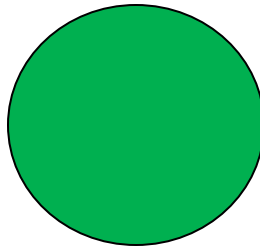
- Secondary Hues: Colors created by mixing two primary colors.

Red + Blue =



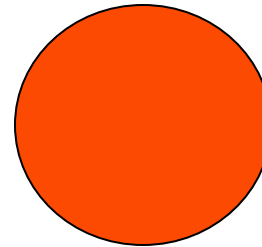
Violet

Yellow + Blue =



Green

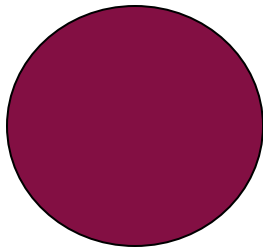
Red + Yellow =



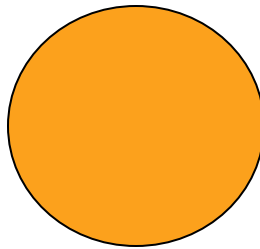
Orange

I. Intermediate Colors

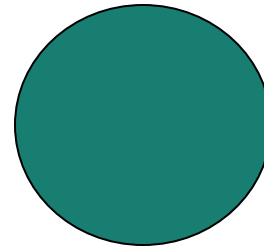
- Intermediate Hues: Colors created by mixing a primary color with a secondary color.



Red-Violet



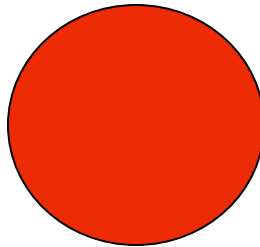
Yellow-Orange



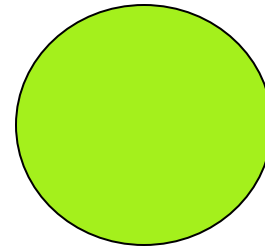
Blue-Green



Blue-Violet



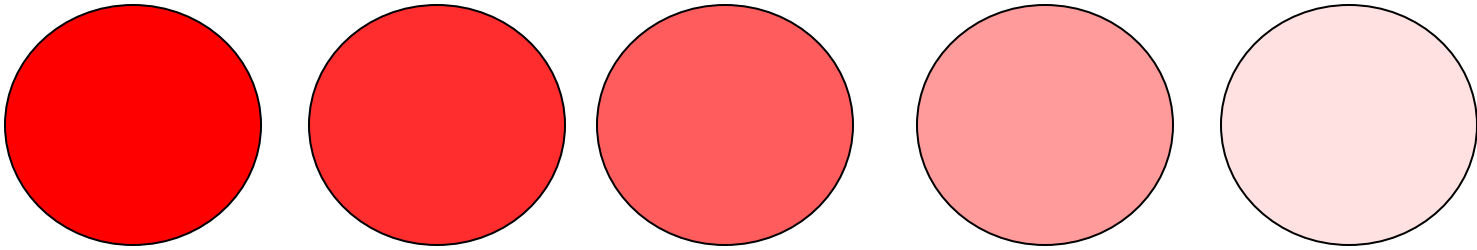
Red-Orange



Yellow-Green

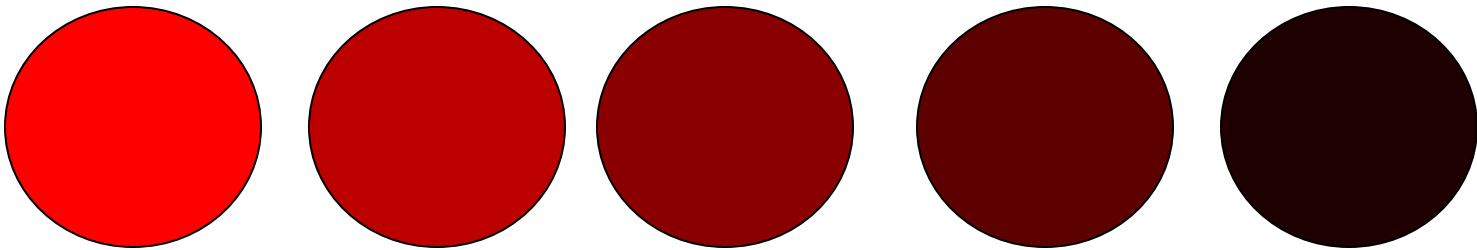
I. Value In Color

- Just like black & white media, colors can change value from light to dark.
- Tints-Colors with white added to them.



I. How We See Color

- Define shade: A color with black added to it.



I. High Key Paintings

- High key paintings have many light values and bright colors.



Georgia O'Keefe
White Flowers

I. How We See Color

- Low key paintings have lots of dark values and shaded areas.

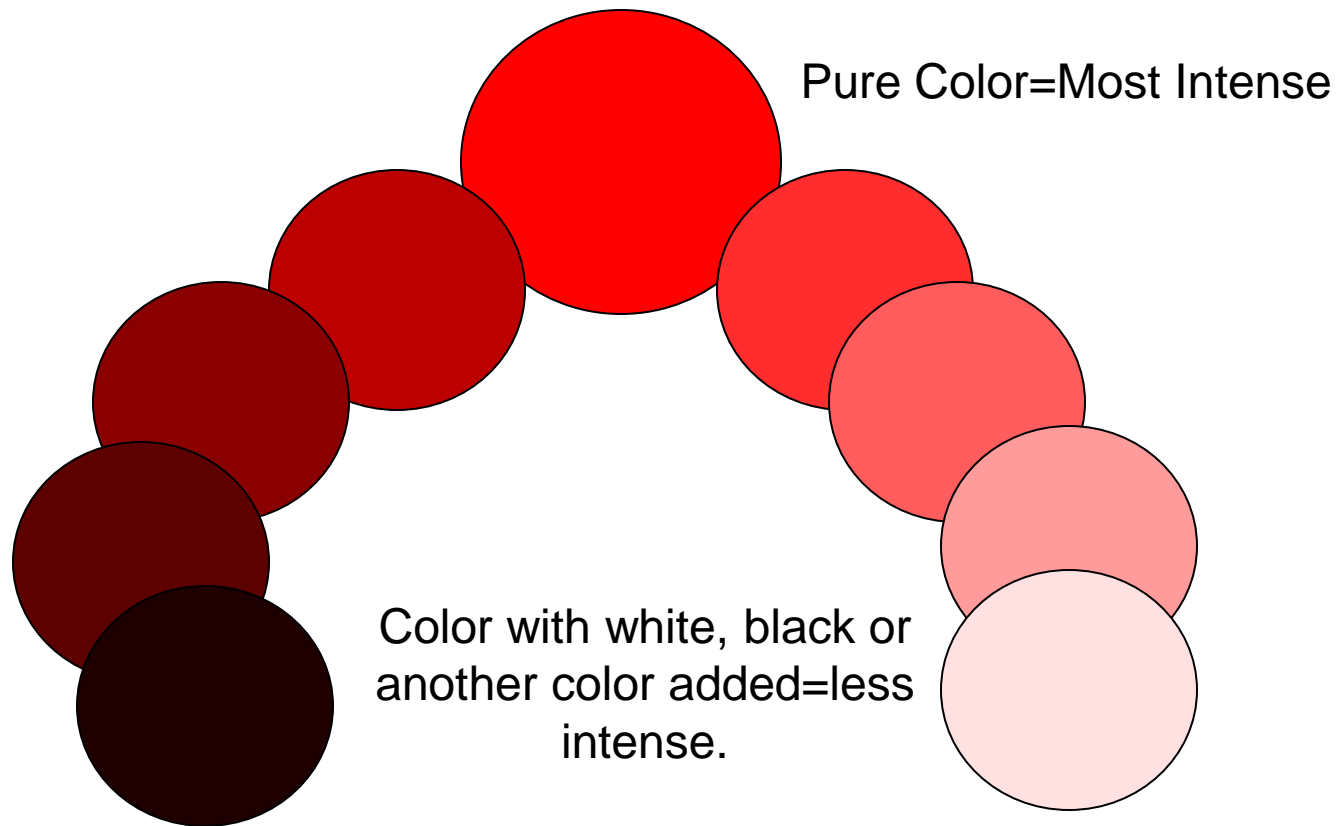


Georgia O'Keefe
Poppy

Poppy, 1927, oil on canvas, 30" x 36"

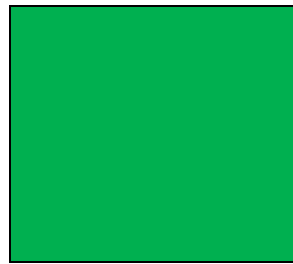
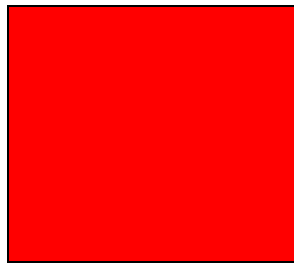
I. How We See Color

- Intensity: The purity of a color.



I. How We See Color

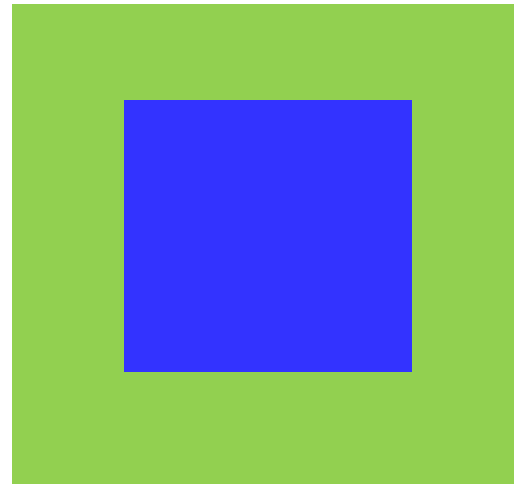
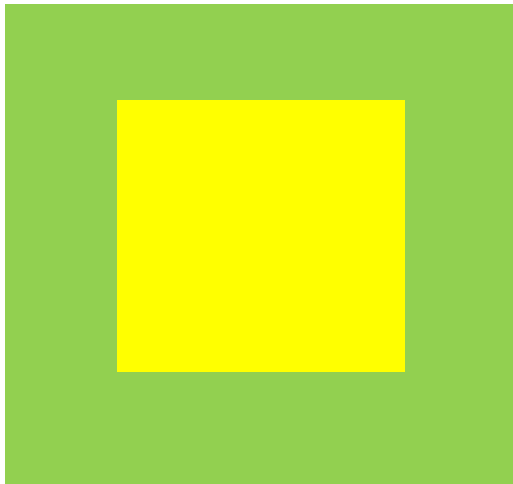
- Complementary colors: Colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel.



- Complements absorb each others light waves.
- Red absorbs the blue and yellow waves of green and reflects red.
- Green absorbs the red light waves and reflects blue and yellow.
- When placed next to each other, complements seem to be most intense.
- When mixed, together, they neutralize one another.

II. Color Schemes

- Color schemes are plans for organizing colors.
- When colors come into direct contact, they affect the appearance of one another.

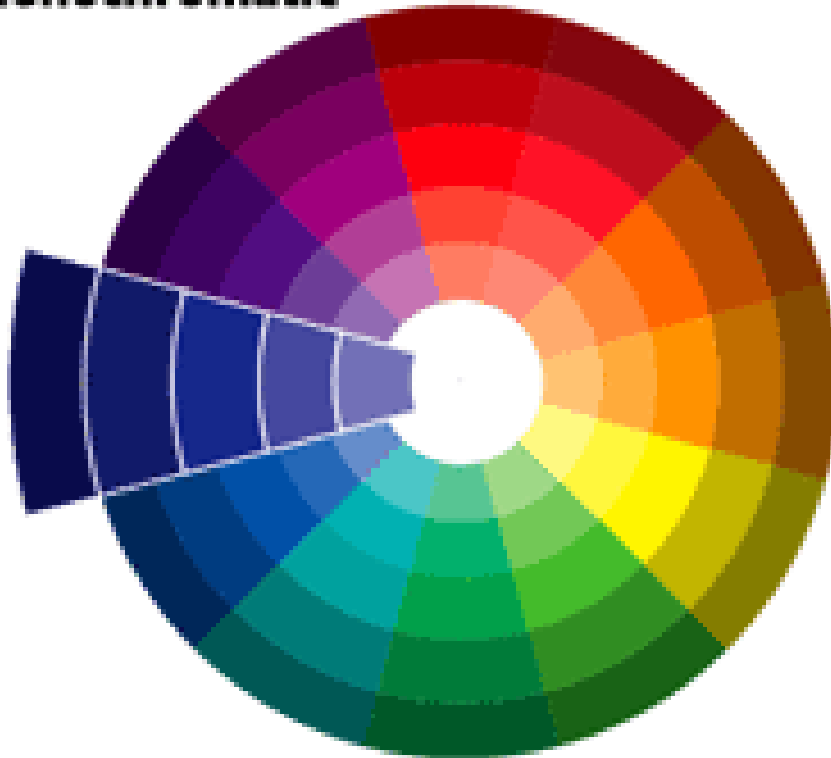


- This is the same yellow-green, but the color in the center makes it seem different.

II. Monochromatic

- Monochromatic Color Scheme: A color scheme consisting of one color and tints and shades of that color.

Monochromatic



A monochromatic painting from Pablo Picasso's "Blue Period".

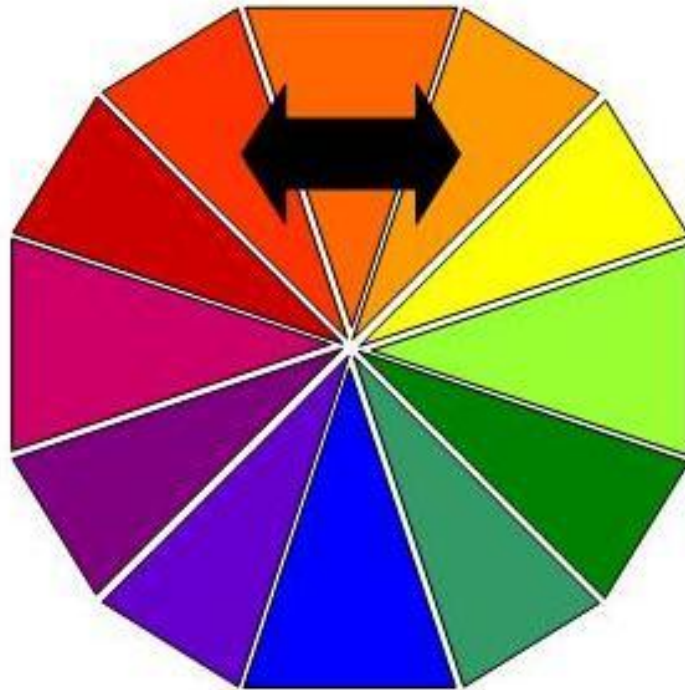


Student Work



II. Color Schemes

- Analogous Color Scheme: A color scheme consisting of a group of at least three colors sitting side-by-side on the color wheel.



Interior Design Using
Analogous colors.

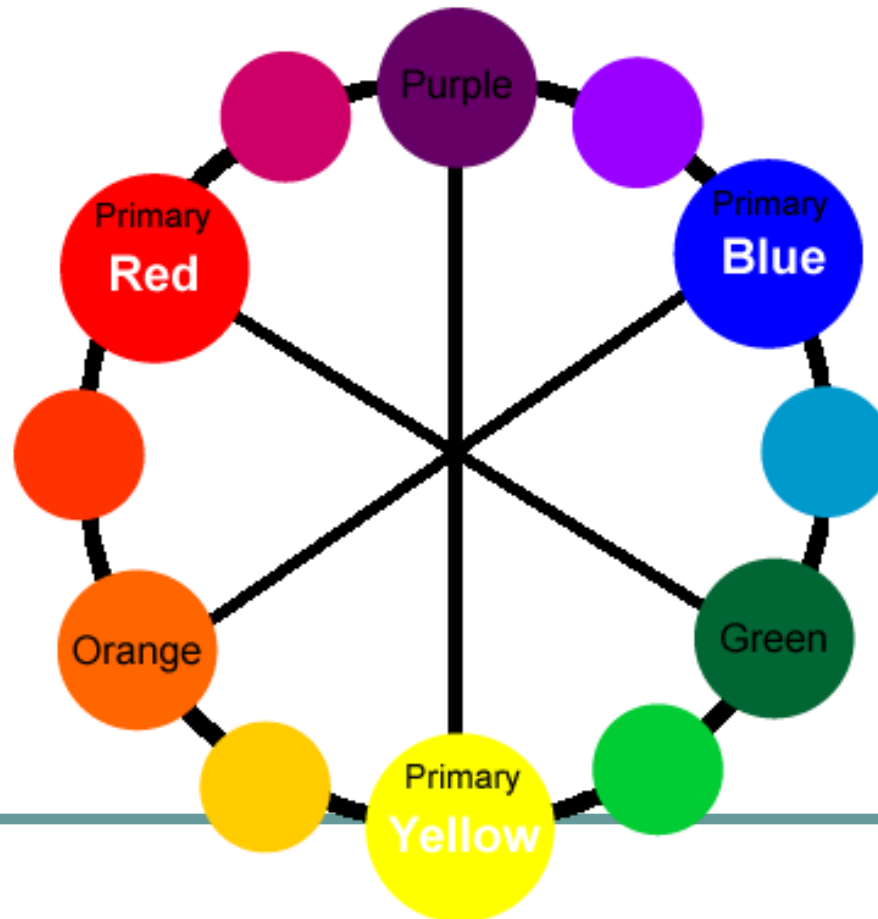


A photo showing analogous colors.



II. Color Schemes

- Complementary Color Scheme: A color scheme comprised of two colors opposite each other on the color wheel.



Complementary
Colors Yellow &
Violet

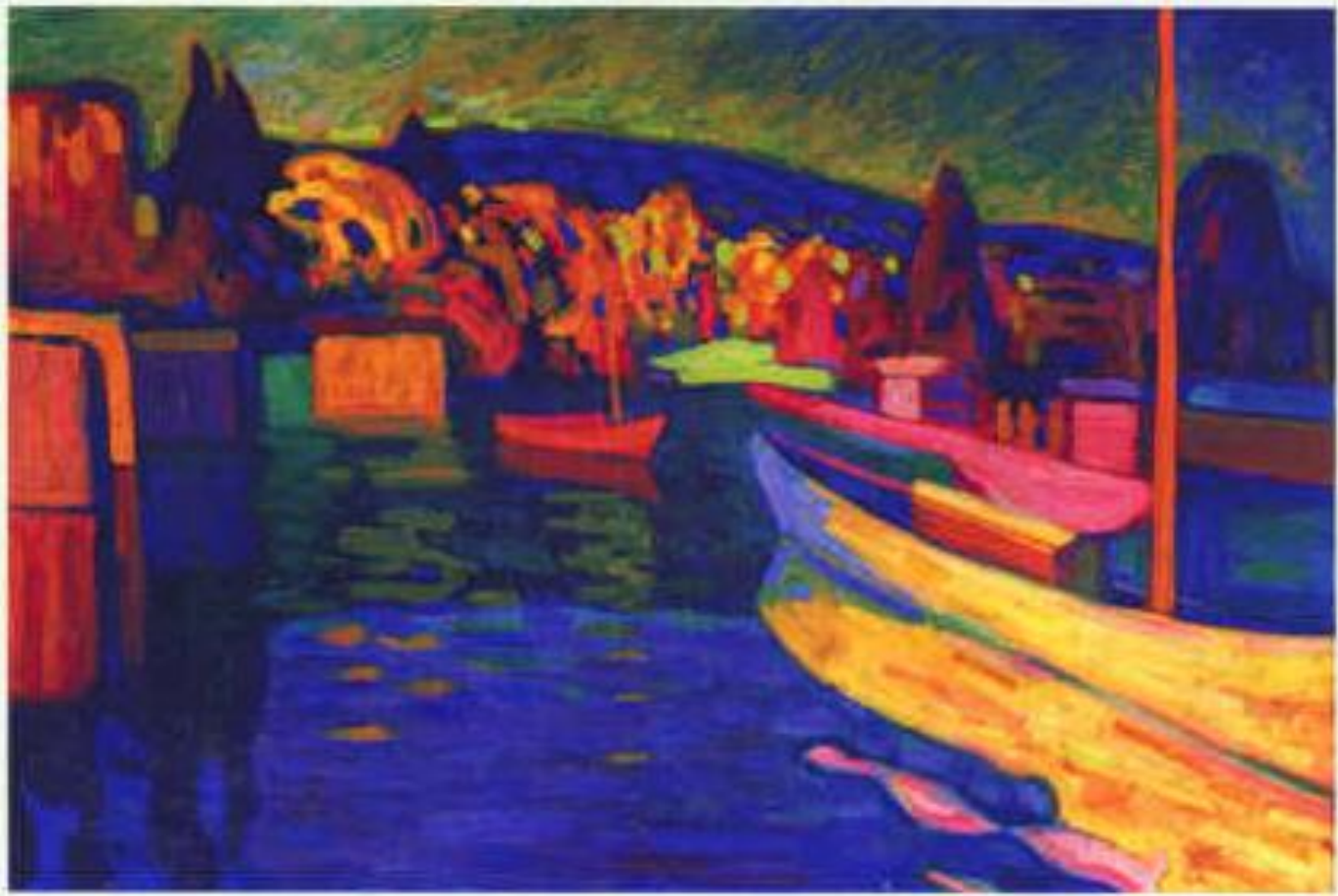




Interior Design Using
Complementary colors.

II. Color Schemes

- Color Triad Color Scheme: A group of colors that form a triangle on the color wheel.
- Color triads include the primary triad (made up of the primary colors) and the secondary triad (made up of the secondary colors).

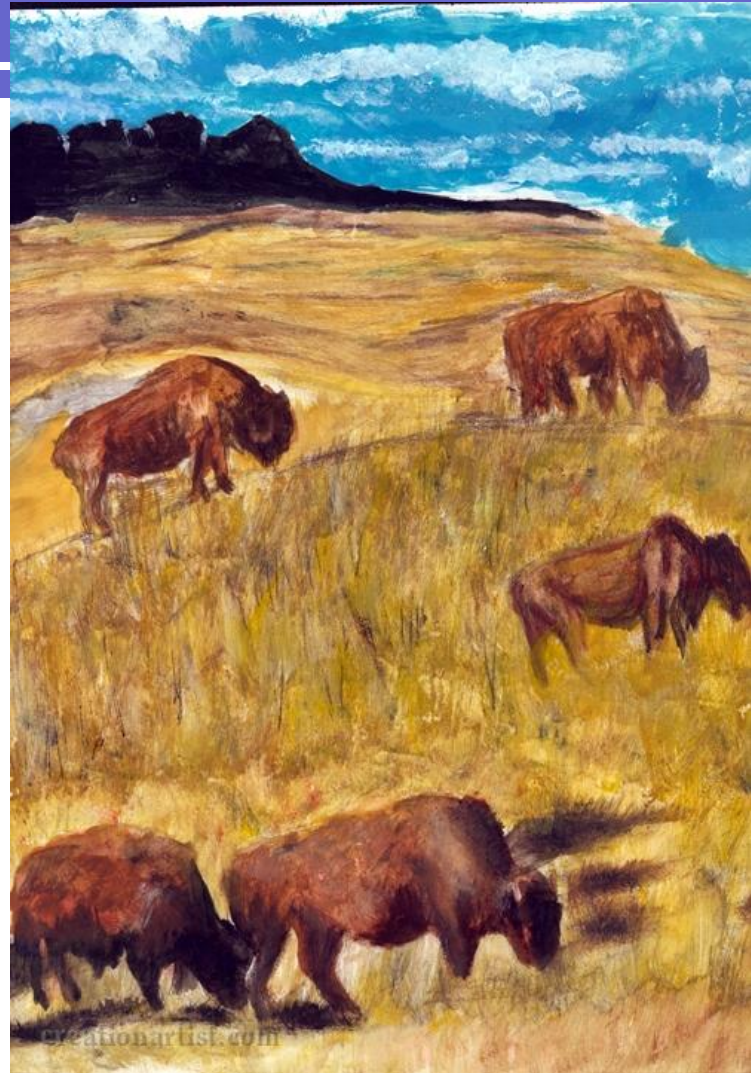


II. Color Schemes

- Split Complementary Color Scheme: A color scheme consisting of a color and the two colors on either side of its complement.



A painting with a blue, red-orange, and yellow-green split complementary color scheme.

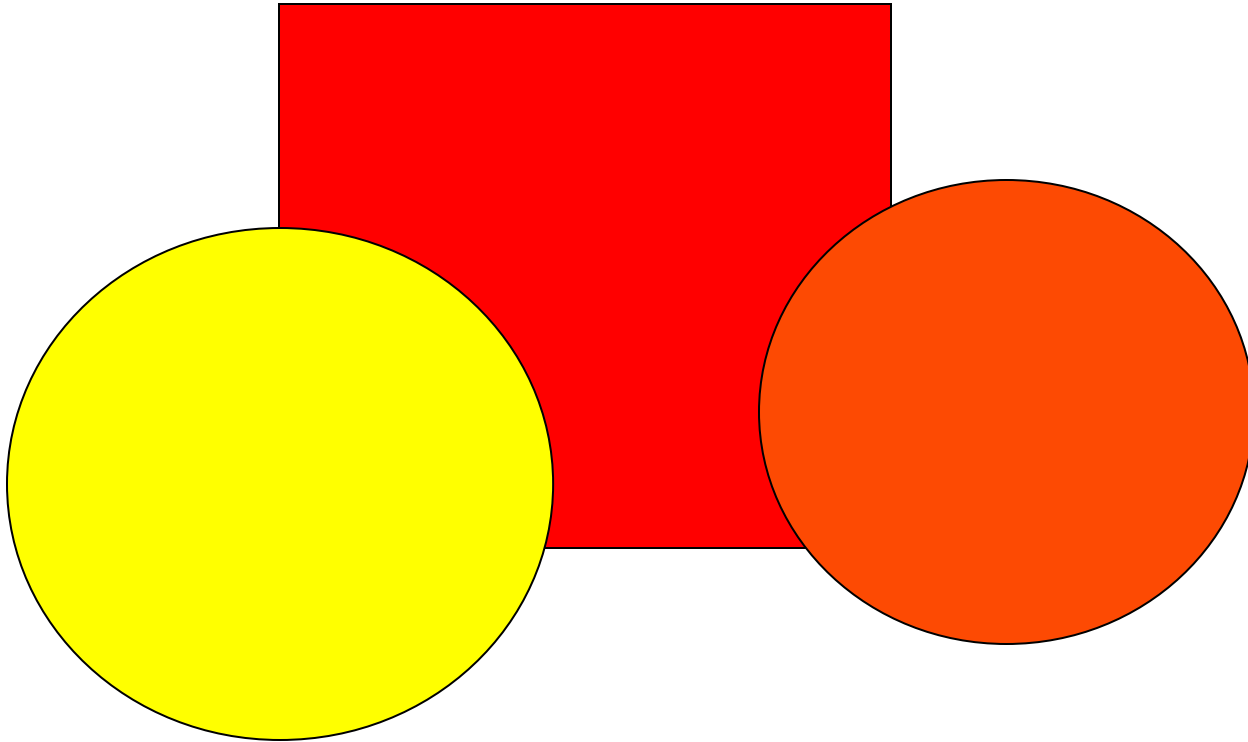


A self-portrait painting by *Vincent Van Gogh* with a blue, red-orange, and yellow-orange split complementary color scheme.



II. Color Schemes

- Warm Color Scheme: Colors like red, orange and yellow. They remind us of warm things like the sun or fire.

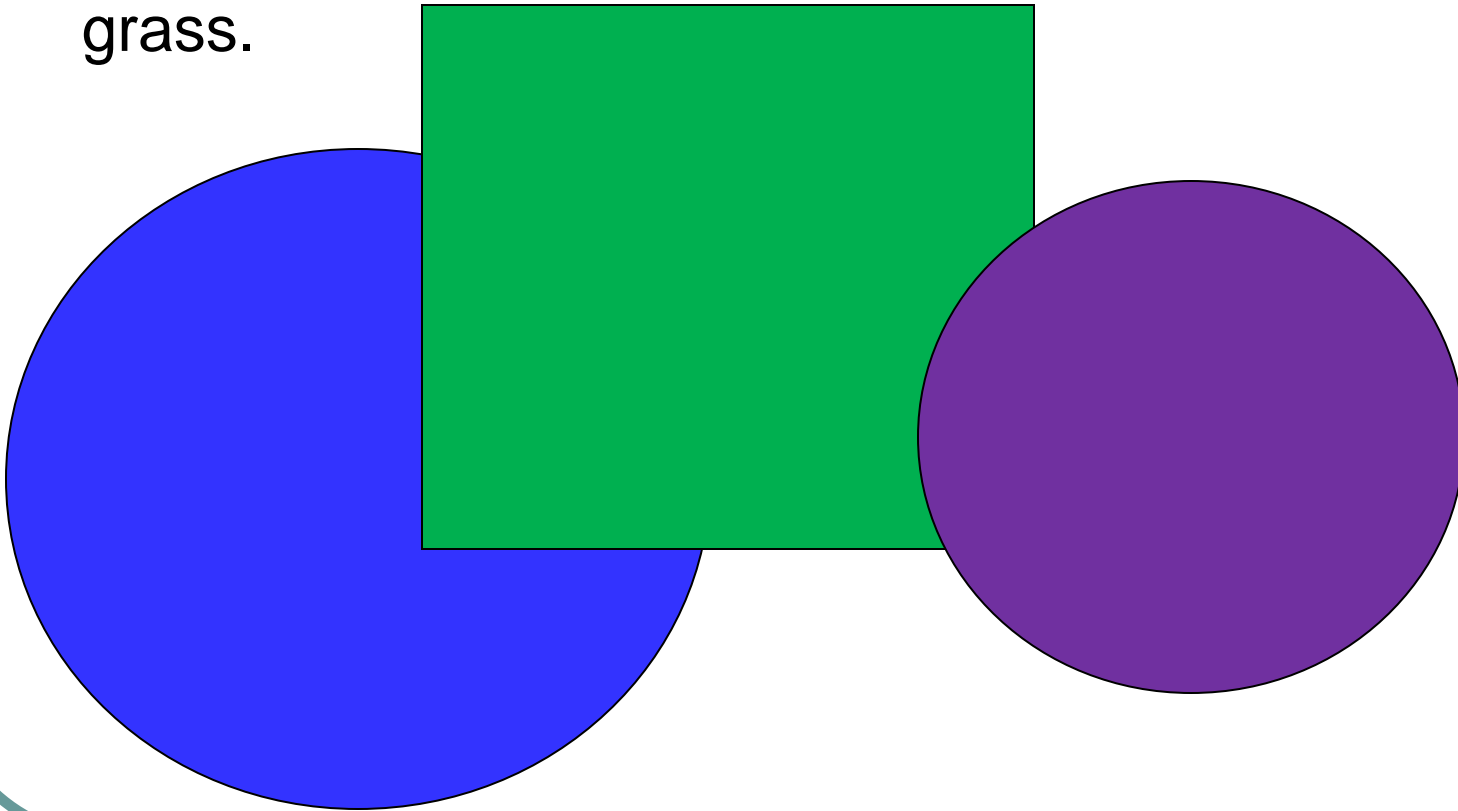




A sunset photo showing warm colors.

II. Color Schemes

- Cool Color Scheme: Colors like blue, green and violet. They remind us of cool things like water, ice, and grass.





Van Gogh's *Starry Night* is dominated by cool colors.

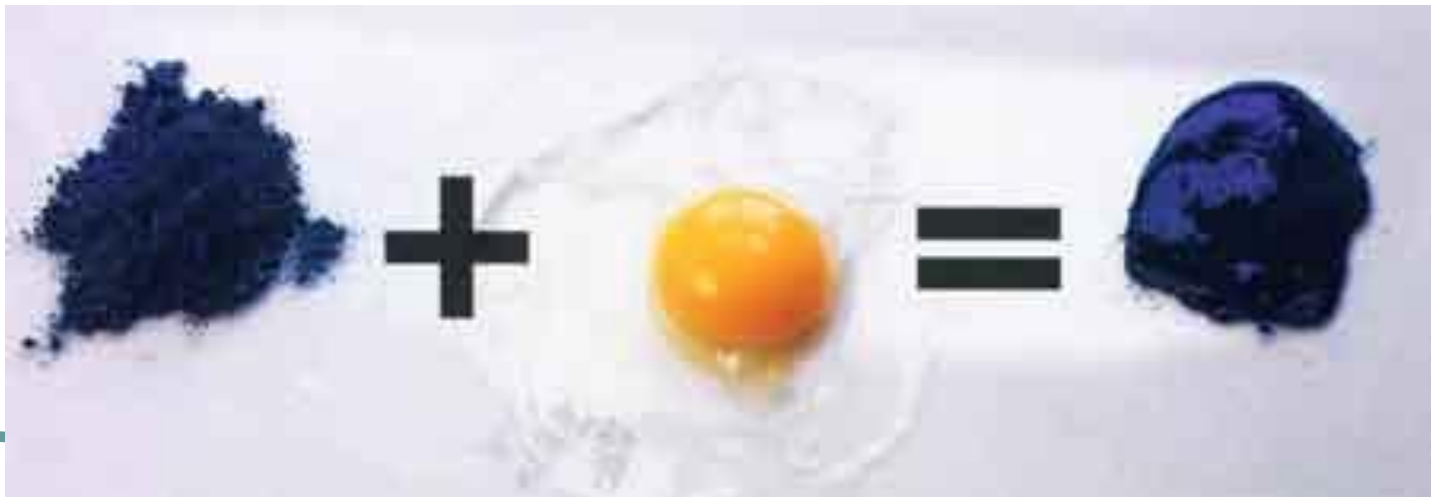
Three Parts of Paint



- Pigment is the finely ground powder that gives every paint its color.
- Pigments can be natural or man-made.

Three Parts of Paint

- Binder is a liquid that holds together the grains of a pigment.
- Different paints use different binders.



<http://www.moma.org/explore/multimedia/videos/123/692>

Three Parts of Paint



- Solvent is a material that is used to thin the binder.
- This makes the paint easier to apply.

Optical Color

Optical Color is color as it is perceived by your eyes.

- It is affected by lighting conditions.
- Artists who use optical color are trying to capture the world as they see it.



Millet's "*The Gleaners*"

Arbitrary Color

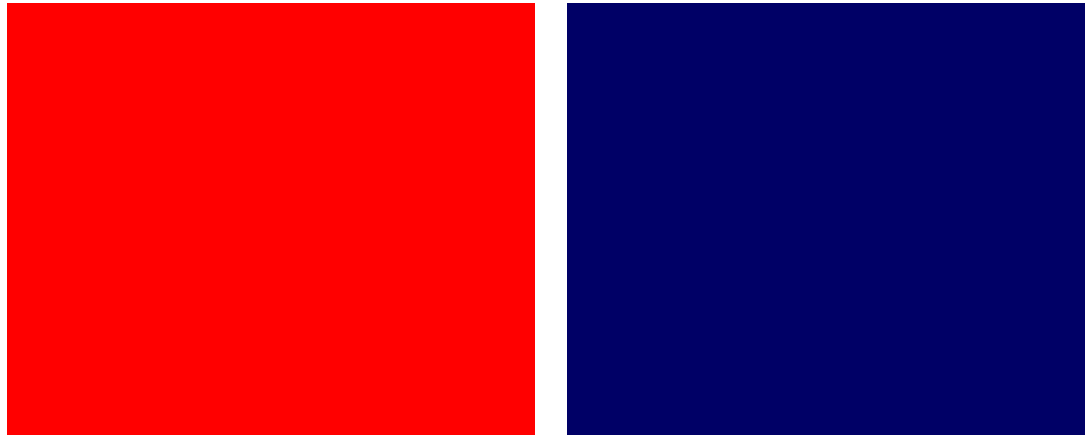


A college student's experiment with arbitrary color.

- Arbitrary color is when an artist selects colors to create a mood or enhance a composition, regardless of optical color.

IV. How colors create movement

- Warm colors seem to advance toward the viewer, while cool colors seem to recede, or move away.



IV. Tonality

- Tonality refers to the color or colors that appear to dominate a work of art.
- A painting may have an overall cool tonality, even though it contains small amounts of warm colors.

In this Picasso painting we looked at earlier, the color blue dominates the work, creating a *blue tonality*, even though there are small amounts of blue's complement, orange.

