

COLOR! SOME TERMS

Color and Light

- Light is composed of waves
- White light when passing through a prism makes a spectrum containing all of the colors and every wave has a different length
- A different length means a different color
- Combining all colors of light creates the absence of color or white.

Color and Pigment

- Combining all colors of pigment creates neutral colors such as gray or gray-brown.

Color Wheel

- A conventional method of arranging colors
- An effective method of showing color relationships
- There are many more colors than those shown on this color wheel

Primary Colors

- Are the purest of all colors and are the building blocks for all colors
- Cannot be made from other colors
- There are three primary colors
 - Red, Yellow, and Blue

Secondary Colors

- Are a combination of two primary colors
- There are three secondary colors
- Orange = red + yellow, Green = yellow + blue, Purple = red + blue

Tertiary Colors

- Are a combination of a primary and a secondary color
- Sometimes called intermediate colors
- Example:
 - Yellow-Orange = Yellow + Orange which is yellow + yellow + red

Complementary Colors

- Are opposite from one another on the color wheel.
- Cause cones and rods in eyes to vibrate when colors are purest or most intense.
- 3 notable pairs: yellow vs. purple, red vs. green, blue vs. orange

Analogous Colors

- Neighbors on the color wheel; they contain a common color
- A work of art with colors from the same color family is considered to be monochromatic
 - Example: All blue colors

Color Temperature

- Colors give a sensation of color temperature. Colors on the left side of the color wheel evoke warm sensations
 - reds, yellows, oranges
- Colors on the right side of the color wheel evoke cool sensations
 - blues, purples, greens

Other Terms

- Fully Chromatic - Use of all colors
- Achromatic - Lack of any color
- Hue - The common name of a color
- Intensity - The color in its purest form
- Tint - Addition of white to color
- Shade - Addition of black to a color
- Subjective color - Application of color to satisfy the vision of an artist.