

Assignment #2-Color Mixing and Neutralization

The following color mixing exercises can help you train your eye to see differences in colors and to combine different colors. Observing nature is another way to see diverse colors as well as collecting magazine pictures or photographs for your binder.

For color mixing, use water base paints such as acrylics, tempera, poster paints, etc. and paint swatches on white paper—preferably a thicker drawing paper. Buy red, blue, yellow, green, orange, violet, black, and white. Different types or brands of paint produce different results. Usually it is better to buy art store paints rather than cheaper grocery store varieties. Use a small brush; water containers; pie pan, palette, or a piece of paper; Q-tips (or better yet, a palette knife); and paper towels or cloth rags.

Tips: Mix dots of colors (use Q-tips, a palette knife or the end of your brush) together for a swatch—EACH DOT WILL EQUAL ONE PART; always mix a darker color into a lighter color; label the swatches with a formula so that you can remember how you got the color; and always clean your brush in clean water after every application of paint mixing so that you don't contaminate the next mixture. Squeeze your brush to get rid of excess water and blot on paper towels.

I have abbreviated the colors to their first letters (example: Y = yellow) except for BLU = blue, BR = brown, and BLA = black.

COLOR MIXING

First of all, draw a circle and apply dots of the primaries, Y, BLU, AND R, at 1/3 intervals.

Mix each primary with its neighboring primary to get secondary colors: Y-BLU = G, BLU-R = V (VIOLET), R-Y = O and apply secondary dots between primaries.

Mix each primary and secondary colors to get tertiary colors: G AND B TO GET BG, B AND V TO GET BV, R AND V TO GET RV, ETC. Apply dots between appropriate primaries and secondaries.

Mix complementary colors (those across each other on the color wheel). For example: R AND G = BR ETC.

NEUTRAL MIXING

1 Y + 1 V
1 R Y + 1 V + 6 W
1 R + 1 G
1 R + 1 G + 6 W

1 O + 1 BLU
1 O + 1 BLU + 6 W

To create shades: Darken a color, add a small quantity of a color in the range nearest the color. Black can darken red, blue, and brown but makes other colors dirty or changes pure hue. Black to yellow makes green. However, in mixing wall paint this combination is sometimes used to get desired neutralized green.

4 R + 1 BLA
4 R + 1 dark R (mix a drop or two of black to red)
4 R + 1 dark R (mix a drop or two of black to red) + small amount of yellow

Repeat with other spectral colors (COLOR WHEEL COLORS).

To create tints use white. For example: white and red = pink. To lighten colors try:

4 R + 1 W
1 R + 4 W
1 R + 4 W + small amount of yellow

To mix spectral colors:

2 Y + 1 BLA
1 Y + 2 BLA
1 Y + 4 BLA

2 R + 1 BLA
1 R + 2 BLA
1 R + 4 BLA

2 BLU + 1 BLA
1 BLU + 2 BLA
1 BLU + 4 BLA

To mix gray:

3 W + 1 BLA
3 W + 3 R + 3 BLU + 1 Y
3 W + 2 R + 3 BLU + 1 Y

To mix pastels:

15 W + 1 R + small amount of yellow.
Mix together pastel yellow (white and yellow) and pastel pink (white and red).
Mix together pastel blue (white and blue) and a small amount of pastel yellow.