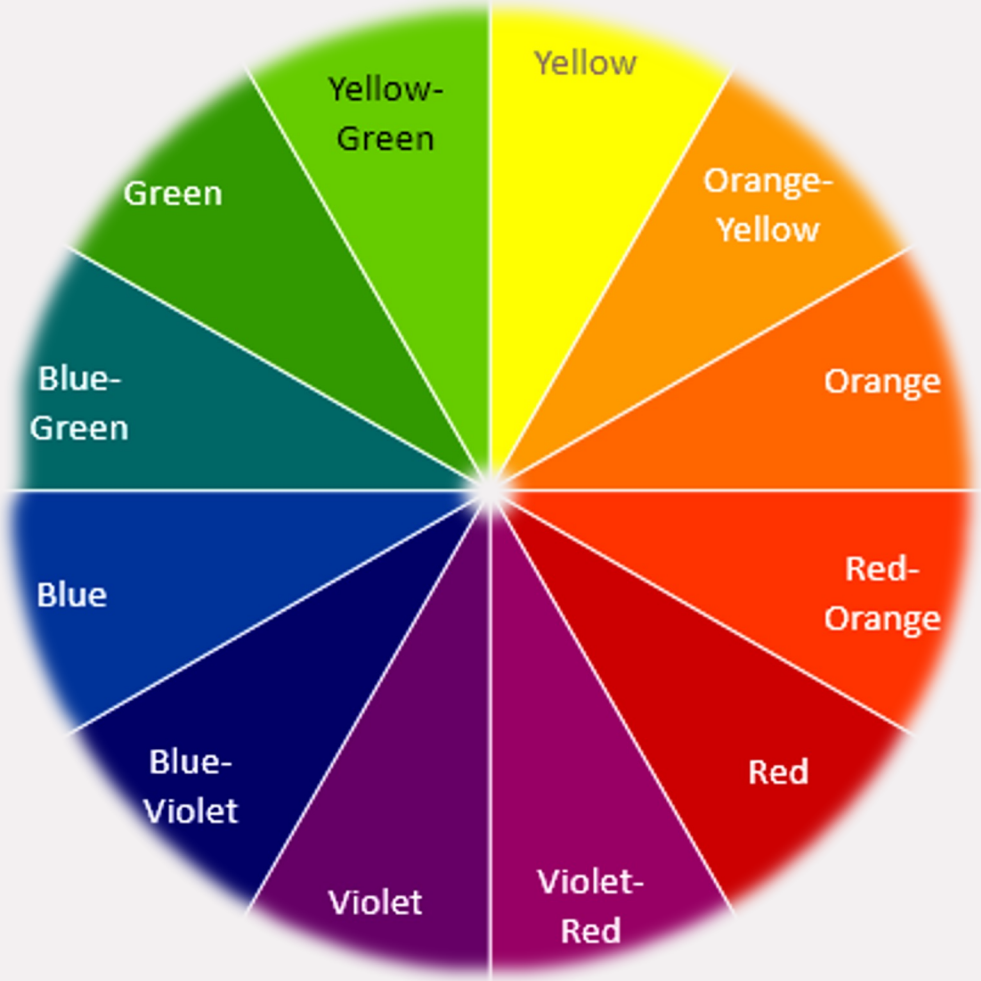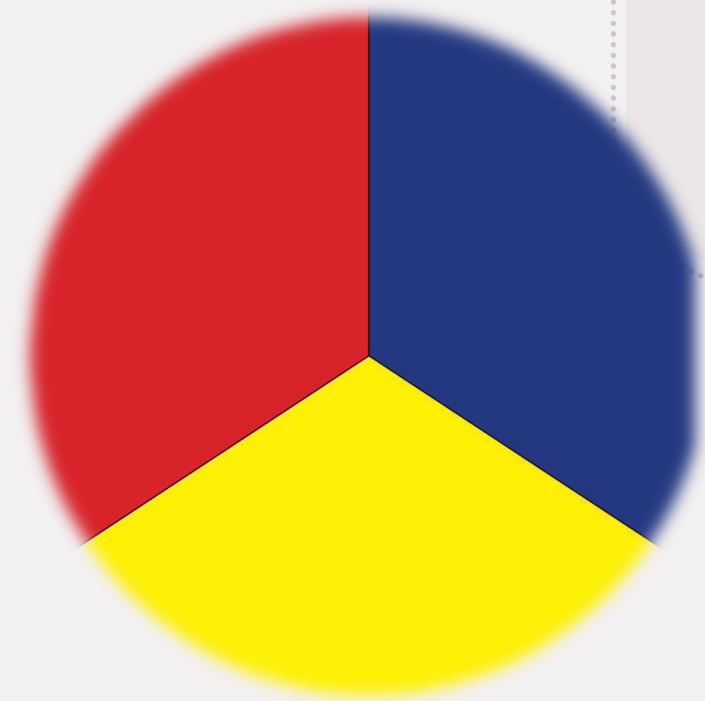COLOR

The Basic Color Wheel

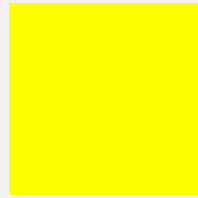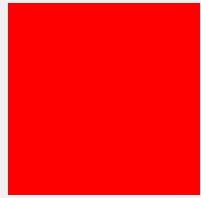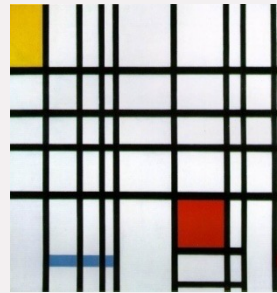# Primary Colors

- Primary colors are the original colors. These cannot be made by mixing any other colors.

- They are the building block colors from which all other colors originate.

- The three primary colors are:

Artists' Use of Primary Color

Auguste Renoir

Piet Mondrian

Edward Hopper

Secondary Colors

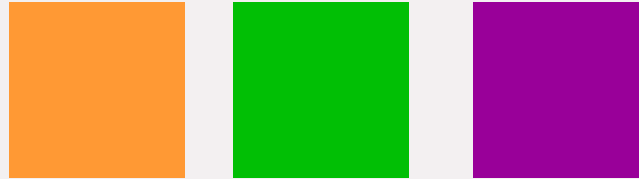Secondary Colors are colors created by mixing equal amounts of two primary colors.

For example:

Red + Yellow = Orange
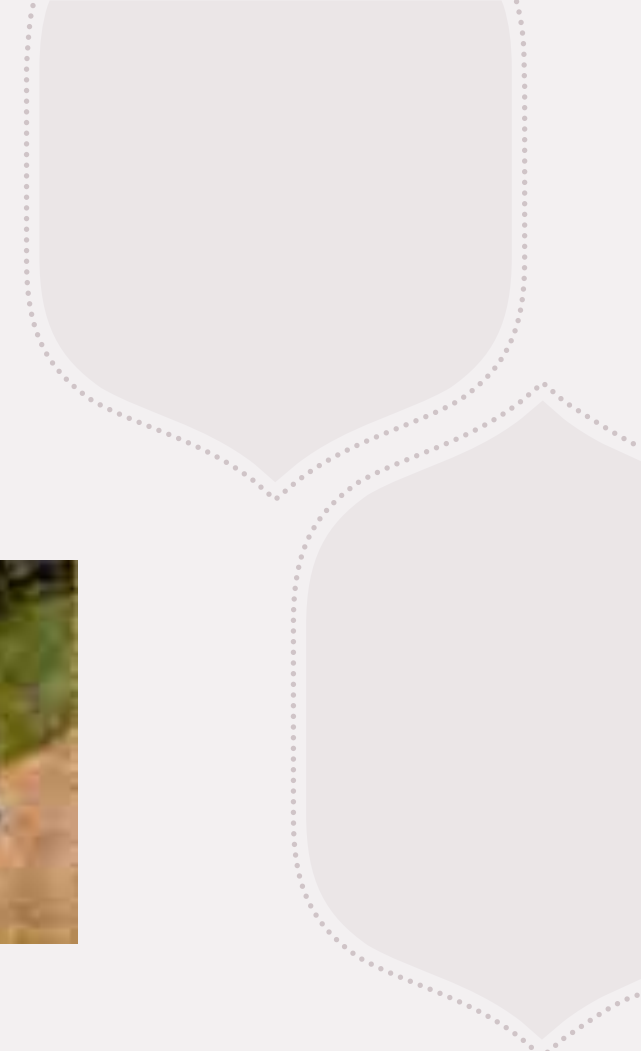
Yellow + Blue = Green

Blue + Red = Violet

Artists' Use of Secondary Color

Auguste Renoir

Vincent van Gogh

Intermediate Colors

Intermediate colors (also known as tertiary colors) are colors created by mixing

a primary color with its' neighboring secondary color.

For example:

Primary Red + Secondary Orange = Red Orange / Orange Red
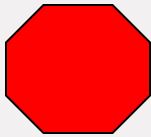
Primary Blue + Secondary Violet = Blue Violet / Violet Blue

Primary Yellow + Secondary Green = Green Yellow / Yellow Green
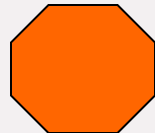
Warm Colors

Warm Colors are in one of the two groups of which colors are often divided. The three main warm colors are:

Red   Orange   Yellow

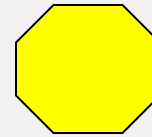Warm colors suggest energy, action, and normally optically advance!

Artists' Use of Warm Colors

Rothko Munch

Cezanne

Van Gogh

Cool Colors

Cool Colors are in one of the two groups of which colors are often divided. The three main cool colors are:
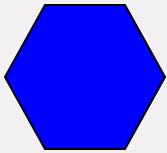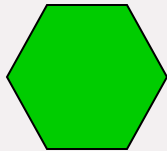
Blue   Green   Violet
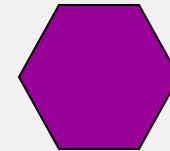
Cool colors suggest calmness and peacefulness.

Optically, they tend to recede.

Artists' Use of Cool Colors

Mary Cassatt

Georges Seurat

Henri Matisse

Vincent van Gogh

Claude Monet

Vincent van Gogh

Monochromatic

- Means one color.

- Monochromatic means using one hue and tints and shades of that hue.

Color Shades

The SHADE of a color is changed by adding Black.

Color Tints

Color Tints are changed by adding **white.** The exception to this would be by watercolorists who add water!

Artists that use Monochromatic Colors

Leonardo da Vinci

"Tragedy" Pablo Picasso

Analogous

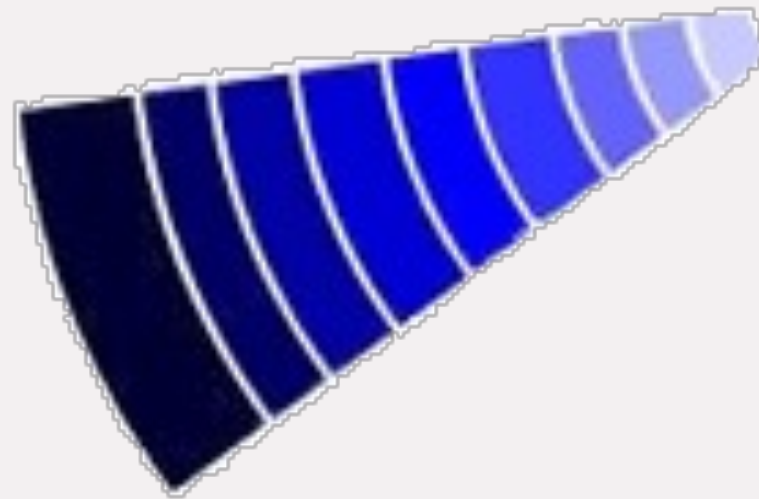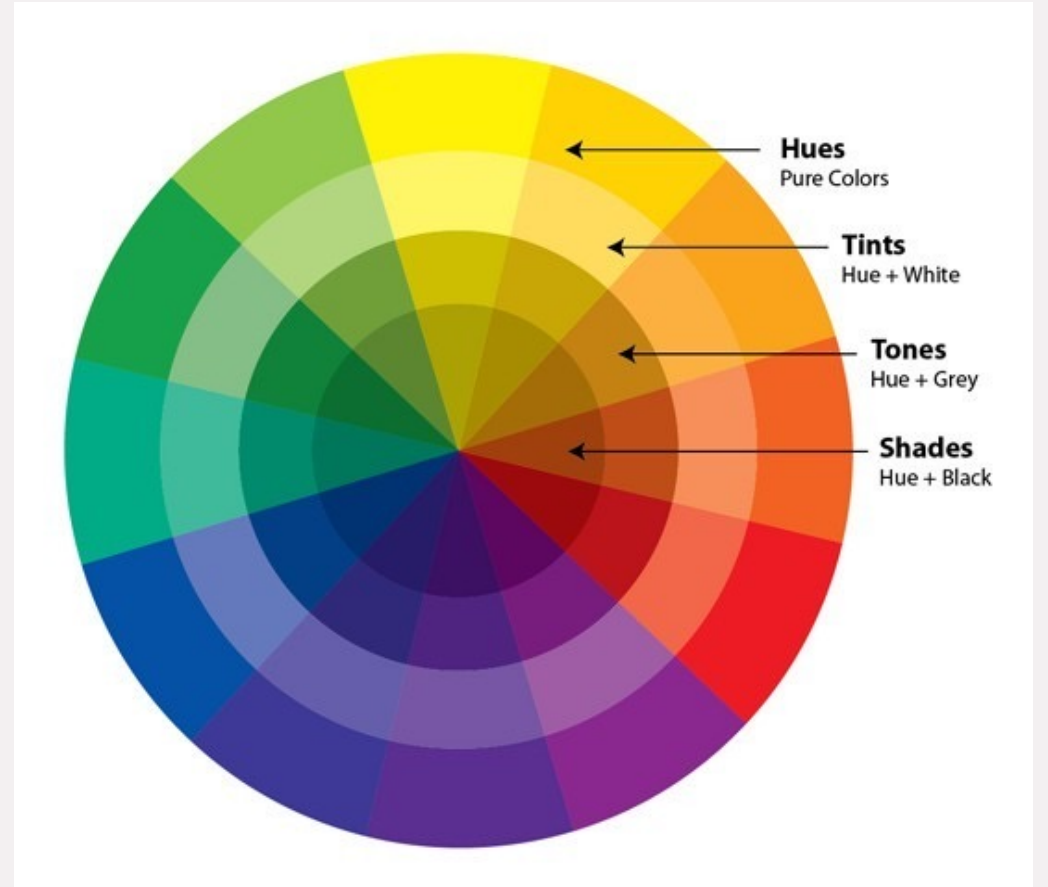* Analogous color schemes use colors that are next to each other on the color wheel. They usually match well and create serene and comfortable designs.

* Analogous color schemes are often found in nature and are harmonious and pleasing to the eye.

* Make sure you have enough contrast when choosing an analogous color scheme.

* Choose one color to dominate, a second to support. The third color is used (along with black, white or gray) as an accent.

"Head of Man" Paul Klee
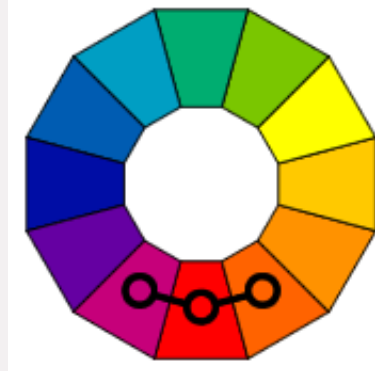
Complementary

* Colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel are considered to be complementary colors (example: red and green).

* The high contrast of complementary colors creates a vibrant look especially when used at full saturation. This color scheme must be managed well so it is not jarring.

* Complementary colors are tricky to use in large doses, but work well when you want something to stand out.

* Complementary colors are really bad for text.

Artist that uses complements

Van Gogh "Starry Night"

Intensity

- Brightness

- Dullness

- Complementary colors can be used in small quantities to change the intensity of a color (mixing paint – adding a small amount of blue to orange will make the orange dull)

Split Complement

* **A Little Twist**

  Want a little more variety? Try using a split-complement color scheme instead! This allows you to use three colors. First find the dominant color in your photos. Look on the color wheel and find this color's complement.
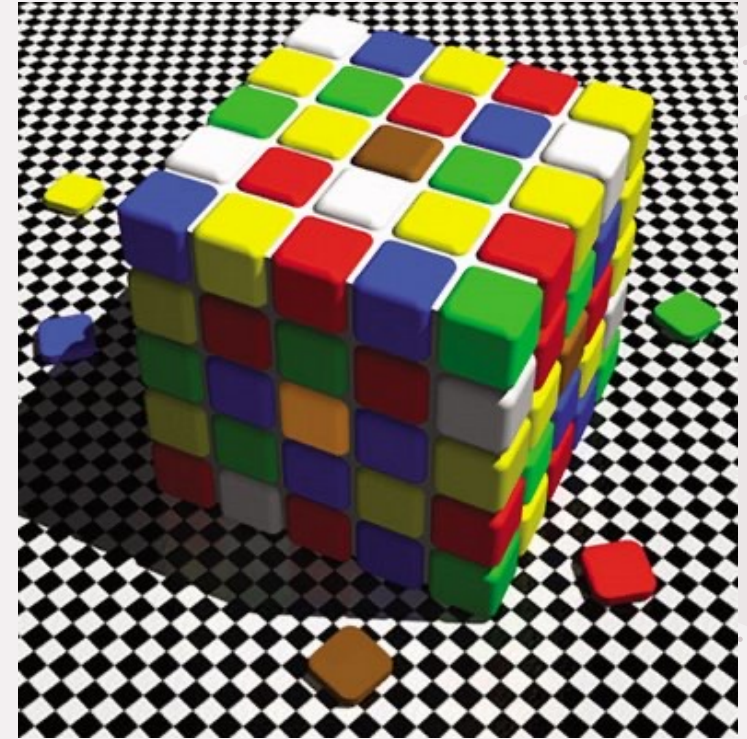
* Look at the colors on either side of the complement.. Those two colors plus your main color make up the split-complement color scheme.

Optical Colors

• Optical Color; the colors that result when a true color is affected by unusual lighting.

Example; shadows on a surface may cause the painter to use another color, in order for it to look accurate to the viewer.

Arbitrary Color

- When artist use color to express feelings, they usually ignore the optical colors of objects. They choose the colors arbitrarily, that is, by personal preference.

Lucian Freud, *Double Portrait,* 1988 - 1990, oil on canvas 113 x 134.5 cm, The UBS Art Collection, 2005 Lucian Freud

William de Kooning "Woman V"

Arbitrary Color

by Mrs. Rogers

Definition: When an artist chooses colors "arbitrarily" in order to express feelings instead of using optical colors, which are more realistic.

WHAT IT IS:

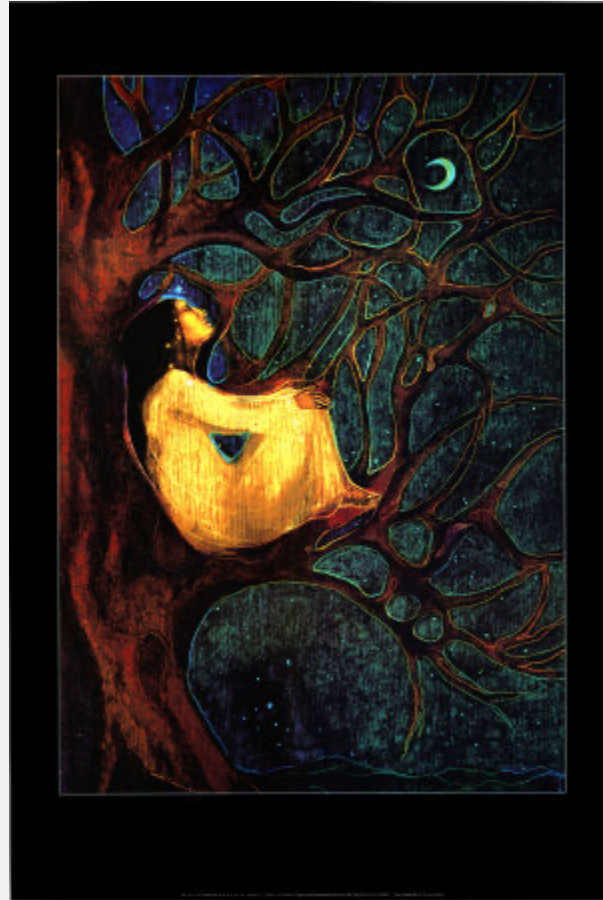CHOOSING COLORS, IN ORDER TO REINFORCE A FEELING THE ARTIST IS TRYING TO PORTRAY.

WHAT IT IS NOT:

CHOOSING COLORS, IN ORDER TO RECORD LIGHT AND COLOR ACCURATELY AND REALISTICALLY

Susan Seddon Boulet

Three Red Pears

Pair of Pears

Half Full