

Vocabulary list for Unit on Foundation of Color and Composition

Composition vocabulary:

Aesthetics: The assembly of colors, forms, and ideas may contribute to the **aesthetic principles** present in a work of visual art. For example, light, pastel colors may transmit feelings associated with easiness, fleeting moments, and bright outdoor scenes. Dark palettes may communicate severity, intensity, struggle, or industry, depending on the author's intent and the audience's interpretation. As another example, realistic forms may depict respect for the subject, clarity, or sureness, while abstract forms may be an attempt at communicating disrespect, alienation, or confusion.

Put simply, [aesthetics covers questions like](#):

What is beauty?

What makes something beautiful?

What is art?

What is the difference between good art and bad art?

What is the value of art?

Who is qualified to decide what is art?

What is the difference between art and (say) entertainment?

What is the difference between [fine art](#) and [applied art](#)?

Appropriation: *Cultural appropriation* is the inappropriate or unacknowledged adoption of an element or elements of one culture or identity by members of another culture or identity. This can be controversial when members of a dominant culture appropriate from minority cultures. (Halloween costumes consisting of Native American traditional clothing or other cultures sacred dress or customs should not be used) Appropriating art can get very tricky. This [article](#) from the Tate Museum in the UK helps explain some issues. There is a tradition in art of using one another's pieces and then adding to or changing it in a way that makes it more of the new artist's piece than the old artist's work. The idea of "fair use" comes into play. The definition of fair use from Stanford University: "In its most general sense, a fair use is **any copying of copyrighted material done for a limited and "transformative" purpose, such as to comment upon, criticize, or parody a copyrighted work**. Such uses can be done without permission from the copyright owner." This is a discussion and something that younger students need to start hearing early on. 'Fair Use' gets tricky when a lot of money is at stake and/or a powerful artist uses a less powerful artist's work for profit.

Balance: the distribution of the visual weight of objects, colors, texture and space

Symmetry: the quality of being made up of exactly similar parts facing each other or around an axis. Elements used on either side of a piece of art look balanced. Radial symmetry is similar and uses a circle to build evenly around compositionally.

Asymmetry: lack of equality or equivalence between parts or aspects of something; lack of symmetry. The art piece is different on each side but balanced.

Horizontal: parallel to the plane of the horizon; at right angles to the vertical.

Vertical: at right angles to a horizontal plane; in a direction, or having an alignment, such that the top is directly above the bottom.

Line: a mark with greater length than width. Lines can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, straight or curved, thick or thin.

Emphasis: where part of the design that catches the viewer's eye.

Movement: the path of the observer through the piece of art.

Pattern: the repeating of a symbol, shape or object repeating throughout the piece

Repetition: works with patterns to make the art seem active. The repetition of elements gives the piece unity/cohesion.

Proportion: gives the piece unity when all the pieces are sized correctly and relate well. Example: a person depicted with correct sized features.

Rhythm: created when one or more elements of design are used repeatedly to create a feeling of organized movement

Portfolio: a set of pieces of creative work collected by someone to display their skills, especially to a potential employer.

Unity: created when there is harmony between all the elements creating a feeling of completeness. (learn to recognize this so the piece isn't overworked)

Abstraction: freedom from representational qualities in art. Abstract relies on an idea or shape to then abstract so it is still tethered somewhat to an object. *Example: A series of long black lines are painted across the canvas, those lines are blown up images of a series of sketches of a chair...it is an abstraction.*

Objective Art: Objective art is the art that most people consider a representation of reality that may be photorealistic or use different stylistic techniques. *Example: There is a chair, I painted the chair and the viewer recognizes the chair.*

Non-Objective Art: This art is often confused with Abstract art. They can look the same so it is the artist's intention that makes them different. *Example: The black lines are painted with no knowledge or series of sketches based on a real thing, it is non-objective. It is not abstracted because the artist is using nothing real to base the composition or images of it.*

Negative space: Negative space is the background or the area that surrounds the subject of the work. It can also be the open space within a sculpture.

Shape: is a closed line. Shapes can be geometric, like squares and circles; or organic, like free formed. Shapes are flat.

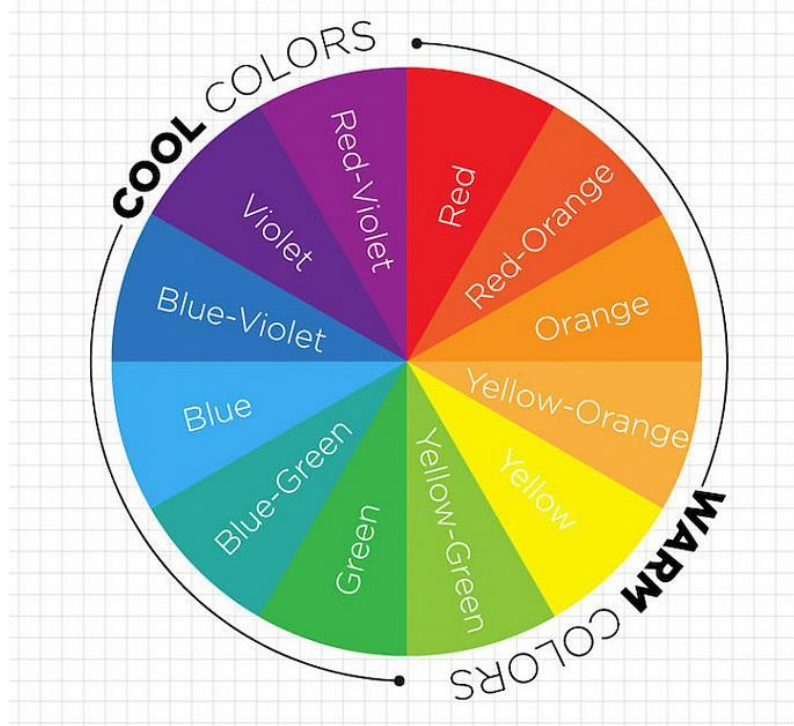
Form: Forms are three dimensional shapes, expressing length, width and depth. Cylinders, cubes, spheres and pyramids are forms.

Texture: the surface quality of the artwork. It can be textured to the touch, as well as look textured but feel smooth.

Foreground: the part of a view that is nearest to the observer, especially in a picture or photograph.

Background: the area of the piece furthest away from the viewer

COLOR WHEEL



Color wheel vocabulary:

Color Wheel: a circular arrangement of colors organized by their chromatic relationship to one another. The primary colors are equidistant from each other on the wheel, and secondary and tertiary colors sit between them

Primary Colors: Red, Yellow and Blue Secondary Colors: orange, green and violet

Tertiary Colors: Yellow-Orange, Yellow-Green, Blue-Green, Blue-Violet, Red-Violet, Red-Orange

Hue: The color we see

Value: The lightness or darkness we see in the color, light yellow, dark yellow

Saturation (or chroma): the brilliance and intensity of a color. *When a color has a high level of chroma or saturation it takes more coats of paint to get an even color

Pigment: a powdered substance that is mixed with a liquid in which it is relatively insoluble and used especially to impart color to coating materials (such as paints) or to inks, plastics, and rubber.

Medium: The materials one uses to make art. Example: My medium for this sculpture is clay.

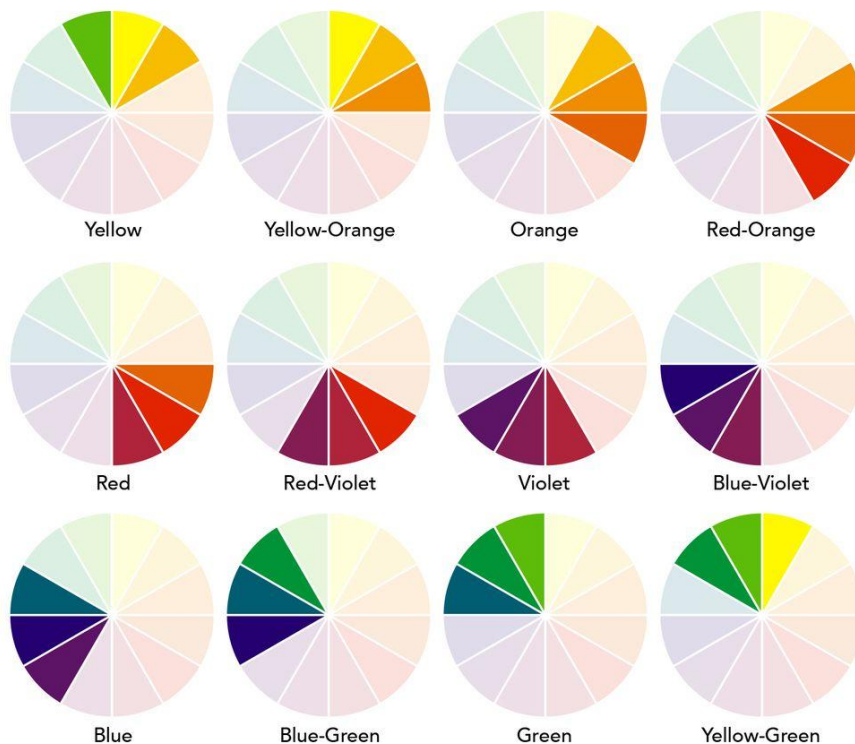
Complimentary colors: Red and green. Yellow and purple. Orange and blue. These colors when placed beside one another make each other stand out. *Mix these colors together and....

*Purple isn't on the color wheel! It came from mollusk shells in what we now know as Lebanon, in the Middle East. It was so expensive it was only used by royalty-sometimes too expensive even for kings and queens. In 1856 a chemistry student in England accidentally made a chemical version of purple so it became more affordable. *What musician from Minnesota was so well known and beloved for wearing purple that they got their own hue from Pantone? It's called Love #2....Don't know? Look [here](#)*

Tint: add white to a color

Shade: Add Black to a color

ANALOGOUS COLORS



Opaque: not able to be seen through; not transparent.

Transparent: (of a material or article) allowing light to pass through so that objects behind can be distinctly seen. (ex. water)

Monochromatic: containing or using only one color. Polychromatic: of two or more colors; multicolored