



The Elements of Art - Color

In terms of art, *color* refers to reflected light. Color Theory consists of three distinct parts - The Color Wheel, Color Values, and Color Schemes.

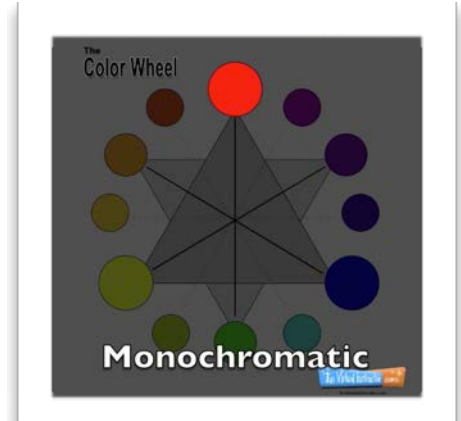
The Color Wheel



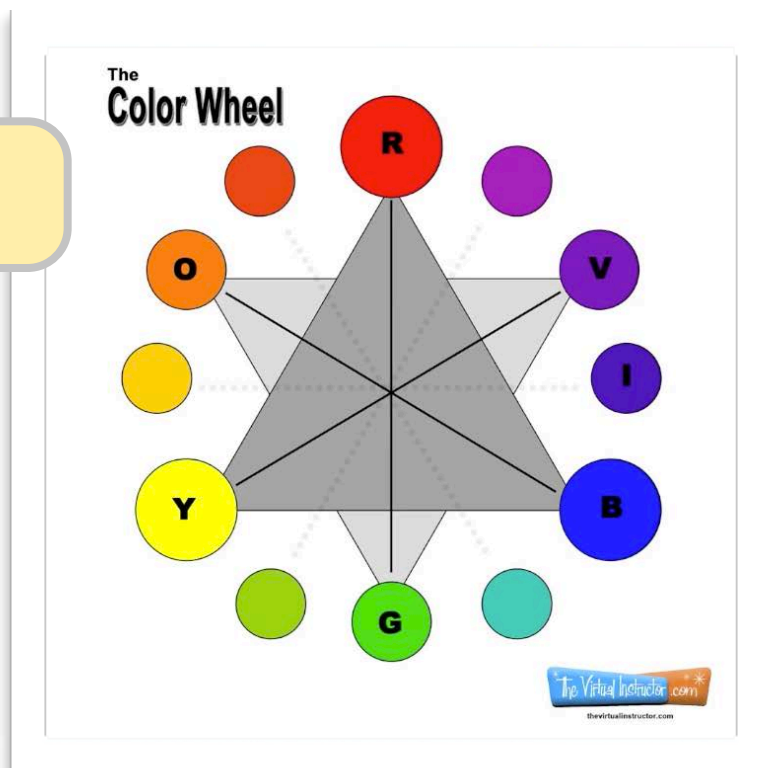
Color Values



Color Schemes

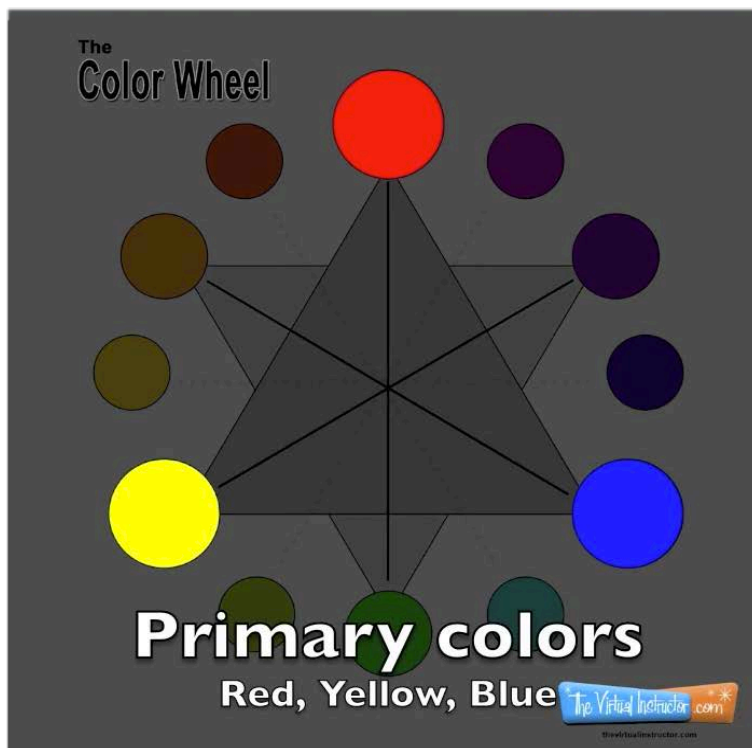


The Color Wheel is the color spectrum bent into a circle.



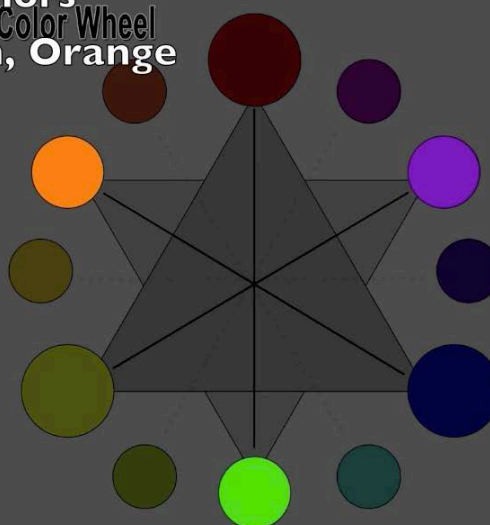


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Red, yellow, and blue are *primary colors*. These colors are called primary because they are used to mix all of the other colors in existence. Red, yellow, and blue are formed by pigment and cannot be made by mixing any colors together.

Secondary Colors Purple, Green, Orange

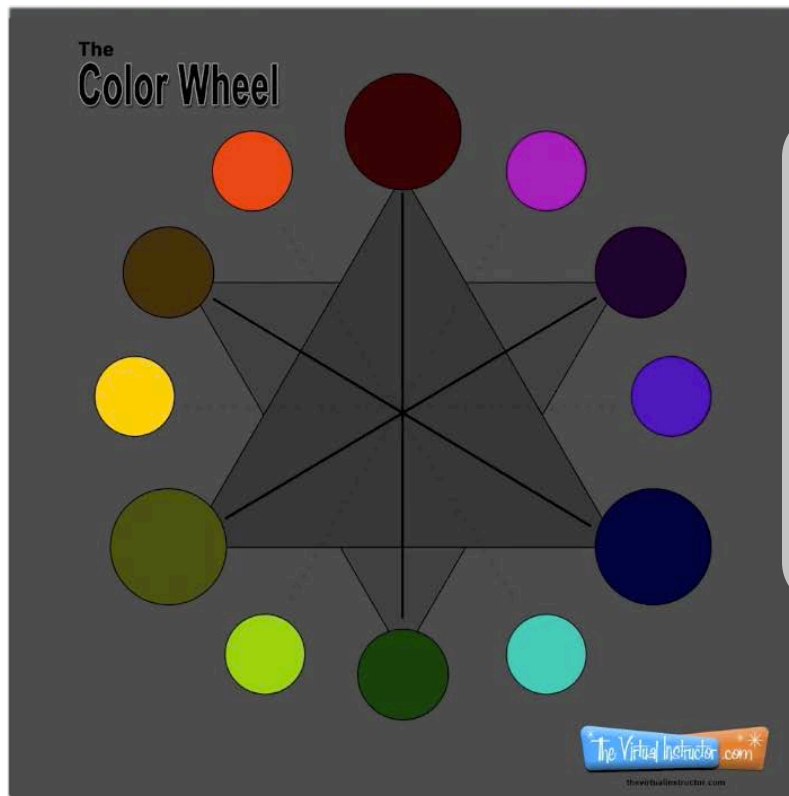


Secondary colors are colors that are created by mixing equal parts of two primary colors. These colors are orange, green, and violet (purple).



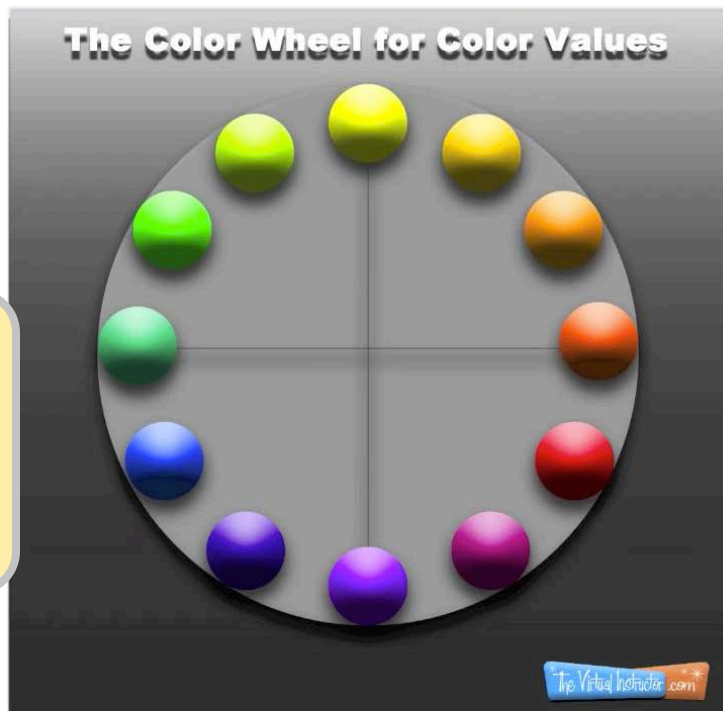


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Tertiary or intermediate colors are created by mixing equal parts of a secondary color with a primary color. These colors are red-orange, yellow-orange, red-violet, blue-violet, blue-green, and yellow-green. Tertiary colors are named according to the colors that are used to mix them, listing the primary color first.

Color value refers to the darkness or lightness of a color. When neutral colors are mixed with colors on the color wheel, the value and/or intensity of the color is affected.





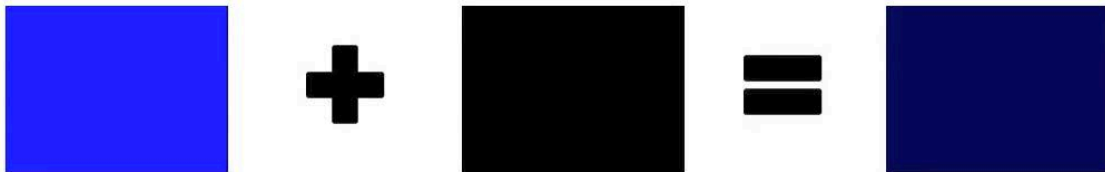
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Tints are lighter values of color and are created by adding white to a color.



Tints are created by adding white

Shades are darker values of color and are created by adding black to a color.



Shades are created by adding black

Each color (hue), when mixed with white or black can produce a full range of value.





The Elements of Art - Color

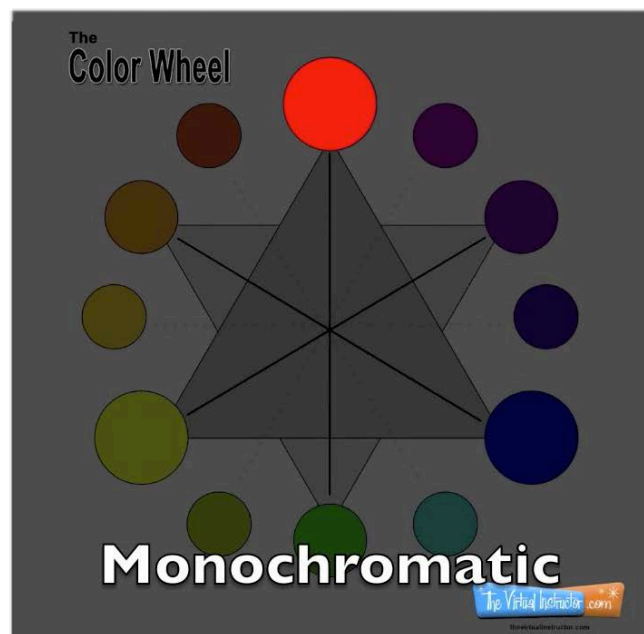
Intensity, although related to value is slightly different. Color intensity is adjusted by adding grays to the hue.



The intensity is adjusted by adding grays

Color schemes are systematic ways that colors are put together in artworks according to their arrangement on the color wheel. Knowledge of arrangements of colors or schemes can help an artist make informed decisions about color in their own artworks.

Monochromatic schemes consist of just one color and the tints and shades (values) of that color. “Mono” means one and “chroma” refers to color. Monochromatic literally means “one color”.

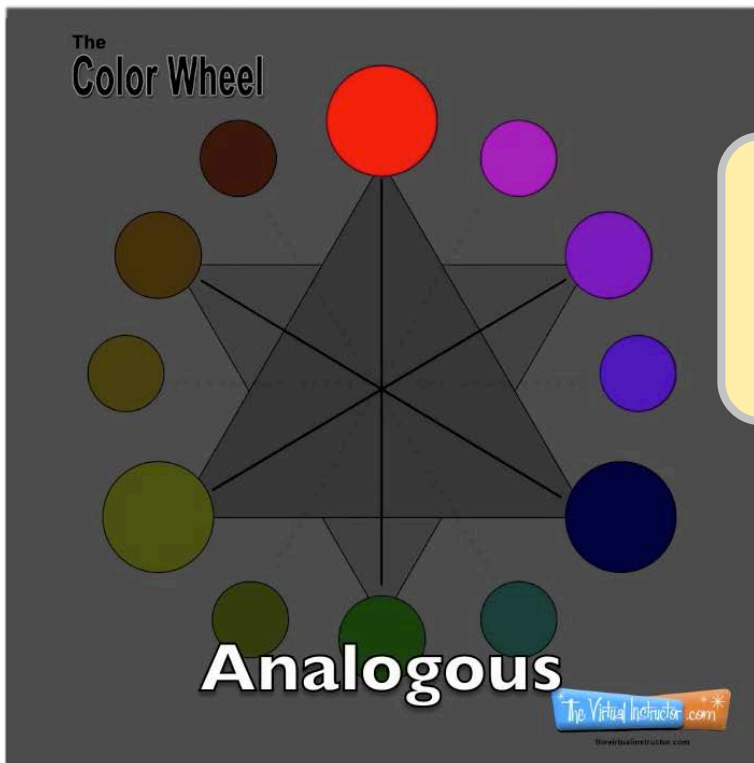
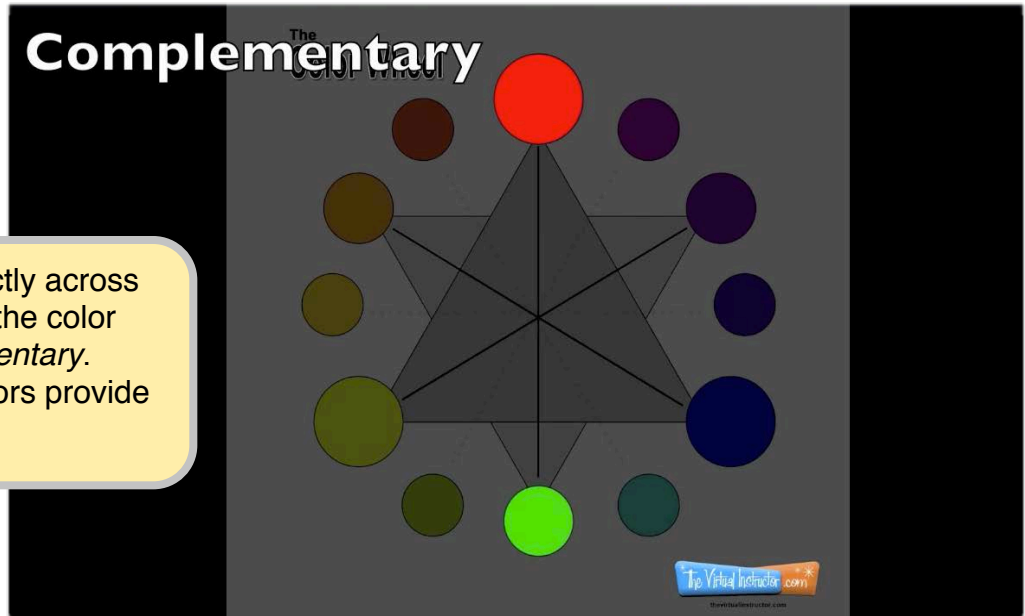




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Complementary

Colors that are directly across from each other on the color wheel are *complementary*. Complementary colors provide high contrast.



Analogous color schemes consist of 3-5 colors that are next to each other on the color wheel. Analogous schemes provide harmonious color arrangements in drawings and paintings.

Analogous



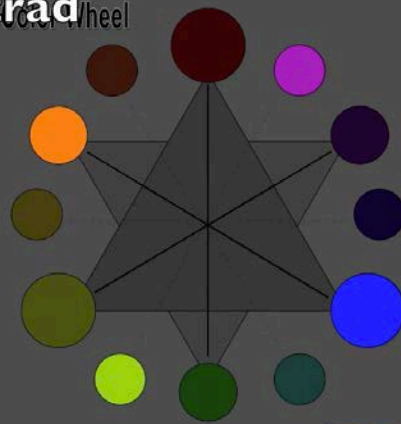


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A *color triad* consists of three colors that are equal in distance from each other on the color wheel. Color triads provide a high level of contrast using three colors.

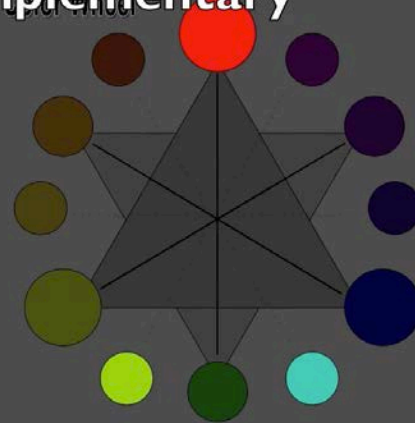


Color Tetrad



A *color tetrad* consists of four colors that are equal in distance from each other. A color tetrad is created by using two sets of complementary colors.

Split Complementary



Split complementary color schemes consist of a color and that color's closest analogous colors. Split complementary schemes provide high contrast while allowing more variety than a complementary color scheme.

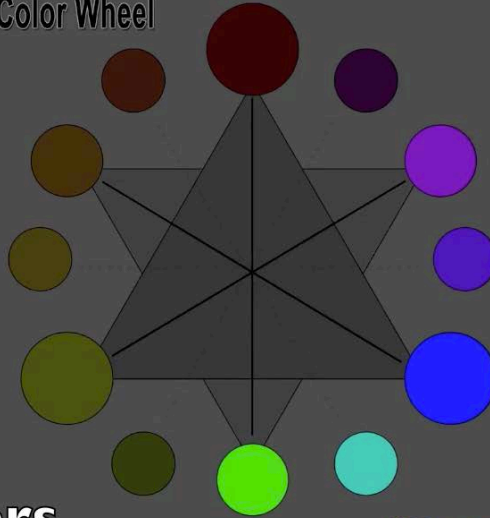


The Elements of Art - Color

Color also has temperature. *Cool* colors are colors that we typically associate with things that are cold.

Cool Colors

The Color Wheel



The Virtual Instructor .com

The Color Wheel



Warm Colors

Warm colors are colors that we associate with things that are warm or hot.

