

Looking at the Color Wheel

When we come to applying color to form, we need to understand color theory and how it applies to the materials we are using, in this case colored pencils. 'Studying and working with the color wheel hopefully helps us get to know our pencils and how they work together.



Fruit and Vegetable Color Wheel by Kitty Ritz

Color = Hue + Intensity + Value

Hue is the name of the color that we recognize. e.g. yellow lemon, blue sky, green apple.

Value is the lightness or darkness of a color, e.g. light green grape, dark green forest.

Intensity is the brightness or dullness of a color. e.g. a bright red poppy, a dull brown nut. .

- ❖ **Analogous** colors sit next to each other. They add *intensity* to color and can also be used to *darken* a color.
- ❖ **Complementary** colors are opposite on the color wheel. They will *dull* or dampen a color but also can be used to create darks (e.g. Tuscan red to darken a green.)

We often speak of colors as red-orange or pinky-purple, or yellowy green but our pencils do not have names like that. They have names that often tell us nothing about the color-Caput Mortuum Violet or mis-inform us- Faber Castell, Magenta (133) or Mauve. We have three very different Indigos. What's an artist to do? Use the color wheel to sort out your pencils. See which are analogous, which are darker, which are complements. Pencils, like paint and dye have color biases, some blues are greener and some lean purple. We need to know the difference so we can, as they say, "make good choices."



Flower Color Wheel by Lynne Lyle

Color the little circles on the outside of the Color wheel with my 19 pencils listed below or any other colors that you use regularly. Yes, Carmine can be on the color wheel. Add your own circles. It is always good to practice drawing little circles. Try mixing some complements. Try mixing some greens. Make your own creative color wheels.

We live in a rainbow of chaos... Paul Cezanne

Nineteen Color Limited Palette

Prismacolor	Faber Castell
Sienna Brown	283 Burnt Sienna
Burnt Ochre	187 Burnt Ochre
Canary Yellow	107 Cad Yellow
Spanish Orange	109 Dk. Chrome Yellow
Orange	115 Dark Cad Orange
Scarlet Lake	121 Pale Geranium Lake
Crimson Lake	142 Madder
Tuscan Red	194 Red Violet
Magenta	125 Middle Purple Pink
Dahlia Purple	133 Magenta
Dark Purple	136 Dark Violet
Ultramarine	120 Ultramarine
Indigo Blue	110 Azure Blue
Black Grape	157 Dark Indigo
Dark Green	278 Chrome Oxide Green
Olive Green	167 Permanent Green Olive
Lemon Yellow	205 Cad Yellow Lemon