



Alice Thompson, detail of Brick Atmosphere, FWM Apprentice Spring, 2019. Photo credit: Carlos Avendaño <http://www.alicethompsonart.com>

Print, Process, and Purpose Learning Series from FWM

Lesson 3: Color for Feeling

How does color create and impact feeling? How can color connect to history, memory, and personality? How can color be used as powerful language for expression?

Materials List:

- 2 sheets of 9 x 12 watercolor paper or (any thick paper will work) cut into 6 in x 4.5 inch sheets.
- 1 sheet of 9 x 12 watercolor paper
- Scraps of watercolor paper for testing colors
- scissors
- Paint palette (you could use a plate or plastic lid)
- Watercolor paint or (colored pencils, crayon, or chalk pastels will work)
- Cup of water
- Watercolor brush
- Paper towel for drying your brush
- 2, 8.5 x 11 in. sheets of regular paper
- Black crayon or (any dark color will do)
- Inspiration images
- Found objects
- Access to a window
- Tumeric
- Rubbing alcohol
- Glass jar
- Ballpoint pen

Link to additional resource material to support your study:

<https://channel.louisiana.dk/video/margrethe-odgaard-shades-of-light>

<https://www.citylab.com/life/2018/09/make-natural-ink-book-urban-foraging/568711/>

Color Inspiration from the FWM Archive:

<https://fabricworkshopandmuseum.org/permanent-collection/>

<https://fabricworkshopandmuseum.org/archive/>



Color Theory:

<https://library.si.edu/exhibition/color-in-a-new-light/science>

<https://www.colormatters.com/color-and-design/basic-color-theory>

Color Symbolism:

<https://www.incredibleart.org/lessons/middle/color2.htm>

Red: Excitement, energy, passion, love, desire, speed, strength, power, heat, aggression, danger, fire, blood, war, violence, all things intense and passionate, sincerity, happiness

Pink: symbolizes love and romance, caring, tenderness, acceptance and calm.

Beige and ivory: symbolize unification. Ivory symbolizes quiet and pleasantness. Beige symbolizes calm and simplicity.

Yellow signifies joy, happiness, betrayal, optimism, idealism, imagination, hope, sunshine, summer, gold, philosophy, dishonesty, cowardice, jealousy, covetousness, deceit, illness, hazard and friendship.

Dark Blue: Symbolizes integrity, knowledge, power, and seriousness.

Blue: Peace, tranquility, cold, calm, stability, harmony, unity, trust, truth, confidence, conservatism, security, cleanliness, order, loyalty, sky, water, technology, depression, appetite suppressant.

Turquoise: symbolizes calm. Teal symbolizes sophistication. Aquamarine symbolizes water. Lighter turquoise has a feminine appeal.

Purple: Royalty, nobility, spirituality, ceremony, mysterious, transformation, wisdom, enlightenment, cruelty, honor, arrogance, mourning, temperance.

Lavender: symbolizes femininity, grace and elegance.

Orange: Energy, balance, enthusiasm, warmth, vibrant, expansive, flamboyant, demanding of attention.

Green: Nature, environment, healthy, good luck, renewal, youth, spring, generosity, fertility, jealousy, service, inexperience, envy, misfortune, vigor.

Brown: Earth, stability, hearth, home, outdoors, reliability, comfort, endurance, simplicity, and comfort.

Gray: Security, reliability, intelligence, staid, modesty, dignity, maturity, solid, conservative, practical, old age, sadness, boring. Silver symbolizes calm.

White: Reverence, purity, birth, simplicity, cleanliness, peace, humility, precision, innocence, youth, winter, snow, good, sterility, marriage (Western cultures), death (Eastern cultures), cold, clinical.

Black: Power, sexuality, sophistication, formality, elegance, wealth, mystery, fear, evil, unhappiness, depth, style, sadness, remorse, anger, anonymity, underground, good technical color, mourning, death (Western cultures), austerity, detachment

Let's Begin Color for Feeling:

Exercise 1: Painting a Color Story

Materials:

- 6 x 4.5 in. Watercolor paper
- Water and a brush
- Watercolor paint
- Watercolor paper scrap for testing colors
- Paper towel for drying your brush
- pencil

Steps:

- Consider what 4 colors represent your personality or your mood. (you could think about what colors you love and feel drawn to, color symbolism, or intuitively choose colors that represent the way you feel)
- Place your watercolor paper in front of you with the long side running horizontally.
- Choose your first color and paint a half circle coming down from the top of your paper.
- Let this dry. As the color dries, think about what you would call this color.
- Choose your second color and use this color to paint a half circle coming from the bottom of the page. Overlap this half circle with your first color.
- Let this dry. As the color dries, think about what you would call this color.

- Choose your third color. You will be painting a half circle coming from the left side of your paper. Paint triangular area that is blank before you paint the overlapping areas so that you have an area of pure color.
- Let this dry. As the color dries, think about what you would call this color.
- Choose your last color. You will be painting a half circle coming from the right side of your paper. Paint the triangular area that is blank before you paint the overlapping areas so that you have an area of pure color.
- Let this dry. As the color dries, think about what you would call this color.
- Once your colors are completely dry, label each color with its name.
- Label the overlapping color areas by combining the color names example: Golden + Rust = Goldenrust
- See what beautiful names and color combinations that you have created!

Exercise 2: Chance Color Encounters

Materials:

- 12 found objects from your home
- 6 x 4.5 in. Watercolor paper
- Water and a brush
- Watercolor paint
- Watercolor paper scrap for testing colors
- Paper towel for drying your brush
- pencil

Steps:

- Look around your home for 12 items that possess a distinct color.
- Try to find a broad variety of colors.
- Lay your items onto a table.
- Arrange your items into groups of 4.
- Challenge yourself to try out unexpected or even unappealing color groupings.
- Find your favorite color grouping and set aside.
- Think about why it is your favorite.
- Paint a 4-color story painting with these colors.

Exercise 3: Inspiration Images

Materials:

- Book illustration, magazine image, or photograph
- 6 x 4.5 in. Watercolor paper
- Water and a brush
- Watercolor paint
- Watercolor paper scrap for testing colors
- Paper towel for drying your brush
- pencil

Steps:

- Look for an inspirational color story within a found illustration, photograph, or magazine image.
- What made you choose this image?
- Choose 4 colors from this image that you would like to use for your own color story.
- Paint a 4-color story painting with these colors.

Exercise 4: Window Weather

Materials:

- Window to look out of.
- Book illustration, magazine image, or photograph
- 6 x 4.5 in. Watercolor paper
- Water and a brush
- Watercolor paint
- Watercolor paper scrap for testing colors
- Paper towel for drying your brush
- pencil

Steps:

- Walk around your home to find a window that has an interesting view.
- Look carefully for elements of color. If you are in an urban setting, what architecture, cars, colors in people's clothing, and signage do you notice? If you are in a natural setting, what colors do you see in the sky, in the trees, and flowers?
- Choose 4 colors to use for your own color story.
- Paint your 4-color story as you look out the window. (If you are able to go outside, you can collect samples or close up images of your inspiration colors)
- Paint a 4-color story painting with these colors.

Exercise 5: Ways of Color

Materials:

- Your 4 color story paintings.
- 4 sheets of 6 x 4.5 in. Watercolor paper
- 1 sheet of 6 x 4.5 in. regular paper
- Water and a brush
- Watercolor paint
- Watercolor paper scrap for testing colors
- Black crayon
- 1 sheet of 8.5 x 11 regular paper
- Sharp pencil
- Paper towel for drying your brush

Steps:

- Draw a simple image onto your 1 sheet of 6 x 4.5 in. regular paper
- Cover your 1 sheet of 8.5 x 11 regular paper with dark black crayon using the tip of the crayon.
- Cut your 1 sheet of 8.5 x 11 regular paper into 4
- Lay 1 sheet of your 6 x 4.5 in. Watercolor paper on your table.
- Lay a section of the crayon covered paper on top with the crayon facing down.
- Lay your image sketch on top.
- Trace over your image with your sharp pencil. This should transfer your image onto your watercolor paper.
- Repeat for the 3 remaining watercolor sheets.
- Once you have your 4 transfer images, you can use each one of your color stories and the color palette for one of the transfer images.
- Look at all 4 paintings.
- What mood, memories, and feelings do you associate with each one?
- Create your own color chart where you write down what feelings, moods, and memories you associate with each color. This is the start of your own color language. Keep this chart and add to it as you explore more color relationships.

Exercise 6: Kitchen Colors

Materials:

- 2 tsp. Turmeric powder
- 5 tbsp. Isopropyl Alcohol
- 2 Glass jars with lids

- Cone coffee filter

Steps:

- Measure out your 2 tsp. of tumeric powder into one glass jar.
- Mix in your 5 tbsp. of Alcohol
- Screw your lid tightly onto your glass jar
- Shake your jar for 1 minute.
- Place your coffee filter cone over the opening of your second glass jar.
- Slowly pour your tumeric mixture into the coffee filter.
- Let the mixture strain through the filter into the jar.
- Test out your ink!

Questions for reflection and further exploration:

1. What new discoveries did you make about color?
2. How could you use the expressive power of color to communicate your ideas?
3. What other sources could inspire color stories?
4. Could you create a color story to represent someone you love?
5. Could you create a color story to represent your memory of a significant moment?
6. What other kitchen items could you use to create pigments?