



color

is one of the design elements available to each of us as artists. It is the magical element that surrounds us each day from the moment we wake up until we go to sleep at night. It can create the mood, entice us, calm us, welcome us, but using it can make some of us want to run for the hills.

Many years ago, and through many 'color' discussions I have come up with the following list of 'color' truths:

- * we are all taught about color from a very early age
- * there is a lot of 'phooey' wrapped up in 'color' theory
- * one needs to learn the basics then abandon 'color' theory and learn to see and trust it is important to view others art to see how 'color' is used
- * 'color' makes us 'feel' not just 'think' and we know when it doesn't feel right.

color

is a powerful element that has an enormous effect on the feeling we want to convey in our art. For some of us understanding color and how to make it work its magic seems to come naturally. For others we have to slow down, pay attention and allow the magic to slowly percolate into our consciousness.

To help in my own color discovery journey, I decided to keep a color journal. Mine was started almost 20 years ago, and it has remained an invaluable tool. In it I collect color in any form I can find.



It may be a photograph, a picture of a favorite painting, fabric samples, words, lists of color finds. When I have a few minutes I like to take a closer look at a collected item and jot some things that come to mind. Things I consider might be the combinations of the colors used, or the quantities of one color to another, or any special effect that may be created with a particular combination.

I have found over the years that when beginning a new piece that thumbing through the pages for inspiration and guidance.

I highly recommend starting your own color journal. Whether you are an aspiring or experienced artist for collecting and analyzing color educates our eye, helps us to slow down to 'see' and 'trust' our color choices while building our 'color confidence.'

In this series of tutorials I will provide some jumping off instructions for some of the color exercises that will help you begin to fill the pages of your own 'color book'.

Next week, I will post a list of materials you need to get started.