



COLOR BOOK –WHAT COLOR DOES Look for the Dramatic

LESSON FOUR

I hope that you are enjoying exploring color and that each of the lessons has provided you an opportunity to see color in a new and different way. In this lesson we will continue to explore the basic combinations of hues to create a scheme.

The color scheme we will explore here will be Complimentary. Loving color usage as I do, the complimentary scheme opens up a wild range of color opportunity.

If you want a lot of color contrast, ‘the pop’, then you want to use a *COMPLIMENTARY COLOR SCHEME*. This scheme gets its excitement by using colors directly opposite of each other on the color wheel. Opposites attract and when placed together they can also cause sparks to fly. The harmonious sunset that blends together as in an analogous scheme can explode into drama when it mixes blues with oranges of a complimentary scheme.

Contrast can be dramatic and harmonious. This is controlled in some degree by the amount of a color used in a given piece. When there are equal amounts of complimentary colors of the same value placed next to each other, an effect called ‘vibration’ occurs. Surf the net and you will find examples of this. After looking at this color combination for a few moments solid lines may start to get fuzzy and appear to move. This is very dramatic and strong.

Where the amount of a complimentary color is used in controlled amounts, and where various values of the compliments are used there is less drama and more harmony. In these instances one of the compliments is said to have dominance over the other. The non-dominant color can then help provide balance and rest from the dominant color.

Lastly, in any color scheme there is a blending where hues mix with each other and create new hues. For the most part these can be beautiful, but keep in mind that when mixing complimentary colors they will neutralize each other where they meet at the same levels of concentration. The grays and browns that come of this union may not be what you want in your work, but they are usually quite beautiful and elegant.



■ ■ ■ **ROSE HUGHES - Artist©**

P.O. Box 92003, Long Beach, California 90809

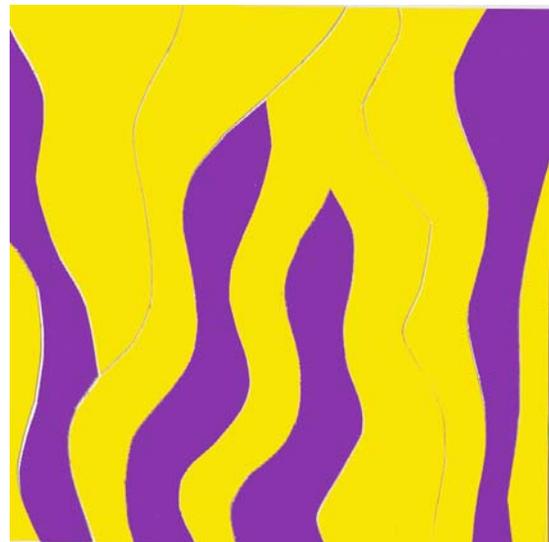
562.985.0289 email: fiberart@rosehughes.com web: www.RoseHughes.com

EXERCISE #1 – A Complementary color scheme gives us a great chance to play with contrast, and selecting a color for dominance in order to create the feeling you are going for. In this exercise you will get a chance to play with this idea.

You will need some simple supplies: Card stock white paper, computer and color printer, scissors and glue.

1. On your computer go into a program that will allow you to make a block of color. Make one block 3-4" square of a color and then make another block of color of it complimentary color also the same size.
2. Print out the color blocks onto 1 sheet of the white card stock weight paper.
3. Cut both blocks out and make sure they are trimmed to the same size.
4. Now with the color blocks stacked together cut the blocks into pieces.
5. Once they are cut apart, play with putting the pieces, (puzzle-like) back together making sure that in each example one of the colors is dominant.

(*Note: samples may be made by painting your complementary colors onto cardstock, or by using fabrics in your selected colors as well.)

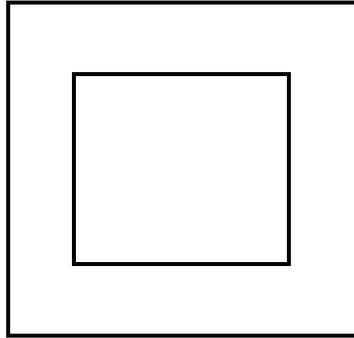


■ ■ ■ **ROSE HUGHES - Artist©**

P.O. Box 92003, Long Beach, California 90809

562.985.0289 email: fiberart@rosehughes.com web: www.RoseHughes.com

EXERCISE #2 – Finding Complementary colors in use daily.
In this exercise you may again use the cardboard viewer you made earlier.



Gather new pictures, or looking through the pictures you have begun to collect. View the various sections of these and identify all that have complimentary colors working together.

Note the colors and try to determine if either color is dominant. What effect does this color scheme have on the mood of the picture? What about it do you like? What about do you not like? Why?

The most important thing to do is have fun Discovering Color!



■ ■ ■ **ROSE HUGHES - Artist©**

P.O. Box 92003, Long Beach, California 90809

562.985.0289 email: fiberart@rosehughes.com web: www.RoseHughes.com