



COLOR BOOK –WHAT COLOR DOES Mixing It Up!

LESSON FIVE

I have recently returned from my latest journey. This trip took me wandering through alpine meadows and valleys surrounded by mountains in every direction. Add to this the fall colors and you could not help but say wow almost every ten minutes. Luckily I was traveling with my husband who was having almost as much fun as me... you could tell by all the wow's that he expressed. Wonderful color!

In the previous lessons I have shared a little bit about the basic color schemes and even more importantly I have shared with you ideas on how to stop and see color in new ways. Last month's lesson concentrated on the complementary color scheme, and whereas, the complementary scheme was one that creates 'pop' by way of color contrast, in this lesson I would like to share two color schemes that generally make use of the rule of threes to create harmony.

The *SPLIT COMPLEMENTARY COLOR SCHEME* consists of a color and those found across the color wheel, on either side of that color's true complement. By selecting a color scheme on a color and its split complements, or on hues created by mixing any of the three colors together, you will have a wide range of hues to use in your work. None of these mixed hues will be brighter than the color itself and the split compliments in their full intensity. This helps to create a calmer, more pleasing and more harmonious effect than when using complementary colors, and their use generally has the same strong visual contrast as the complementary color scheme, but has less tension.

The *TRIAD COLOR SCHEME* uses three colors (and shades or tints of those colors) that are equally spaced on the color wheel. Triad color schemes do not guarantee harmony. For example the most common Triad scheme consists of using yellow, red, and blue, or the primary colors. Using these three primary colors in a triad color scheme is discordant for each color competes for attention, so it is important when using these colors to remember to select one hue as dominant and mix a little of it with the other two, or use the other two for accent.

Another example of a Triad color scheme would be the combination of purple, orange and green. The combination may sound outlandish, but by using various shades and or tints of those colors used in varying amounts it can be an attractive scheme.



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

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

These two color schemes are strong mood creators. By expanding the color selection choices to three naturally contrasting colors and all of their shades and tints and combined shades and tints we have an incredible variety of color to choose from. This expansion opens up worlds of possibilities to mood setting.

There are numerous books out today that can show you schemes chosen by the mood you wish to create. I encourage you to visit a local bookstore and wander through the books on color. A favorite of mine is the Color Harmony 2, by Bride M. Whelan, for it has the color schemes presented by categories such as Vital, Regal, Energetic, Friendly, Soft.... you get the idea.

You may also visit www.colorschemer.com/online.html# and have fun changing the colors, noting the schemes and what mood they conjure in your mind. Then make them lighter and darker and further note if this changes the original mood.



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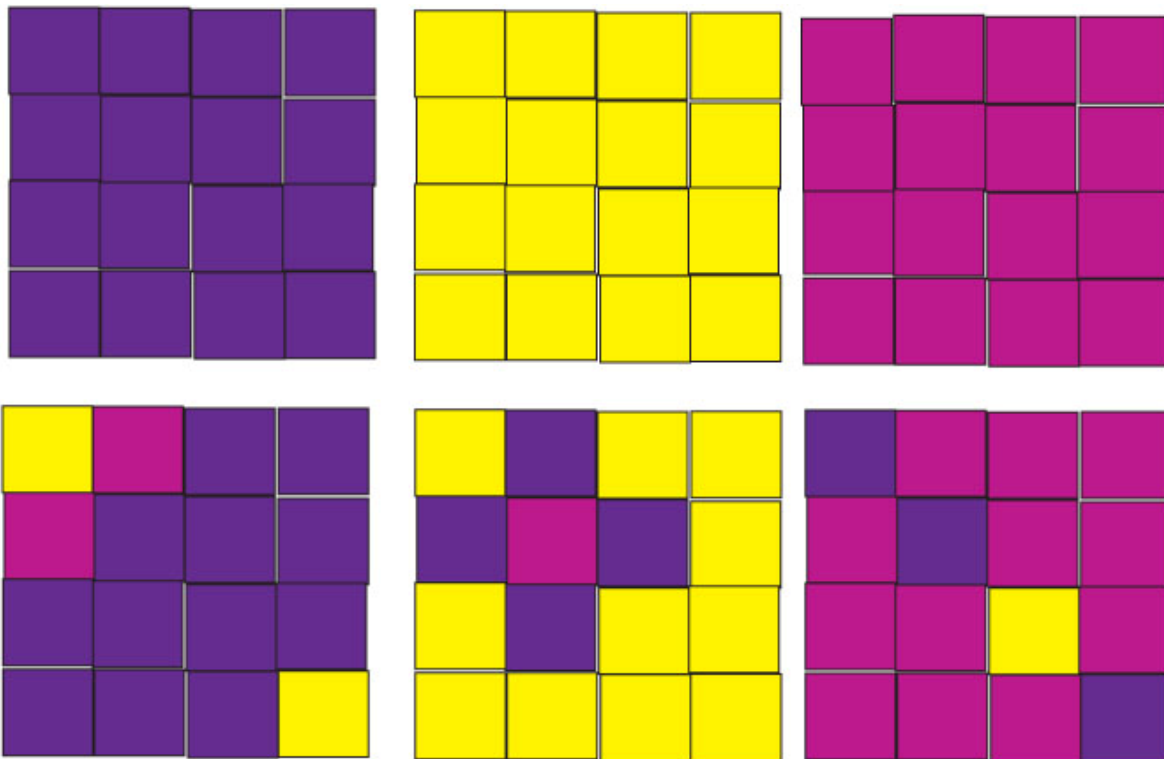
EXERCISE #1 – These two color schemes can provide endless opportunity to play and try to create harmonious color and moods based on just how we mix them up. In my examples I have used the basic hues, but you may also wish to take the exercises further by using shades, tints, and color mixing of the original three hues.

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. For the Split-Complementary scheme you will make three blocks of color. Each block 3-4" square and one each for your chosen split-complementary colors.
2. Print out the color blocks onto 1 sheet of the white card stock weight paper.
3. Cut each of the blocks out and make sure they are trimmed to the same size.
4. Now with the color blocks stacked together cut the blocks into smaller squares.
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.)

SPLIT COMPLEMENTARY EXAMPLE:



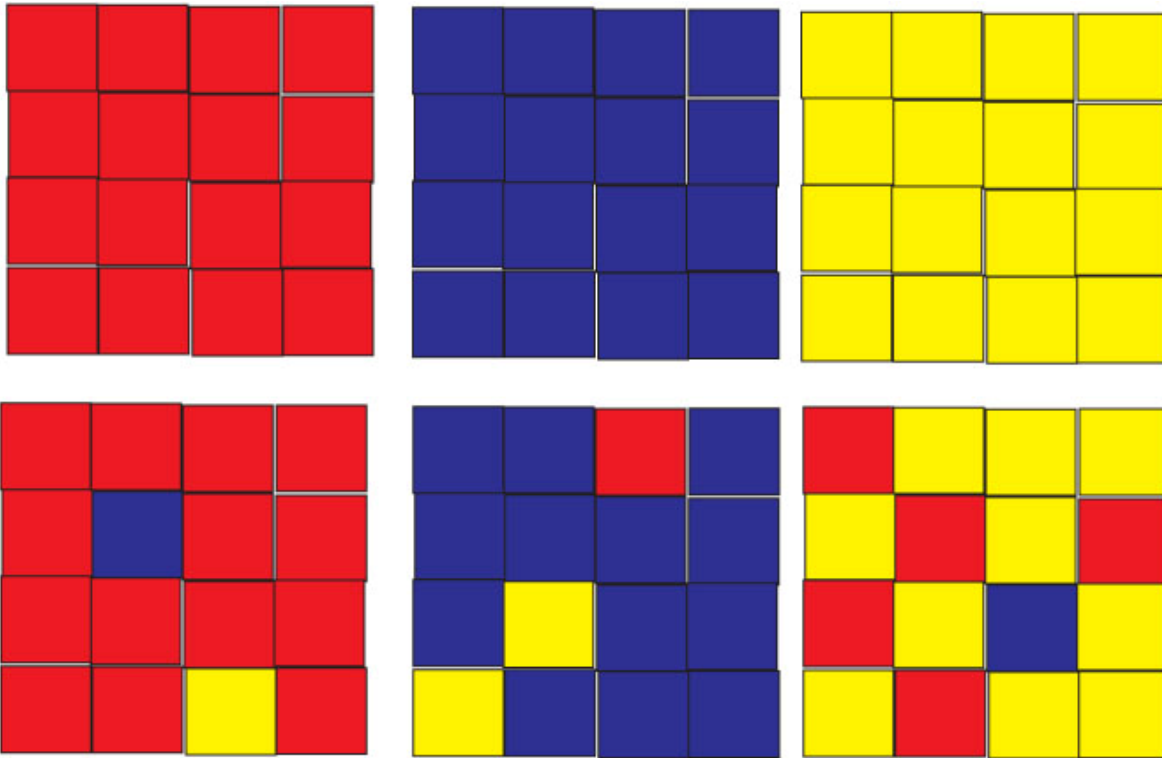
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For the Triad scheme exercise follow the instructions above but change the colors selected to those you find in a Triad scheme:

TRIAD SCHEME EXAMPLE:



If you have software that let's you play with shapes and colors then this would be a great time to use it. You can continue to try out shades and tints of various schemes with just a click of the mouse.



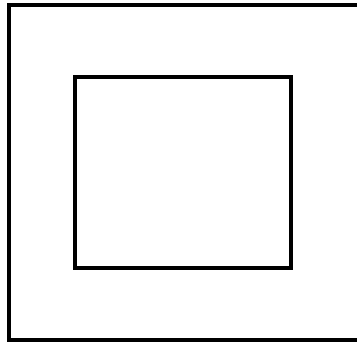
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The second exercise remains similar to the last lesson, for it really is important to take your new found knowledge and apply it to those things you see around you everyday.

EXERCISE #2 – Finding Split-Complementary, and Triad 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 split complementary or triad color schemes.

Note the colors and try to determine if there is a dominant color.
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?

Keep your eyes open for all the WOWs! They are out there.
Color that simply takes your breath away, or calls you into action or makes you feel safe and serene. Enjoy the journey of Discovering Color!



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