



## COLOR BOOK – SEEING COLOR

### LESSON ONE

We so often walk through our busy days without ever really noticing what is going on around us, and this can be especially true for seeing color. You need to begin to see color around you, recognize it and let it seep into your consciousness. After a while of doing this you begin to notice that your mind has now created a filing cabinet filled with color information that can be called upon when needed. We just need to start filling the cabinet for later reference and there is no better place to start than with the basics.

**COLOR** Color says it all. Blues are cool and soothing. Reds are wild, hot and crazy. Yellow can make you feel happy, and it is said that orange is the color of conversation. Color is a major element in how quilt artists converse with anyone who sees our work.

We choose our colors carefully, and because color is the magic that plays with our eyes and our emotions, it has an important role in its use when we create. As you start to observe, record and collect color for your color book it will help for you to feel comfortable with that old tool from our youth, the color wheel.

The basic color wheel has colors arranged in a circle.

■ The colors represented on the color wheel are pure, bright colors known as 'hues'.

■ Once these hues are combined with white they are called 'tints', and by combining the hues with black they become 'shades'.

■ The most important of the hues are, **YELLOW**, **RED**, and **BLUE**. These are known as 'primary' colors for in certain combinations they make up all the other hues on the color wheel.

■ 'Secondary' colors are created when two of the primary colors are mixed in equal amounts. **GREEN** is the mixture of yellow and blue. **VIOLET** is a mixture of blue and red, and **ORANGE** is a mixture of red and yellow. On the wheel they are exactly midway between each of the primary colors.

■ 'Tertiary' colors are those on the color wheel that lay between, and are each a mixture of the primary and secondary colors. There are six tertiary colors, **YELLOW-GREEN**, **BLUE-GREEN**, **BLUE-VIOLET**, **RED-VIOLET**, **RED-ORANGE**, and **YELLOW-ORANGE**.



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Your first assignment is to it take a specific amount of time for each of the primary, secondary and tertiary colors, (say a day or two or even a week for each color), and pay attention to every time you see something in that color.

### AS YOU OBSERVE:

- List it in your color book.
- Note what it is that you saw.
- Ask yourself whether it was a pure hue, a tint, a shade, or maybe all of them at once.
- Then ask yourself where do the tints show up?
- Where do the shades make their appearance?

Once you have observed the colors and noted where you have seen them, and how the tints and shades acted on the hues you should create a page showing samples of this.

There are many fun ways to create this page. Below are just a few ideas:

■ PAINT CHIP SAMPLES

■ FABRIC SWATCHES

■ PHOTOS FROM MAGAZINES

■ PAINT

**MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, HAVE FUN!**

In the next lesson we will continue with ideas on how to fill the filing cabinet in our minds with

# COLOR!



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