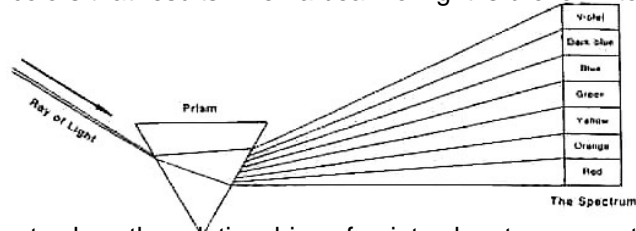


# COLOR VOCABULARY

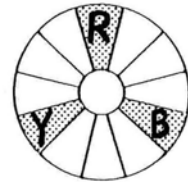
**COLOR** The character of a surface that is the result of the response of vision to the wavelength of light reflected from that surface. You see what is reflected, not what is absorbed by the surface.

**SPECTRUM** The band of individual colors that results when a beam of light is broken into its component wavelengths of hues.



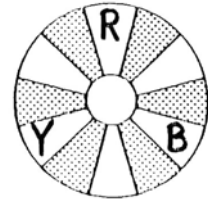
**COLOR WHEEL** A conventional way to show the relationships of paint colors to one another by arranging them in a circle, or wheel. A tool for organizing colors that shows the spectrum bent into a circle.

**PRIMARY COLORS** Red, yellow, and blue. These colors cannot be produced by combining other colors.

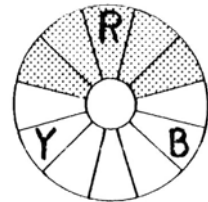


**SECONDARY COLORS** Orange, green, and violet. These colors are produced by mixing two primary colors.

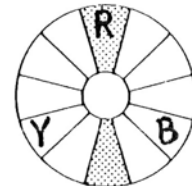
**INTERMEDIATE COLORS** Red-orange, yellow-orange, yellow-green etc. As each name indicates, an intermediate color is produced by combining a primary and a secondary color. Intermediate colors are located between primary and secondary colors on the color wheel. Two primary colors can produce an intermediate color also.



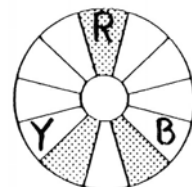
**ANALOGOUS COLORS** Those colors that are closely related in hue (name). They are usually adjacent (beside) to each other on the color wheel.



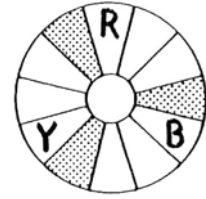
**COMPLEMENTARY COLORS** Two colors that are directly opposite each other on the color wheel. Mixing complements can dull or lower the intensity of a color.



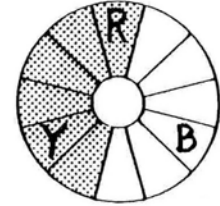
**SPLIT-COMPLEMENT** A color and the two colors on either side of its complement. A group of three colors that are not equal distant on the color wheel.



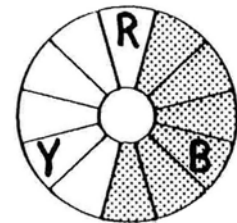
**COLOR TRIAD** A group of three colors spaced an equal distance apart on the color wheel. The twelve-color wheel has a primary triad, a secondary triad, and two intermediate triads.



**WARM COLORS** The family of related colors ranging from the reds through the oranges and yellows



**COOL COLORS** The family of related colors ranging from greens through blues and violets.



**COLOR SCHEME** Plans for organizing colors. Types of color schemes include monochromatic, analogous, complementary, triad, warm and cool, etc.

**MONOCHROMATIC** Done in variations of a single color,; white, black and gray can be used to change the value of the color.

**HIGH-KEY** A painting using many tints or light colors.

**LOW-KEY** A painting using many shades or dark values.

**OPTICAL COLOR** Color perceived by the viewer due to the effect of atmosphere or unusual light on the actual color.

**ARBITRARY COLOR** Color chosen by an artist to express his feelings. Artists make choices on the basis of personal preference.

**TONALITY** Arrangement of colors in a painting so that one color dominates the work of art.

**HUE** Used to designate the common name of a color and to indicate its position in the spectrum or on the color wheel.

**INTENSITY** The saturation or strength of a color determined by the quality of light reflected from it. The brightness or purity of a color. A pure color is in its brightest form and is most intense. The addition of any color lowers the intensity.

**VALUE** Value refers to the lightness or darkness of a color. It indicates the quantity of light reflected. Adding black, white, or gray to a color changes its color value.

**TINT** The addition of white to a color.

**STONE** The addition of gray to a color.

**SHADE** The addition of black to a color.

**NEUTRALS** The group black, white, and gray.

**CONTRAST** A great difference between colors, one light, one dark for example. Complementary colors have a strong contrast.

**PIGMENTS** Finely ground, colored powders that form paint or dye when mixed with a liquid, called the vehicle. Pigments are also used to make crayons and pastels.

**VEHICLE/BINDER** A liquid, like water or oil, that carries the pigment and makes it possible for the paint to adhere (stick) to surfaces, such as paper or canvas.

**OPAQUE** The quality of a material that does not allow light to pass through. You can't see through it.

**MUDDY** Said of colors in a painting that have lost their sparkle (intensity); usually caused by overworking or mixing too many colors together.

**TRANSLUCENT** The quality of any material that allows some light to pass through, but greatly obscuring the image of objects on the other side. A quality that is between transparent and opaque.

**BLEED** When paint or ink runs into an adjoining area or up through coats of paint.

**WASH** A thinned, watered down paint which is translucent.

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**THREE PROPERTIES OF COLOR** Hue, value, and intensity.

**AFTERIMAGE** A weak image of complementary color created by a viewer's brain as a reaction to prolonged looking at a color. After staring at something red, the viewer sees an afterimage of green.