

Week Three: Attributes of Color Study Notes:

Achromatic - Achromatic colors are neutrals, meaning that they contain no chroma or hue. An achromatic color scheme uses all achromatic or neutral colors, black and white, and a full value tonal range of grays.

Base Hue – A hue from the color circle to which a color is derived, its source hue. The concept of a base hue means that the thousands of colors that we perceive can be traced back to the twelve hues on the traditional color wheel.

Chroma - A term coined by Albert Munsell, which is synonymous with the saturation or intensity; high chroma is high intensity, low chroma is a low intensity.

Chromatic Neutrals - Subtractive intermixtures of complementary hues that create neutral colors based on chromatic, rather than achromatic, colors.

Color Attributes - The variables or characteristics of color, which are hue, value, and saturation.

Color Keys - The notes on a piano keyboard are analogous to the concept of color keys. Two types of color keys are value keys, which are levels of light (high) or dark (low) colors, and saturation keys, which are levels of pure to muted colors.

Hue - Hue means any wavelength from the visible spectrum. A hue is a specific color selection from the spectral color circle in its pure state, sometimes referred to as a spectral hue. Hues may be primary, secondary or tertiary color.

Inherent Value - The light/dark value of a pure hue at its maximum saturation.

Saturation - The property of a color that refers to its purity, intensity, or chroma. High-saturation key colors are pure, bright, and intense. Low-saturation key colors are dull, subtle, and muted.

Shade - A hue plus black, which makes a darker value of a hue.

Systems of Color Notation - Color theorists have developed various systems of notation for the three-color attributes of hue, value, and saturation.

Tint - A hue or color plus white which makes lighter values of color or a hue.