

Week One: The Nature of Color Study Notes:

Color Chord - A group of hues chosen from the color circle that are spaced apart, such as red, yellow, and blue period the music chord-color cord analogy refers to the spacing of three or four color “notes” to produce harmony.

Color Contrast - The manner in which colors may contrast are by value (light/ dark), hue, temperature (cool/warm), complementary, and saturation (muted/brilliant).

Color Schemes or Harmonies - Color circle-based formal hue selections used to achieve color harmony.

Color Temperature - refers to our sense of warm or cool colors. For example, red is warm in temperature because it refers to blood, fire, and the sun with; blue is cold in temperature because of its reference to water, ice, and the sky. Each primary and secondary hue also has a cool or warm aspect; For example, red is cooled when blue was added, creating red violet.

Cool/Warm Color Harmony – A four hue color scheme that is less structured than most. Cool/warm contrast emphasizes differences in color temperature. Example: RO and red opposite BG and blue.

Double Complementary - A four hue contrasting color scheme. This scheme used two adjacent complementary pairs, for example, yellow, YO, violet, and BV.

Informal Complementary - Harmonies with flexible rules, created by an artist.

Split Complementary Harmony - A contrasting or balanced harmony. A split complementary scheme has three hues and is based on an opposing dyad. Instead of using a direct compliment, however, the two adjacent hues to the actual compliment are chosen. Example: the split complimentary of violet is YO and YG.

Tetrad - A four hue color system that is balanced based on either a square or rectangle inscribed in the color wheel.

Triad - An equilateral triangle inscribed in the color circle describes three equidistant hues that compose a triadic color system. The triadic system is a classically balanced color scheme and is used by many artists and designers. Example: orange, green, and violet.