

Color Vocabulary

In elementary school the vocabulary of art begins with line, shape, color, texture, value and form. Color is broken down into three primary colors of yellow, blue, and red. When each of these are mixed together, they become the secondary colors of green, purple (or violet), and orange.

- yellow + blue = green
- blue + red = purple (or violet)
- red + yellow = orange

The primary and secondary create the basis for which all other colors are created.

Color is also referred to as 'HUE.' Hue is often used to describe the purity of a color with descriptors relating to excitement, energy, brilliance, or clarity.

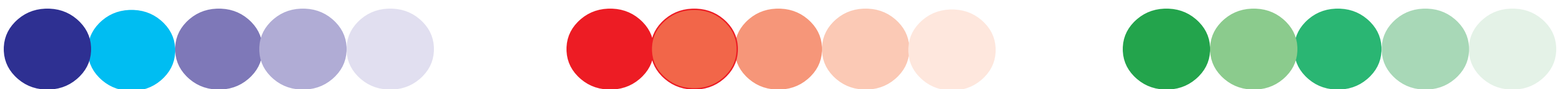
Intensity of a color is measured by tint, tone, and shade.

- Tint: – adding white creates fragile hues which are soft, delicate, and pastel
- Tone: – adding black creates dark shades in a dual personality which can be either angry or cool in appearance
- Shade: – adding the complementary color or gray gives an overlying grayness creating a quiet, calm, or misty appearance



Color schemes are defined in four ways: monochromatic, complementary, analogous and achromatic.

Monochromatic schemes contain only one color.



Complementary schemes contain colors opposite on the color wheel, (i.e. yellow to purple, red to green, or blue to orange).



Analogous schemes contain colors that fall side-by-side on the color wheel



Achromatic schemes contain no color and is neutral (white, grey, black.)

