

Lesson 1 – Color Properties

In this lesson we will go over some color properties which will help you to choose the right colors for your paintings. Here are some important things to keep in mind:

1. A color is either dark or light or somewhere inbetween - which is its **value**
2. Bright or dull – which is its **intensity**
3. Basic – like red, blue, or yellow – which is its **hue**

Mixing colors together is pretty easy, but choosing the right colors for the right place on your painting is a little difficult. But eventually you will learn how to do that.

Keep in mind that every color that you choose has these properties, and it is your responsibility to know what the value, intensity, and hue of each color is before you apply it to your artwork.

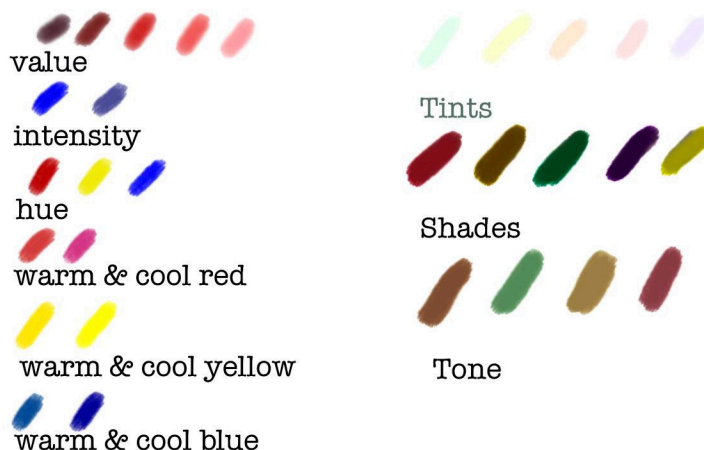
Also, color has an emotional meaning other than the above properties. For instance, dark and dull colors can represent sadness or fear. Light and bright colors can represent happiness, fun, and joyfulness.

Additional properties of color are:

1. **Tints** - when you add white
2. **Shades** – when you add black
3. **Tones** – when you mix a pure color with a neutral gray

When you combine two or more colors together you get **color mixtures**. When you do this you right away have made a duller color which means the color **intensity** has changed. In addition, every color can be a “warm” or “cool” color. This just means a color that is warm is like “fire” and a cool is like “ice”. Please see chart below for examples.

Color Properties Chart



Please contact me if you have any trouble understanding color properties or have any questions.

Pamela