

Art 100 2D Design & Color Foundations Assignment #4

In this next assignment we will start to talk about and work with color and the mixing of color. There are many theories about how we make other colors out of a basic set of colors, or primary colors that creates secondary colors. We will test 2 of the most popular and misunderstood theories and examine the positives and negatives of each system. The first is a system of primaries that you probably remember from when you were first given a box of crayons as a child. That theory is that yellow, red and blue can make all the other colors in the world. That is to say yellow + red = orange, red + blue = purple and yellow + blue = green. (2 primary colors mixed together makes a secondary) You will test this theory by creating swatches of color mixtures, (1.5" square)

The second more contemporary theory has its roots in the art movement Pointillism and later was adopted by off-set-printing visionaries. Sometimes referred to as optical mixing. The primaries in question in this system are newer, less traditional colors that were invented in labs through chemical processes instead of pigmentation combinations. Those primaries are magenta, cyan and yellow. The yellow that is used is more translucent and has a slight cast of green. Look at the color "Lemon Yellow" for a substitute option. To test this theory you will follow the same steps as you followed with the "traditional" primaries; creating swatches of color 1.5 Inches Square by mixing the "process" primaries together. Mix magenta and yellow to acquire ranges of reds and oranges, mix cyan and yellow together to obtain variations of greens, mix magenta and cyan together to achieve a variety of purples. If we in fact find that one or both of these theories are correct then the next assumption must also be correct. Tertiary colors must also be achieved through this process; that is to say the colors in between the primaries and the secondary mixture. So if we start with 3 primary colors and mix those together to find 3 secondary colors, the amount of colors that are the equal possible mixtures in between the 2 are six. That is why this is a 12 color design project. The finished product will be a well-designed 12-color wheel that has the 3 primary, 3 secondary and 6 tertiary colors incorporated into it. Your design should be cyclical and or circular in shape and function as a tool for reference of color relationships. That means that your finished product must be aesthetically pleasing and a function tool. Your design should be symmetric and exemplify a radial symmetric pattern. Even with those extremely specific parameters you have a lot of creative freedom and should be able to come up with a design that is interesting and inventive. On a final note you will show me that the primary theory is good for something, you may not be able to make all secondary and tertiary colors with just 3 primaries, but if you mix them together they make a good chromatic black. You will need to show me that you can achieve this somewhere in your design. You can outline with it, or incorporate it into the design somehow.

We will use the size requirements 10" X 10" with 1" borders for the illustration board. You can remix the colors and paint them by matching them to the swatches or glue cut piece of swatches to the illustration board.

The due date for this assignment will be given in class.