

USE OF COLOR IN PAINTING

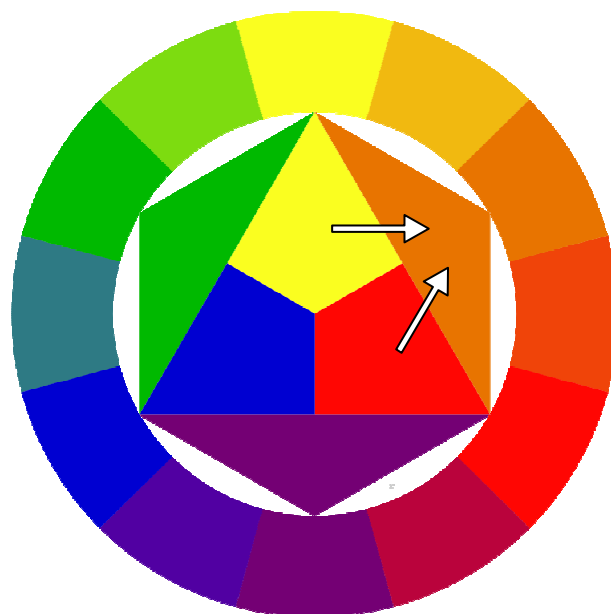
"PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND COMPLEMENTARY COLORS"

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THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ART IN A SIMPLE AND INTUITIVE WAY

PRIMARY COLORS : There are colors that can't be obtained by mixing the other colors. Look at the three central colors in the figure below, are **YELLOW, BLUE** and **RED**.



SECONDARY COLORS : Mixing two primary colors you get the secondary colors:

yellow + red = **ORANGE**

yellow + blue = **GREEN**

red + blue = **PURPLE**

We have thus obtained the **6 basic colors** in our color wheel which, combined with the black and white are the only colors available in nature.

All other colors are nothing more than a version more or less bright or more or less clear of these colors.

TERTIARY COLORS : Mixing a secondary color with the primary adjacent obtain a tertiary color:

red + orange = red orange

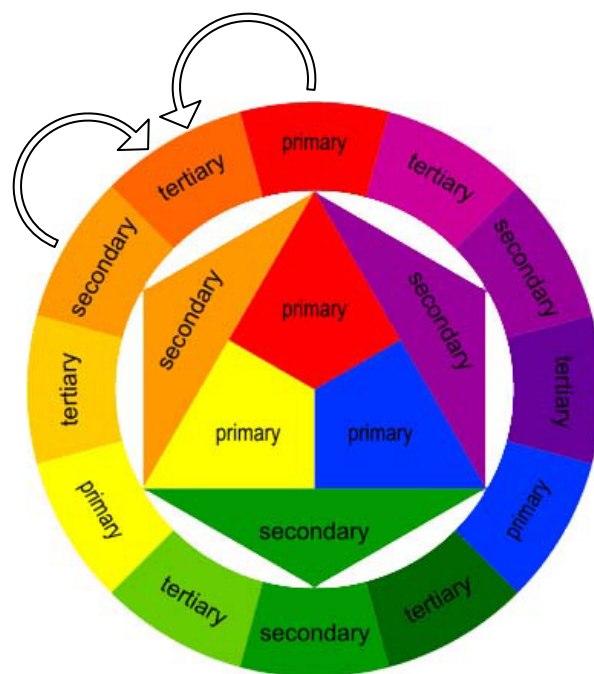
red + purple = purplish red

yellow + green = yellowish

orange + yellow = yellow orange

blue + green = greenish blue

blue + purple = purplish blue



COMPLEMENTARY COLORS : The complement of a color is the one that is opposite on the color wheel. Looking at the figure below it is easy to establish that:

the complementary color of **yellow** is **purple** and opposite
the complementary color of **red** is **green** and opposite
the complementary color of **blue** is **orange**, and opposite

Through the complementary color you can control the **degree of saturation** of a color.

If I want to paint a red apple, I paint the exposed part of the light with that color, and I mix the red with a little green for the part in the shadow.

If I want to paint a less brilliant cadmium yellow, I mix the yellow with a little purple.

