

Making sense of colour

Why is understanding colour so important?

Simply, colour is the tool by which you create the impression you want to achieve in your painting. When you understand the relationships and different characteristics of colour you are to make choice that heighten the effect of your painting.

For example:

- Colour can help you create the illusion of distance, atmospheric perspective.
- Colour can define shadows and shapes with such ease when you understand how to use the correct colour in the correct place.
- You can easily draw the viewer to your focal point when you know how to place use colour to direct the attention to that spot.
- It's amazing when you understand how colour works.

Further reading.

<https://gamblincolors.com/understanding-color-temperature/>

If you'd like to take your colour knowledge further I have a class called Colour Mixing with Confidence that might just what you are looking for.

<https://www.cielellis.com/colour-mixing-with-confidence1.html>

I hope you find this information helpful. You can contact me at studio@cielellis.com if you have any questions.

Hue

Hue refers to the actual colour



Value

How light or dark a colour is



Tint : when white is added



Shade: When black is added

Chroma

High chroma colours are intense and pure

Low Chroma colours are muted or dull



Warm and Cool colours



- **Hansa Yellow Light** (a cool yellow)
- **Hansa Yellow Deep** (a warm yellow)
- **Naphthol Scarlet** (a warm red)
- **Alizarin Permanent** (a cool red)
- **Ultramarine Blue** (a warm blue)
- **Cerulean Blue Hue** (a cool blue)