

COLOR HARMONIES

Project Description:

Students explore the relationship between hue, saturation and value in creating a series of color harmonies based on an original grayscale photograph.

Phase 1:

1. Using your digital cameras, select a subject to photograph (a landscape, abstraction, self-portrait etc.) The photograph should include a wide range of values from pure black to pure white. Use either natural light or an artificial light source to be sure to achieve this range. Take a variety of shots and choose the three best to use for Phase 1 of this project.



original photo

2. Using Photoshop, create a document that is 7" X 7" and set to grayscale with a resolution of 300 pixels/inch. Place your three best images into this document and resize using the transform tool (apple + T) until you have a compelling composition that considers figure/ground, balance, & dominance. Adjust the levels of your three photographs (apple + L) so that you emphasize the range of values in each composition. Print these 3 grayscale images using the black and white laser printer. Save this 3 layer photoshop document as: "YourInitals_ColorHarmonies.psd".



8 Levels of Value

3. Go to File "Save As" in your original photoshop file, and save a version as "YourInitals_ColorHarmoniesEdit.psd". This will preserve your original 3 photographs before you manipulate them. In this new file, posterize each of the 3 images so that there are exactly 8 levels of value in each image. Feel free to further manipulate or simplify the final images and print each image for class.

Phase 2:

Choose the best version of your three manipulated images. Using this grayscale image as a value reference, create a series of six color studies using Photoshop to explore saturation and hue within the following six color harmonies: monochromatic, analogous, complimentary, split complimentary, triad & tetrad. Use the Kuler Color Tools (<http://kuler.adobe.com/>) to explore various color schemes. Print, mount (to bristol) & trim (7" X 7") the final 6 Color Studies for the final critique. (Technical Note: Use the following tools in Photoshop to help you with your project: Select Color Range, the CMYK Color Picker & the Paint Bucket)



monochromatic, analogous, complimentary, split complimentary, triad and tetrad harmonies