

# the warhol: resources & lessons

Unit Lesson Plans / Creative Thinking & Making / Silkscreen Printing / Handout 1.1 Color Terminology

## Color Terminology



**Hue:** another name for a color.

**Value:** the lightness and darkness of a color.

**Key color:** dominant color in a color scheme or mixture.

**Intensity or chroma:** the brightness or dullness of a color.

**Temperature (warm and cool colors):** a color's perceived sense of warmth or coolness. Aggressive (warm) colors: reds, oranges, and yellows. Receding (cool) colors: greens, blues, and violets.

**Color Wheel:** the essential elements of mixing color.

**Color scheme:** the combination of colors on the Color Wheel implemented by artists, designers, and illustrators.

**Shade:** color + black.

**Tint:** color + white.

**Tone:** color + gray.

**Primary colors:** red, yellow, and blue – cannot be mixed from any other colors.

**Secondary colors:** two primary colors mixed together resulting in orange, green, and violet.

**Tertiary colors:** one primary color and one secondary color mixed together.

**Complementary color scheme:** combining a shade, tint, or tone of one color and the color opposite on the Color Wheel.

**Analogous color scheme:** using any shades, tints, or tones of colors that lie adjacent to each other on the Color Wheel.

**Split-complementary color scheme:** choosing one color and using the color to each side of its complement on the Color Wheel.

**Diad:** using two colors that are two colors apart on the Color Wheel. Example: red and orange.

**Triad:** color scheme in which three colors are equally spaced from each other. Example: the three primary colors – red, yellow, and blue.

**Tetrad:** a contrast of four or more colors on the Color Wheel.

**Monochromatic:** using any shade, tint, or tone of one color.

**Achromatic:** a colorless scheme using blacks, whites, and grays.

**Neutral gray:** combination of black and white.



Andy Warhol, *Flowers*, 1970  
Screen prints on paper  
36 x 36 in. (91.4 x 91.4 cm.) each  
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