PROJECT 5: COLOR WHEEL

You will begin to explore the idea of color in design. You will build upon the design skills you have already been developing and add the new terms of hue, tone, tint, shade, primary colors, secondary colors, tertiary colors, analogous colors, complementary colors, and split complements. We will also work to improve craft and gain an understanding of basic paint mixing skills and color theory. Gain an understanding and ability to apply the mechanics of the color wheel to a singular design.

For the project you will create a reimagined version of the color wheel Johannes Itten development for the Bauhaus. The color wheel will feature Primary Colors (red, yellow, blue) then the Secondary Colors (made by mixing two primaries getting orange, green, violet) and Tertiary Colors (made by mixing a primary color with a secondary color getting yellow-orange, yellow-green, red-violet, red-orange, blue-green and blue-violet). The color wheel should keep the colors in the proper order: yellow, yellow-orange, orange, red-orange, red, red-violet, violet, blue-violet, blue, blue-green, and yellow-green. Additionally, each color should have it’s original hue, the tint of the color (where you add white), the tone of the color (where you add gray), and the shade of the color (where you add black). This will give you four swatches per color for a total of 48 color swatches. You will also incorporate a 12 swatch grayscale. This will give you a total of 60 swatches to incorporate into your design. It is up to you to decide how to incorporate all the colors with the grayscale.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Begin by sketching out ideas for possible designs for your color wheel. The easiest option is to choose one shape to duplicate, but that is not required. I would like to see your layout before you proceed. The areas for each color do not have to be equal, but all 60 colors needs to be represented in the design.

2. Next, you need to mix all the paint you will use for the project. You should have 60 containers of paint when done—a 12 color grayscale, 12 colors with the hue, tint, tone, and shade for each. We will be adding the acrylic medium into the paint this time to see if it will prevent some of the problems from last time.

3. If you decided to go with the shape method, you should paint even swatches of each color large enough to cut out your design out of the swatch (and perhaps more to be safe). Then, after the swatches dry, create a template by cutting the shape out of a piece of cardstock to use as a template to trace over each swatch. After tracing the swatch, you will carefully cut it out using an exacto knife (and ruler if applicable). Glue the shapes to another piece of paper. Make sure to center the design on the page. You may want to lay it out on the page before gluing.

~or~

If you decide to do it as one piece, you will want to carefully draw out your composition on the page. Use a ruler and other tools to make the design as neat as possible. Make sure to center the design in the space. You may want to use tape to ensure the quality of your lines. You do need to have crisp lines between each color. You may want to wait to cut out your paper so that you can tape it down while painting.

4. Cut out the final composition, which should be 11” x 14”, regardless of technique. It must be mounted on either white or black illustration board with a 2” border around the design.

MATERIALS

Tempera paints (provided by MCC), paintbrushes, H and B pencils, ruler, rubber cement, rubber cement thinner, rubber cement pickup, X-Acto knife, sketch paper pad, white or black illustration board

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Your final project should be presented in mounted form. The final project should be 11” x 14”. The project should be mounted on either white or black illustration board (choose the one that works best for your project) with a 2” board all around the project (board size would be 15” x 18”).

DUE DATES

Project should be submitted at the start of class on March 25. We will critique the projects in class. Please be prepared to participate in the critique and explain your work.

QUESTIONS

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Office Hours:
Varies, but I will be available on campus Mon, Tues, Wed, and Thurs.