PROJECT 6: COLOR RELATIVITY

We will continue building on what you learned about color in the last assignment. This assignment will work with the theories of color relativity developed by Josef Albers. We will also explore the terms analogous, complementary, triadic, split complementary, and tetradic, which all refer to type of color schemes you can use for this project.

For the project, you will create three identical compositions. You will then choose one color from the 12 hues we worked with in the last project to use as your main color. You will then create three different color palettes based on your chosen color. Your color palettes can be any of the following: analogous, complementary, triadic, split complementary, or tetradic. Your main color should be used in the same spot(s) in each composition. Your other colors in your chosen palettes should be used in the remainder of the design.

For example: In the below images, the main color is blue. The three color palettes are complementary, analogous, and split complementary. So, blue complement is orange for the first composition. In the second composition, an analogous palette is at work with blue, blue-green, and purple. Finally, in the third image, there is a split complementary palette using blue, red, and yellow. Please let me know if you need any help when choosing your combinations.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Begin by sketching out ideas for possible designs for your project. You will be using the same design for all three compositions. You may consider being inspired by Josef Albers explorations. Consider both geometric and organic shapes for your design.

2. Choose one of the 12 hues you worked with in the last project as your primary color. (yellow, yellow-orange, orange, red-orange, red, red-violet, violet, blue-violet, blue, blue-green, green, and yellow-green) This color should be used in the same spots in all three compositions. Next, choose three of the following possibilities for color combinations to utilize with this first color: analogous, complementary, triadic, split complementary, or tetradic. You should be able to make use of the paint from the last assignment, but may want/need to mix more paint.

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 three 6” x 6” compositions, regardless of technique. It must be mounted on either white or black illustration board with a 1” border around all three compositions.

MATERIALS

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

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Your final project should be presented in mounted form. The final compositions are each 6” x 6”. You should have three total compositions when done. The project should be mounted on either white or black illustration board (choose the one that works best for your project) with a 1” border all around the project (board size would be 8” x 22”).

DUE DATES

Project should be submitted at the start of class on April 6. 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.