

Michael Wilcox School of Color

with David Schwindt instructing

Dates: February 26-28 & May 18-20, 2010

Time: 9am-4pm

Place: Starlight Ranch

680 State Road 344

Edgewood, New Mexico 87015

Fee: \$260 per student

Call Doug & Maria at 1-919-774-8723 for registration and materials

The Course

PRACTICAL COLOR MIXING

based on the book,
Blue and Yellow Don't Make Green
By Michael Wilcox
Instructed by David Schwindt

The key to mixing the exact color you want is based on understanding the physics of light and learning to see color as light. By mixing colors in twelve simple steps we train our eyes to see the complex combination of light waves reflected from colored surfaces back to our eyes and interpreted by our brain. Simplified diagrams from the book help us analyze the range of light waves that make up thousands of variations of color.

David will walk each student through the steps of color mixing, demonstrating how to make useful muddy oranges (brown) and crystal clear violets. Other steps will demonstrate how to make the dozens of greens that challenge every landscape painter. With each color we will practice the value scales that give clarity and definition to masterworks in the world's finest museums.

These three day workshops will give you the tools and confidence to improve your work. Each student will leave with a small finished painting and reference charts that will help remember the color mixing lessons and serve as the basis for further color exploration.

Supply List

1. Sketchbook and pen or pencil and eraser

2. Paints (oils, acrylics, or watercolors)... set of six principle colors from School of Color (included in Pack C from School of Color) Cadmium Red Light (PR108), Quinacridone Red (PV19), Cadmium Yellow Light (PY35 or PY37), Hansa Yellow (PY3), Ultramarine Blue (PB29), Cerulean Blue (PB36), Titanium White (PW6)

If you are confident in reading the numbers for the pigment listings and have the appropriate colors above, you may order Pack B instead, however, the set of six from the School of Color will guarantee that you have the proper selection.

3. Palette appropriate for your medium.

(School of Color bias wheel palettes are optional, but may facilitate understanding the material.)

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Motivation

The teaching of color in fine art, craft and design

Color is an elusive subject, as anyone who has ever attempted to teach it will testify. This is due to a variety of factors, not least the retention of unworkable ideas from the past. Yet it is a vital subject for anyone involved in fine art, craft or design.

Students need an understanding of color harmony, color contrast, color mixing and the basics of color theory if all round progress is to be made. Yet what generally happens is that they end up confused and frustrated.

As one student put it: 'When I asked my teacher how to mix a certain brown she suggested that I mix everything up on my palette and hold my breath' I can understand the frustration of the student but also the approach of the teacher. For much of the previous century the color theorist concentrated on impressing others in the field instead of helping the actual 'end user'. Many books on the subject are based on 'pet ideas' which simply add to the confusion. Yet it is an unnecessary confusion as all aspects of color understanding and use can now be taught with ease.

4. Painting knife for oils or acrylics.
5. Brushes; small, medium, large (sizes vary, but I use #2, #4, #8 or #10) flats, brights, or filberts in bristle for oil, nylon for acrylic. For watercolor, I use medium size round synthetic brushes for detail; large for washes.
6. Inexpensive painting supports (small to medium size canvas boards or cheap watercolor paper). Bring several 9x12 canvas boards or watercolor paper tablets. Do not bring stretched canvas. Printed exercises are also included in Pack B or C from School of Color.
7. Gamsol Odorless Mineral Spirits (OMS). (Water is available for watercolor and acrylics)
8. Paper Towels, palette cups and cans for solvent, plastic jars for water. (No glass please)
9. Portable easel if needed. Tables will be provided.
10. Bring ALL your paints if you'd like a quality assessment on them (try to have the manufacturer's label available for each one). Bring a latest painting or two that is causing color mixing problems.

Order Pack C through School of Color when registering. Supply list questions? Call David at 520-878-9555
Call Doug & Maria at 1-919-774-8723 for registration and materials



Colored Blocks in Sunlight and Shadow
with Bias Wheel and color charts in shadow on white background.

Observation is key to understanding color. Comparing the charts to observed planes of the colored blocks in light will give you clear examples of colors you can easily find to express the illusion of three dimensions on the two-dimensional surface.