

COLORED AND GRAY MARKERS

WEEK 9: Color (Markers)

Critique of Assessment #7 (Complementary Color Drawing)

You will present your Assessment from Week 7 to the class and instructor. You must also show your reference photo(s) and your color palette. When you are showing your work, be prepared to discuss your subject matter, the media you used, your composition, and your use of complementary color mixing. Also discuss how you feel about the assignment (the process), and the overall look of your finished piece. (Are you satisfied? What did you like/dislike? What did you learn?) The instructor and the class will provide feedback about the impression your drawing has made. Be open and receptive to this feedback if you are serious about improving your skills as an artist and designer. You have until the next grading period to make any necessary changes or additions.

PRESENTATION: Introduction to Markers

You will be given a set of colored markers for in-class use. The markers cannot leave this classroom, as other students need to use them as well. For this reason, **you will need to complete today's Activities and Assessment in class unless you have colored markers at home.**

You will be given marker paper to **practice blending the different colored markers, your grey markers, and the colorless blender marker.** You do not have to submit this for grading; it is just a time to experiment and become familiar with this wet media. Keep in mind: Every marker color behaves differently when blended with another color. Some markers are easier to blend than others. Marker blending takes some practice but this exercise (and the next Activity) will help. When working with markers (colors or greys), always work from light to dark.

Activity P Blending Markers/Creating Shades **10 points**

For this activity, you will want to turn on your **tracing lamp** under your desk. You will receive a marker blending template and marker paper. Do not draw directly on the template. Tape the template to your desk, and tape a sheet of marker paper over it so you can see the boxes through it. **Do not trace the boxes.** (Always try to avoid outlining as much as possible when using markers because the markers can smear the graphite. Also, you will not be able to erase pencil lines after the marker dries; the markers will "seal" the graphite to the page.) **Label the colors** as shown on the template (writing in your color choices on the bottom 3 rows).

1. In the first two rows, you will attempt to graduate one specified marker color into another specified marker color. You can try to **physically** blend the colors together, or use a **visual** blending of colors (like stippling or hatching). You can also try working with your colorless blender marker to help you blend. If you do not have a colorless blender marker, you can try using your 10% grey marker to help you blend (this will alter the tone, but only slightly.)

2. In the last 3 rows, you will choose any 3 colors (label them) and create **graduated shades** of those 3 colors. (Remember that shades are colors mixed with different amounts of black). In each row, you will use only one colored marker, your grey markers and your colorless blender marker to create a range of shades from light to dark. The first box on the left should have no grey in it (just pure color). In the second box, start by mixing your color with some 10% grey marker. If that does not seem to alter the value, add more 10% grey or move on to 20% grey, and continue to add more value until you start to see a change. The boxes should then get darker and darker in value as you move to the right. The box on the right should be very dark, but not black. Try to achieve a **nice range of value**, although you will likely not use your 80-90% greys. **Do not use black**, as this will deaden the color completely. **Important Notes:** Each color responds differently to the greys, and you may get better results using two coats of 10% grey rather than one coat of 20% grey. Also, working with lighter colors (a light blue or light green as opposed to a dark blue or dark green) will result in a fuller range of value.

You must leave white space between each box. When you finish each of the 5 rows, you should have relatively smooth transitions from one box to the next. (One of the best ways to judge this is to squint your eyes to see if the values transition smoothly into each other.)

Activity Q Monochromatic Color Palette in Illustrator **10 points**

For this activity, we will use the computers in G141 (you may want to bring some of your markers with you). Using the Illustrator Color Guide, create a Monochromatic Color Palette. Your new palette should be based on a different hue than last week's Complementary Color palette. (For example, if you used red & green last week, you should not use *either* of those colors this week.) Print out the palette in color and tape it into your sketchbook. You will use this palette for Assessment #8.

Assessment #8 Monochromatic Marker Drawing

50 points

You will need to complete this Assessment in class today unless you have colored markers at home. If you choose to purchase markers for this assignment, I recommend purchasing 2 or 3 **light to medium values of your chosen color** (for example: a very light green, a light green, and a medium green.) You can create the darker values by mixing with greys.

First, select one of the photos you brought in to be your reference photo (or find a new photo). You may wish to combine more than one photo. You may work from black & white photos, or color photos (or both!) Remember, you don't have to copy your reference photos exactly. Make some **compositional decisions** about what to include/combine/crop out/omit. If your reference photo is at least 8x10", you have the option of **tracing** it. Using a 2H-5H sharp graphite pencil, very lightly and cleanly sketch (or trace) your composition onto your marker paper.

Option: You may choose to **flip over** your reference photo and trace the **back side**. When you finish tracing, flip over your marker paper and create your marker drawing on the side without the graphite. When you finish your marker drawing, you can more easily erase the graphite from the back of your page.

Second, colorize your drawing with colored markers and grey markers, trying to match the Monochromatic Color Palette you created in Activity Q. The colors of your drawing do not need to match the colors of your reference photos, but they do need to match your monochromatic color palette. Remember to work from light to dark, and avoid heavy outlining. Try to achieve a nice range of value, and don't forget to allow the white of the page to show through for highlights.

You must include a background—more than just the same overall value. Do not use black for your background; if you want a dark background, use dark greys mixed with color. No plain white backgrounds allowed!

Important notes: You will likely only have a few markers that closely match colors in your palette. You will create the rest of the colors by color mixing on your paper. You can use hatching or stippling to create **tints**, and/or mix your colors with greys to create **shades**. White, grey and (to some extent) brown are considered **neutral colors** and can be used in your drawing, even though they are not part of your palette. Avoid using black, as it deadens the color and flattens your drawing. Remember to consider value (and all the elements of chiaroscuro) or your forms will appear flat. Be sure to include your reference photo(s) in your sketchbook along with your finished drawing, as you will need to show them along with your Color Palette next week during the critique. You will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Assessment is complete at time of critique. (5 points)
- Reference photo is included in your sketchbook. (5 points)
- Composition is considered and background is included. (10 points)
- Only colors that match the Monochromatic Color Palette (from Activity Q) are obvious in the drawing. (10 points)
- Drawing has a good range of value, and there is a sense of depth and light created through the effective use of color mixing. (10 points)
- Drawing has detail and looks as if care and consideration were taken in its execution. (10 points)

We will critique this Assessment in class next week.

Before you leave today, make sure you didn't leave any of your grey markers in the box by accident. Please return your marker boxes to the cabinet at the back of the room.

For Next Week:

- Be prepared to present Assessment #8 for critique (you probably have completed it in class already.) You will need to show your color palette and reference photo(s) too.
- Bring in a few reference photos to draw from, either your own photos or someone else's. You will have several choices for Color Palettes next week (*not* Monochromatic or Complementary though.)
- For the next few Assessments, you will have **your choice** of working with colored pencils, colored markers, or **any other color media** you have at home (such as pastels, acrylic paints, watercolor pencils, watercolor paints, or any combination.) You do not need to bring in any of this media. (The colored markers will be available if you want to use them in class.)
- **Reminder: Turn in Sketchbooks for grading in 2 weeks (weeks 5-7 and 9-10). You may also resubmit anything from Weeks 1-4 at that time.**