

# Colour and Style

## Colour theory

- The primary colours are blue, red and yellow. They cannot be made by mixing other colours.
- The secondary colours are green, purple and orange. They are made by mixing equal amounts of primary colours.
- Tertiary colours are made by mixing equal amounts of a primary and a secondary colour, such as red-orange.
- Hues are versions of a colour made by mixing unequal amounts of colours.
- Complementary colours provide the greatest contrast when placed next to each other, such as yellow and purple.
- Analogous colours are neighbours on the colour wheel, such as orange and red.
- Warm colours are made using mostly reds and yellows and cool colours are made using mostly blues and yellows.
- A tint is a colour mixed with white.
- A shade is a colour mixed with black.
- A tone is a colour mixed with grey.



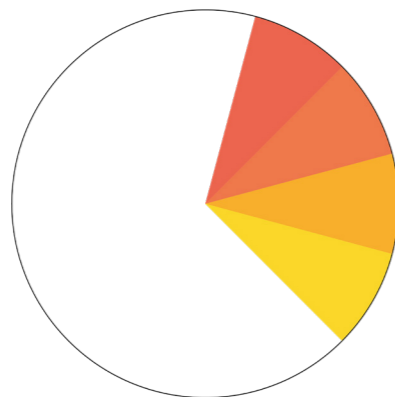
Primary and secondary colours



tertiary colours



complementary colours



analogous colours

## Colour palettes

The term 'colour palette' refers to the range of colours usually used by a particular artist or art movement. Different art movements are known for using colour in particular ways and having different colour palettes.

## Impressionism

Impressionists use soft, pale colours with tints to capture the feeling of light in their paintings. Their artwork is more about capturing the impression of a moment in time rather than exact details.



*The Skiff (La Yole)* by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, 1875

## Fauvism

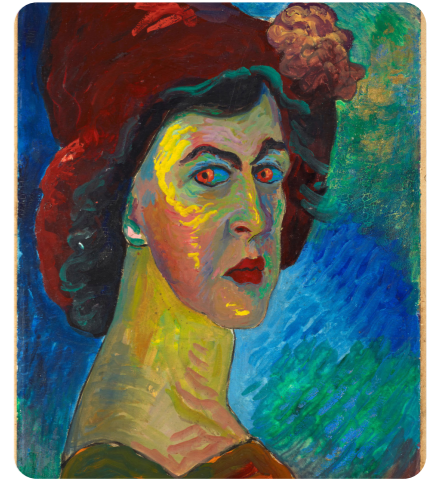
The Fauvists' colour palette consists of complementary colours to make their colours look brighter when used side by side. These non-naturalistic colours create an abstract style.



*Charing Cross Bridge, London* by André Derain, 1906

## Expressionism

Expressionists use non-naturalistic blocks of vivid colours instead of mixing different hues. Their artwork distorts reality to portray the artist's inner feelings or ideas.



*Self-portrait 1*  
by Marianne von Werefkin, 1910

## Realism

Realists use subtle tones and shades of natural colours. Their colour palette is largely browns, reds, black, greys and ivories.



*The Gleaners* by Jean-François Millet, 1857

## Glossary

<b>abstract art</b>	A modern art style that does not aim to represent recognisable images of the everyday world.
<b>art movement</b>	A style in art with a common goal that is followed by a group of artists over a period of time.
<b>hue</b>	A variation of a colour.
<b>non-naturalistic</b>	Unlike natural forms.