

## Making and Using your own Colour Chart

### Colour chart: definition and purpose:

A colour chart is a grid using all or some of the colours on your paint palette. In the example below, I used all the colours available in the tempera pucks we sometimes use in class. I lined each colour along the top and left side of the chart. Where they intersect each other on the chart is the result you get from mixing the two. As there are two places that each colour intersects with every other, I used one side to show opaque colours (top/right diagonal half) and the other side to show a more transparent, wet blend (bottom, left diagonal half).



Using this method to explore colour variations will help you expand your colour use in your art.

- Notice the variety of browns and greys created when mixing colours from opposite sides of the colour wheel.
- Notice the variety of secondary colours created when using primary colours to mix rather than using the premixed colours.
- Notice how dark some of the colours get when mixed such as blue and brown, as well as the shades (black plus a colour). This helps avoid a heavy reliance on black to show darker areas.

- The variety of tints (white plus a colour) help add variety to highlights, as just a plain white is often too stark a contrast.

This is a particularly useful tool for students exploring an **impressionistic** style of painting. Impressionists often tried to avoid using black or white for shadows and highlights and tried, instead, to employ the full range of colours possible from the colour wheel.



In the painted sketch of the eye above, I used a variety of brown tones to signify “skin” tones in strong light. I used opaque colours on the iris to make it stand out and to accentuate the light hitting the eye.

### Your Task:

USING ANY MEDIUM, create you own colour chart. This will work with almost any media, for example: pencil crayon, chalk pastel, acrylic, watercolour, etc.

### Further enrichment:

Try using your new expanded colour palette in a sketch, drawing or painting of your choice. You should see colours “come to life” or “jump out” more.

**Don't forget to submit you experiments for bonus marks!**