

CCWS Presentation July 1016
Mike Grahek

Limited Palettes

- Helps to create unity within a painting

All other things remaining the same: A limited palette can simplify and add some surprising color combinations and a whole new kind of excitement to your art. It can get us out of our color routines. You can use the same full range of color palette you already have, just explore it with limited palettes.

Depending on the limited palette, it can also give amazing range of colors from brilliant contrasts to very subtle and natural.

A limited pallet can help us to move from painting “things” to instead painting “shapes”, and exploring color and shape relationships, and the adventure of artistic creativity.

Basics - 12 Colors on Wheel

12 Split Compliment combinations, 4 Triads, 3 Square Tetrads, 6 Rectangular Tetrads

- Invent your own

- Start with trying out all 12 split compliments.

-Use the same composition for better comparison of limited palettes

-Get a spiral ring WC book, I like to use it as reference and take it with me, Kiliminjaro would be your best choice for good paper and economy, or just paint on your favorite paper.

Decide which 12 colors from your palette to use and be consistent.

Chris Van Winkle

Favorite limited palettes- All 12 Split Compliments

Split Compliment variations:

-Red, Blue, Hookers Green

-Violet, Quin Gold, Pyrrol Orange

-Pyrrol Orange, Thalo Green, Yellow

Milford Zornes

Favorite limited palettes-

- Red, Yellow, Black - Anders Zorn

- Quin Red (Aliz), Orange, Hookers Green

- Thalo Blue, Burnt Sienna, Red or Orange

Frank Webb

Any limited palette of 2, 3, or four colors can be effective provided it results in:

- First: A good range of light and dark values can be achieved with the colors chosen.
- Second: When using 3 or 4 colors, avoid using colors in equal amounts. Disunity results when competing colors are used in equal amounts.

Common limited palettes

- Thalo Blue, Alizarin, New Gamboge
- Cobalt Blue, Indian Red, Yellow Ochre
- Pynes Grey, Burnt Sienna, Yellow Ochre

Don Andrews

Color or Temperature Dominance when using Tetrads, 4 colors

Try to decide in advance is painting to be warm vs. cool dominance, then a particular color dominance is also an option. Often just warm vs. cool all that is needed, but avoid the 50/50 balance, it can lead to lifeless feeling paintings.

Edgar Payne

A complete harmony and balance of color should have a well thought out plan in proportions of opposites, and an artistic inequality of compliments with a dominant color, shade or tint throughout. Balance by unequal color compliments adds vitality, interest, and picturesqueness to any work. Complete exploration of all the different greys possible within any given triad or limited palette is essential.

Ken Hosmer

Limited pallet is good way to start a painting, then additional analogous colors can be added if so desired.

- First mix the new analogous color with one or more of the original colors on the paper
- Second add spots or highlights of the new added pure analogous color sparingly.

Kees Van Aalst

Common limited palettes

Q. Gold, Thalo Green, Thalo Blue, Violet

Yellow Green, Violet, Ultramarine Blue

Burnt Sienna, Violet, Ultramarine Blue

(Skip) William Lawrence

Though he often used limited pallets, he said he preferred to be free to use any color that the subject seemed to call for, he thought the four step method below was the most important in color decisions:

1. Start with Value choices first
2. Then look at warm vs. cool
3. Next look at intensity of desired colors vs. how grayed down they should be
4. Finally and last, decide on actual colors