

Understanding Colour Theory and Painting

Chapter 2: Colour Theory and Painting · Topic 1

Key Concept

The colour wheel arranges primary, secondary, and tertiary colours in a circle. Complementary colours sit opposite each other on the wheel (like red and green) and create strong contrast when used together. Analogous colours sit next to each other (like blue, blue-green, and green) and create a calm, harmonious look.

Painting techniques like blending, layering thin washes of colour, and using a limited colour palette can all change the mood and style of a finished artwork.

Quick Revision Notes

- The colour wheel arranges colours in a circle.
- Complementary colours are opposite on the wheel (e.g., red and green).
- Complementary colours create strong contrast.
- Analogous colours are next to each other and look harmonious.
- Blending and layering are common painting techniques.

Practice Questions

- 1 Create a colour wheel showing primary, secondary and tertiary colours.
- 2 Paint a small picture using complementary colours.
- 3 Paint a small picture using analogous colours.
- 4 Compare the mood created by each painting.