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Color Choices: Making Color Sense Out Of Color Theory



Synopsis

Internationally renowned artist and best selling author Stephen Quiller shows readers how to discover their own personal "color sense" in *Color Choices*, a book that offers readers a fresh perspective on perfecting their own color styles. With the help of his own "Quiller Wheel," a special foldout wheel featuring 68 precisely placed colors, the author shows artists how they can develop their own unique color blends. First, Quiller demonstrates how to use the wheel to interpret color relationships and mix colors more clearly. Then he explains, step by step, how to develop five structured color schemes, apply underlays and overlays, and use color in striking, unusual ways. This book will bring out every artist's unique sense of color whether he or she works in oil, watercolor, acrylics, gouache, or casein.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Stephen Quiller is an internationally recognized artist and teacher and is the author of the bestselling art guides *Acrylic Painting Techniques* and *Painter's Guide to Color*. He lives in Crede, Colorado.

Stephen Quiller's books,(I have his book on using Acrylics as well) are definitely the most helpful to me as I am attempting to take up painting again after a long hiatus. His color wheel is fabulous as are his suggestions on mixing results for different pigments, suggestions on setting up one's palette, what colors are available in various named brands, etc. on and on. All of this information is for water based media, so if that is what you need, it is all here! One may or may not like his style of painting---it is semi-abstract with elements of realism that makes it appear more commercially

appealing I suspect, but his color info is dead on! One definitely does not wind up with mud when following his suggestions.

'Color choices' by stephen quiller is very technical, very rational, very especific, and very useful. Although at first glance the text suggests a lack of emotion and intuition with dealing with color and emotional expression focus vital to make good images; the book is really on to propose a logic and a scalable cartesian process to understand how to make choices with colours. The images included are very beautifull and reading the book makes simple the eye-scan for harmony and color systems used on the paintings with a richer understanding. so, briefly, it is an extremely useful book to make my animation more beautiful. if you are looking to a fast explanation to use colour complimentary to basic knowledge and a good practise prior to reading, this book will multiply your colour skills and colour wisdom.

This is the best book on color I have seen. I started with Margaret Kessler's Painting Better Landscapes and it was wonderful and has a lot of additional information about composition, moods, how to paint things at different times of day but Color Choices explains things specifically about color schemes that were lacking in her's. I also like Color is Everything by Dan Bartges. The three of them together have helped me tremendously. I highly recommend all of them. Color Choices has Quiller's own color wheel which has all the colors and where they are on the wheel as well as color charts to help you figure out which colors are the same in different brands. These two things alone are worth the price of the book. His instruction on the different color schemes is brilliant.

If you have read books on color and the color wheel, you will already know what color theory is all about. The true value of this book is to give a more accurate description of where your paint tubes are on a color wheel and their relationships, so that you can confidently control how to get to the colors you want in your painting. For example, the primary colors on a color wheel are usually identified simply as red, blue and yellow. Here, on the author's own "Quiller Wheel" that is included as a tear-away foldout in the book, they are identified specifically as Permanent Alizarin Crimson, Winsor Blue and Cadmium Yellow Light. Around the Quiller wheel are other colors with their paint tube names and there are separate tables that show the different names a color might have from different paint manufacturers (for watercolor, acrylics and oils). With the Quiller Wheel, you can understand why a violet made with Alizarin Crimson (pure red) and Cobalt Blue (blue with a touch of red) is more vivid than one made with Cadmium Red (red with some yellow) and Manganese Blue

(blue with a touch of yellow): the yellow in the latter set "muddies" the red-blue combination of the violet. Need the exact complementary color to tone down Ultramarine Blue? That would be Cadmium Orange on the axis across the wheel. Raw Sienna and Raw Umber can also work because they are on the same axis, but their positions on the inside of the wheel also indicate that they will darken the value of the result. This is a book about color and mapping the colors you have to the color wheel, and it works very well. If you wanted to paint a valley landscape in red, as the cover shows, you can now know which tubes of paint to use (and not use). Should the landscape be red? Well, that's a matter of your artistic sensibilities, and a subject for another book.

I really enjoyed this book. I've admittedly never sought out Stephen Quiller's art or instructional material, but after receiving this....my opinions changed. Mr Quiller has obviously done an exhaustive study of not only color, but also many of the different brands such as Liquitex, Brera, Golden, W&N, M. Graham, etc....and he explains subtle differences and combinations to achieve neutrals and semi-neutrals. His color wheel takes a bit getting used to....(you could go broke if you wanted to explore all of the varied colors).....but once you get into the examples, exercises and galleries, you begin to see how it all works. I've been a student and a person unafraid to tinker with color for many years, but Stephen's approach offers even more to explore and study....and who doesn't enjoy trying some new colors or experimenting with different color palettes? After reading this book I even ventured into some techniques I had never tried before, just to try them. From basic color theory to exploring multiple combinations of palettes and color schemes, I believe "Color Choices" will offer something for any painter. It's not the definitive book on color theory, but it's a terrific addition to your library. I highly recommend.

A great painting book!

With that said, his method is exciting and I have actually made one of his type of color wheels. That exercise gave me a good sense of color. I have about a half dozen books on color theory and this is the only one that has made a difference for me. Thank you Stephen Quiller. The examples in the book threw me off as the book was written awhile ago and acrylics then were not what they are now. A lot of what he showed were watery looking. As in watercolors. It does make a difference. **HOWEVER** his material is excellent. I wish I could have actually sat in on his classes.

Love the book. Thank you for your prompt service.

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