

How to describe Colours

There are many ways of describing colours But the way I prefer is:-

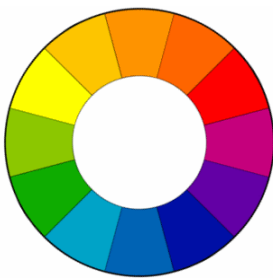
- Hue
- Saturation
- Value

When we mix a colour it is useful to think; 'Is the Hue correct, do I want it to be more or less saturated. Is it the right value.'



An unmodified photo of an apple.

Hue



The property of a colour that describes its position in the spectrum such as Red, Yellow, Blue etc.



Here the Hue of the photo has been shifted towards green.

Saturation



The saturation of a colour is how pure the colour is. A desaturated colour is greyed. In nature most colours are quite desaturated. By using saturated colours in our palette we can desaturate them but it is impossible to make a desaturated pigment more saturated.



This shows the photo's saturation increased.

Value



The value of a colour is how light or dark it is.



In realistic painting the value holds the most information. We can artistically change the Hue and saturation as we wish but if we get the relative value wrong our picture will no longer hold true.

