

The Value of Value (Handout 5)

Do you remember in a previous handout “Definition of Colours” that one attribute of colour is value (how light or dark something is).

In realistic painting it is the value that contains most of the information about an object. Each object in a scene will be either a light or dark object and within that object there will be lighter and darker parts and it is this that describe the form of that object.

We must get the relationship of the value for each object in the scene correct for our painting to hold true.



In the above pictures I have taken the Strawberry photo and converted it to 5 values, You can see from this that it is still clear what the picture is of even with such little information.

- Remember to define a 3D object's shape you need at least 2 values. With only one value it is 2D.
- Try to see you subject in terms of value, sometimes you may need to exaggerate what you see in order to get a convincing shape.
- You may want to modify the values of objects and the range of values in an object to give one more emphasis than others or to bring objects in front of others.
- Be careful when using photos as they tend to flatten space.