

life book- some basic colour theory

When we create our pages/ paintings, it's a good idea to have some basic understanding of how colours work together. Once you gain experience painting and creating, you will become quite intuitively able to choose colours that go together well and you may not need to reference the colour wheel, in fact, some of you may already have this ability innately. In any case, it's handy knowledge, particularly if you feel stuck when it comes to colour.

Things to remember when working with colour theory/ the colour wheel:

- Don't take these rules as 'gospel'.
- Play with the suggestions and break the rules here and there, just to see what happens
- If you stick too rigidly to the 'rules' you may become stifled by them.

There are 6 basic suggested colour combinations that 'work well' together. These combinations give the viewer a sense of harmony and balance when they look at your painting.

1. **Monochromatic Scheme** – for this scheme you are guided to choose one colour and create shades of that colour by mixing it with white and black.



Example: in this painting I used shades of magenta/ pink

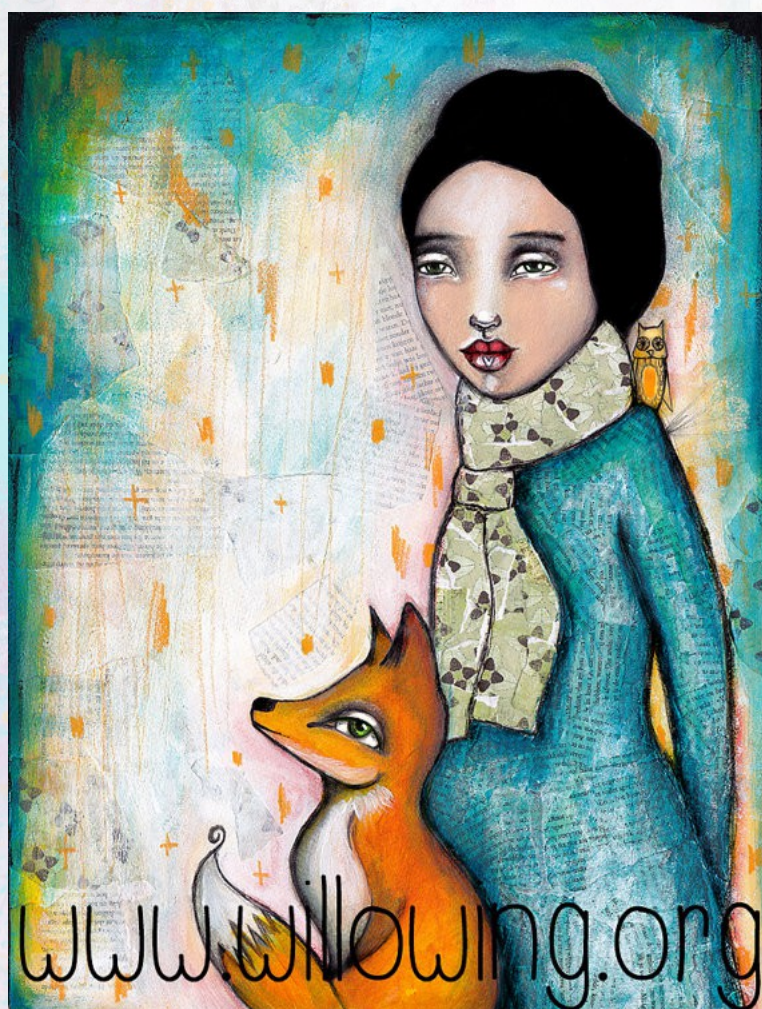
2. **Analogous Scheme** – choose 3 colours from the colour wheel that are directly next to each other with 1 colour dominating.

analogous



Example: The dominant colours in this painting are magenta/ purple and with a non-dominant colour of some blue (in the eyes). Note: not all colours need to be dominant for the schemes to work.

3. **Complimentary Scheme** – choose 2 colours opposite each other in the colour wheel. Best combo tends to be combining warm with cools.



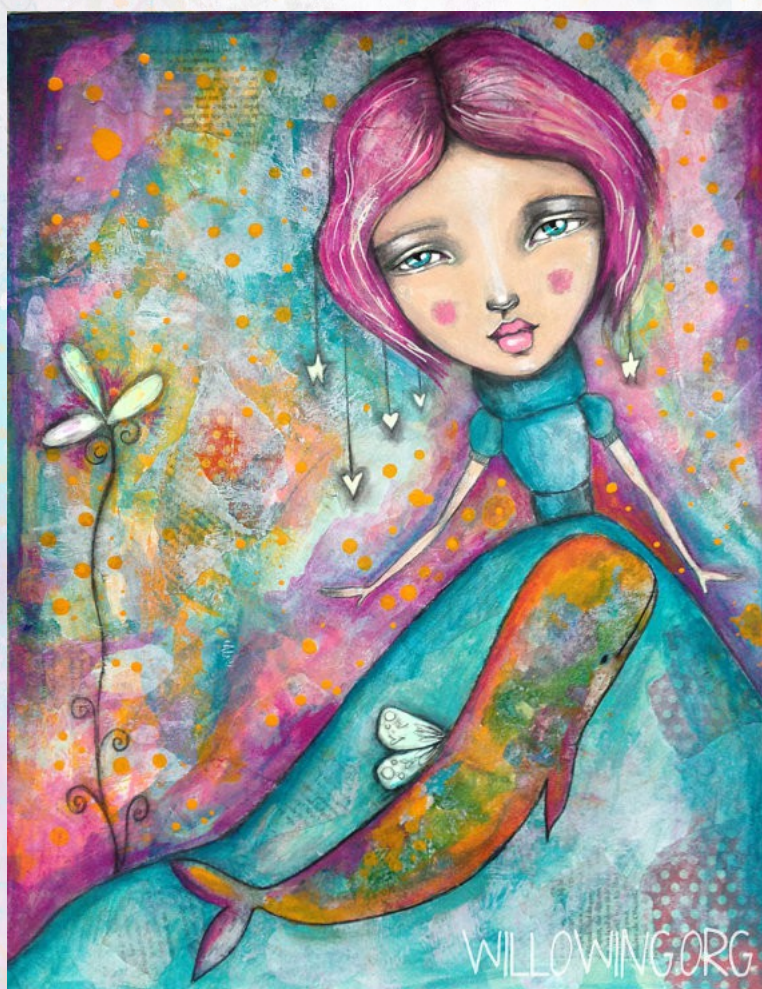
Example: in this painting orange and turquoise/ blue are dominant, this gives high contrast and works well to the eye.

4. **Split Complimentary Scheme** – for this scheme you are encouraged to choose 3 colours; 1 main one and then choose 2 colours which are adjacent to the complimentary one (don't include the complimentary one), this create a similar feel to the complimentary scheme but with less contrast and 'tension'. It's a sort of 'mellower' version of the complimentary scheme.



Example: This painting contains magenta, green and some orange and a small amount of red.

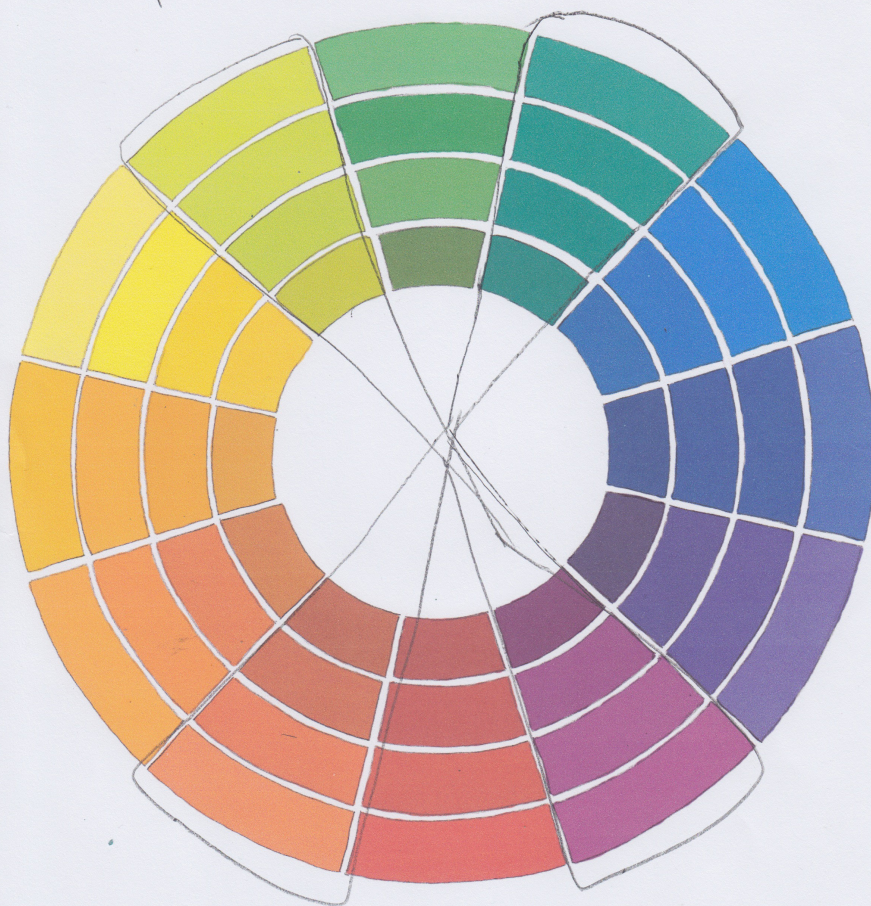
5. **Triadic Scheme** – choose 3 colours from the colour wheel that are even spaced over it, former a triangle.



Example: the dominant colours in this painting are magenta, blue/ turquoise, orange/ yellow which work harmoniously together.

6. **Tetradic (or Double Complimentary) Scheme** – For this scheme you would choose two colours and their complementaries. This is usually a powerful scheme and really pulls the viewer's attention in.

tetradic (double complimentary)



Example: this painting contains blue vs orange and red vs green. You can see it's a powerful colour scheme, it really draws you in.