

Art at home!

Elements of Art: Color

Activity: Colorful Hands (or Feet)

"The whole world, as we experience it visually, comes to us through the mystic realm of color." ~Hans Hofmann

Hans Hofmann was an artist and teacher who played a large role in the development of the Abstract Expressionism movement. Abstract Expressionism is a 20th century art movement which embraces many individual and underrepresented styles. Hofmann was widely known for his own colorful and abstract style.

So, what is color? We perceive color when light hits an object and is reflected back to our eyes. However, it is also a sensation, as colors themselves can make us feel various things based on association through our experiences. For example, many people find certain shades of blue and green peaceful and relaxing, probably due to their association with the natural world.

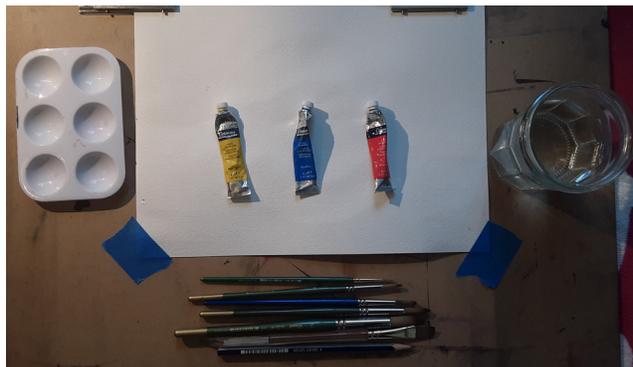
As our understanding of color has deepened, three main colors were established as primary colors: red, blue and yellow. Red, blue and yellow are called "primary" because no other colors can be mixed to make them, but they themselves make other colors when mixed together.

This activity helps you explore how colors work with a simple, fun watercolor exercise!

Materials:

- Red, blue and yellow watercolor paint.
- Paper.
- Paintbrushes.
- Pencil.
- Cup of water.
- Palette OR small cups for paint.
- Optional: hair dryer.

How to:



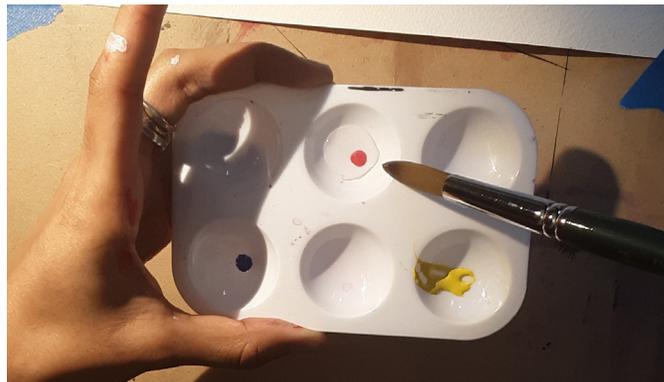
Gather your materials.



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Trace your hand or foot onto a piece of paper.



Mix red, blue and yellow paint into your palette or cups separately with water. Make sure there is more water than paint so the colors will mix together more easily later. Add water to the paint slowly with a paint brush to control the mixture.



Paint three separate sections of your traced hand or foot, painting one of your traced fingers red, another blue and another yellow. Let the paint dry or try a hair dryer to speed up the process.



Choose your next color and layer it over what you just painted. Watch as the colors change! For example, red and yellow make orange. However, the orange may look different depending on whether you painted with red or yellow first. Continue to experiment with the colors as you paint your traced hand or foot. Once you are done, let your artwork dry completely.

That's it! Continue to explore the joy of watercolors! Please share your colorful creations with us on our social media pages **@asuartmuseum!**

Additional Links:

- <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-are-the-elements-of-art-182704>
- <https://onlineartlessons.com/tutorial/7-elements-of-art/>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/definition-of-color-in-art-182429>
- <https://www.theartstory.org/artist/hofmann-hans/>