

Hue, Value, Chroma

Art & Design

The three independent dimensions of colour, and which does most work.

Any colour can be described by three separate measures: which colour it is, how light it is, and how saturated it is. One can be changed without changing the others.

MUNSELL NOTATION

hue value/chroma

A NEUTRAL

chroma 0

- Hue - position on the wheel, red through violet.
- Value - lightness, from white through to black.
- Chroma - saturation, from grey to full intensity.
- Munsell made all three independently measurable.
- Pure yellow is a light colour; pure violet is dark.
- Value carries the form; hue carries the mood.

LOOK FOR IT

Squint at the work. If the shapes vanish, the values are too close, whatever the hues are doing.

Photograph the work in greyscale. Anything that disappears was relying on hue to do a value's job.