

2QAQ February Colour Challenge – Priscilla Lawrence

Following on from the 2019 Colour Challenges (where every month was a set colour with a related theme), in 2020 we are looking at various aspects of Colour Theory each month to inspire the creation of our mini textile quilt/artworks. Like last year, size has been kept small so participants do not have to commit to a large work, and can opt in/out and experiment throughout the year as time permits.

For the purposes of this challenge, there is a **suggested maximum size of 10 x 12 inches** and the artwork should be a minimum of 2 layers of fabric, held together at any interval, and may include mixed media or three dimensional properties. Experimentation with new/different techniques is greatly encouraged. (Please note there is no quilt police at 2QAQ if you wish to push these suggested boundaries!).

Each month a new challenge will be discussed at 2QAQ and sent out by email with some background colour theory. We would love participants to bring their colour challenge to show and tell at our 2QAQ meetings – current month, previous ones or works in progress are all welcome, and if you want to make more than one, that's fine too - did I mention no quilt police?

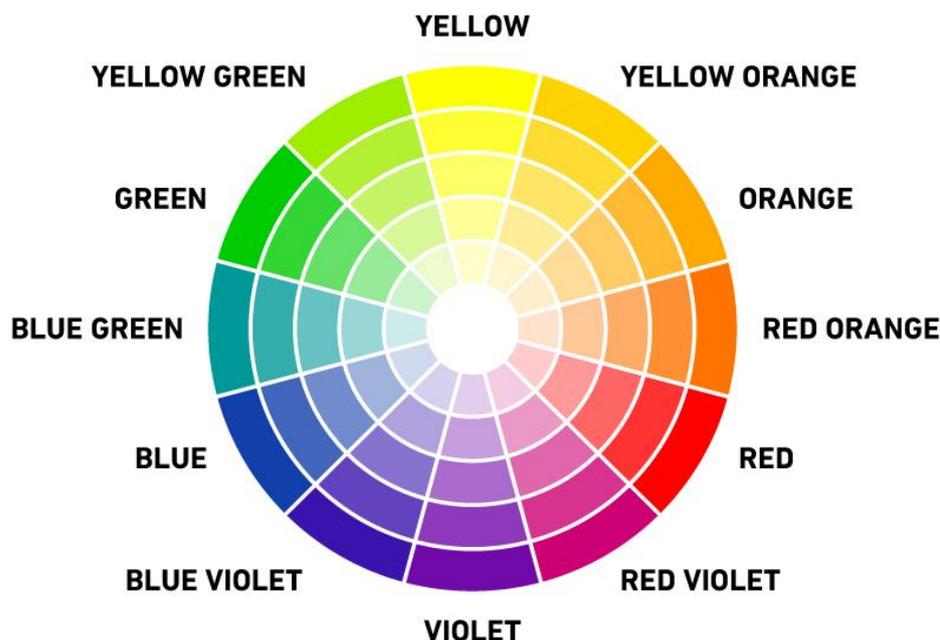
You may wish to work to a consistent size and theme throughout the year, create a book or assemble all the challenges into a quilt ... or not! - and it is hoped that members will allow pieces to be borrowed and displayed on the 2QAQ stand at the Craft & Quilt Fair.

Most of all, the important thing is to have fun, learn a bit more about colour, and challenge yourself to work outside your usual colour schemes and boundaries.

The challenge theme for February is "Complementary Colour Scheme" and your task is to choose **one** pair of complementary colours to create your artwork: red/green **or** blue/orange **or** yellow/purple. (Feel free to make more than one artwork, but each should only have one pair of complementary colours)

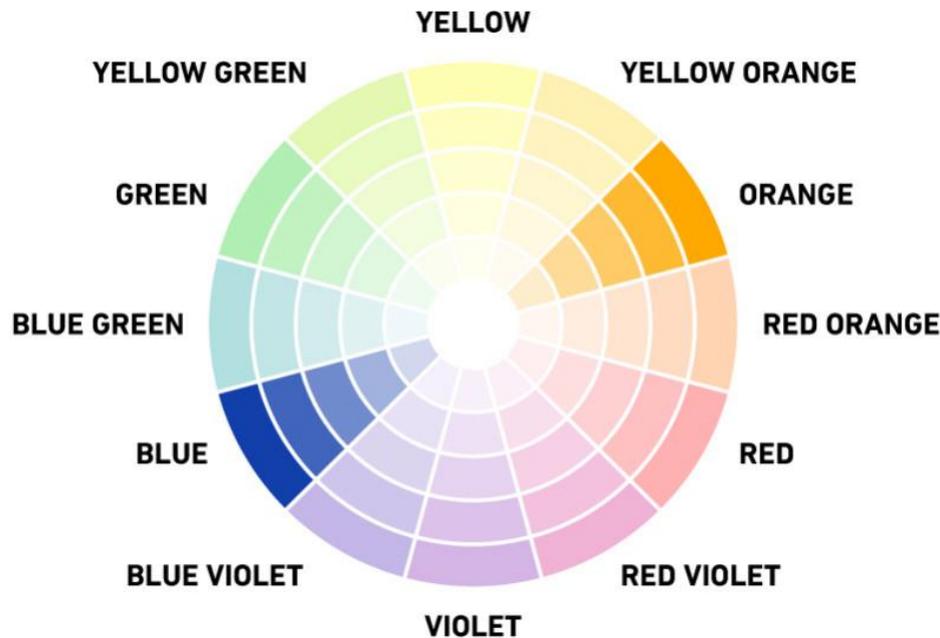
NOTE: you don't have to use equal amounts of each complementary colour – one can be the main colour with pops of the complement to provide 'zing'

I strongly suggest that if you don't already have one, go out and buy a colour wheel.



Color wheel via [picoStudio](#)

A complement is ANY two colours opposite each other on the colour wheel eg orange and blue:



<https://www.shutterstock.com/blog/color-scheme-definitions-types-examples>

(note in addition to the primary/secondary colour pairs red/green, blue/orange, yellow/purple, there are also tertiary colour pairs – yellow-green/red-violet, yellow-orange/blue-violet and blue-green/red-orange – see how they are opposite each other on the colour wheel above).

Some colour theory:

Colour consists of three main parts:

1. hue – the name of colour – red blue etc Hues are divided into primary colours (red blue yellow), secondary colours which are a mix of 2 primaries (red+blue=purple, yellow+blue=green and yellow+red=orange) and tertiary colours (mix of secondary and primary = yellow-green, red-violet, yellow-orange, blue-violet, blue-green and red-orange)
2. value - the lightness or darkness of a colour (think light medium and dark fabrics)
3. saturation – the intensity and purity of a colour - white/black/grey can be added to a colour to reduce the colour's saturation. (colour plus white = tint, plus black = shade, plus grey = tone)

The high contrast of complementary colours creates a vibrant look especially when used at full saturation. This colour scheme must be managed well so it is not jarring. Complementary colours are tricky to use in large doses, but work well when you want something to stand out. For the challenge, you don't have to use the "pure" hue of each colour – you could use tints/tones/shades, or use a mix of pure and tints/tones/shades, and you don't need to use equal amounts of each colour, often you will just use a small amount of a complement to give a "zing".

I'm looking forward to seeing all your complementary colour scheme challenges next month!