



'David is a wonderful teacher; he has great knowledge and was able to convey information in a really helpful and useful way.'
Short course student



NATIONAL
ART
SCHOOL

Understanding and Applying Colour

David Briggs

6 sessions

10am – 2.30pm

Mondays 15 June – 20 July

Course fee \$395

Beginner / intermediate / advanced

Course overview

This course provides a unique introduction to our current understanding of colour, tailored to meet the needs of art and design practitioners and teachers, but suitable for anyone interested in colour. Researched and developed by Dr David Briggs over the last twenty years, the course includes six major sections of illustrated lecture content, each with accompanying practical exercises. All participants receive a set of approximately 300 slides from the lecture course.

The lectures are conducted in real time in the virtual online studio with time for questions and interactions with David and other students. Each session will end with descriptions and demonstrations of relevant practical exercises that progress from basic exercises illustrating the theory to painting studies.

Practical colour exercises

Photo courtesy David Briggs



Week by week overview

1. The attributes of colour

Explore our colour perceptions in terms of their various attributes, especially hue, lightness and chroma, and see how these attributes can be used as a framework for visualizing colour relationships and the mixing of paints.

2. Colour vision and colour mixing

Understand the physical and biological basis of the colour attributes discussed in the first section. How does this knowledge help us to understand additive, subtractive, and additive-averaging mixing processes and the colour scales available to digital painters?

3. Artists' paints and paint mixing

Compare old favourite and more recently developed artists' pigments and their physical properties such as opacity, tinting strength, toxicity and permanence. Learn to predict the colours of paint mixtures by visualising the paths of these mixtures through a three-dimensional colour space.

4. Colour and light

What are the effects on the appearance of a scene of variations in the direction, size, distance, colour and number of the light source(s), and of the material properties of the objects and intervening atmosphere?

5. Colour constancy and inconstancy

Explore the many aspects of visual perception relevant to representational and abstract painters, including adaptation, colour constancy, and partial failures of colour constancy including contrast and assimilation.

6. Theories of colour

We review and consolidate our understanding of colour from a historical perspective with a survey of the development of theories of colour from the Renaissance to the present. How do the tenets of traditional "artistic" (red-yellow-blue) colour theory relate to current knowledge?

Course delivery

David's online studio course is taught with Zoom and takes advantage of the full range of tools that this program offers. He is present in the online studio for the whole session and he responds directly to student questions in live interactions and discussions.

If you are unfamiliar with the Zoom program, some tutorial assistance is available prior to the commencement of the first session to ensure you can join in with ease and get to know the online learning environment.

Class sizes are limited to a maximum of twelve students and the sessions are not recorded.

Photo © David Briggs



Student home-studio requirements

- A computer, laptop or ipad with a good internet connection
- Digital camera to photograph practical exercises for feedback

Art materials and lecturer profile are listed on the NAS website



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