

April Challenge- Using Value

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Value in art refers to how light or dark a color appears. It is essential for creating the illusion of light, shadow, depth, and volume in an artwork. Every color has an inherent value that fits along a scale from white (lightest) to black (darkest), regardless of hue or saturation. Understanding value helps strengthen composition and mood within a painting.

What Is the Purpose of Value in Art?

Value becomes an important element in art such that it adds a different kind of value to any type of artwork. It creates various effects such as highlights and shading, which provide more depth and three-dimensionality to artworks like paintings or drawings.

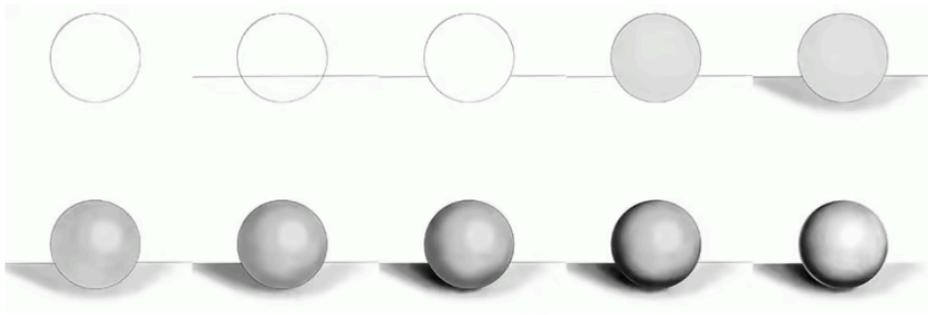
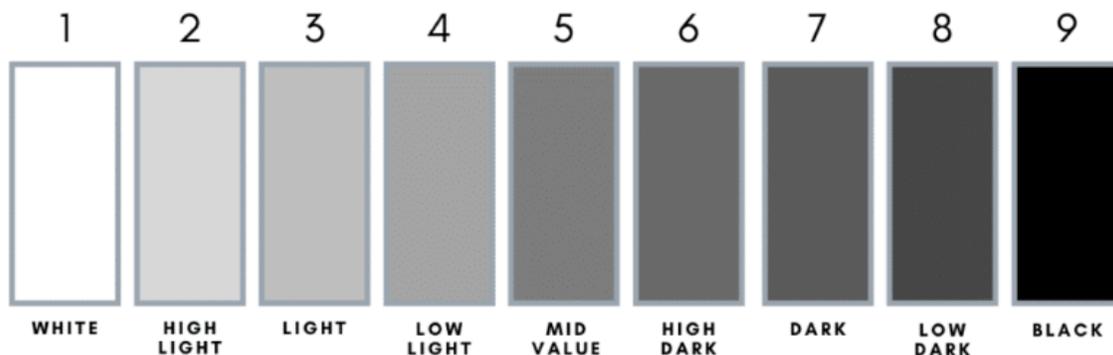


Figure 1

Activity suggestions

1. Draw and paint a value scale that is black and white, then one using color. If you want to make your own value scale, it's very easy! All you have to do is draw 9 equal boxes in a row. Then paint or draw one end with black and either leave the other end blank, for white or paint it with white. Value 5, in the middle is your mid tone, so mix the black and white in equal measures to create this value. Next fill in the intermediate values, start with 2 and work your way up to 8, increasing the darkness for each step of the scale.



- Value study. Make a small painting using only tonal values of black and white, or with one or two hues.



- Take a photo of a painting you have done and apply a black and white filter. On an iPhone, the filter may be listed as mono, silvertone, or noir. What do you notice about areas of light and shadow? Do they make sense with what you are trying to express in terms of light, depth, or mood in your painting?
- Submit your challenge painting to the website. Don't forget to place your name in the container at the meeting for a prize!

Examples of using tonal values to create depth in your painting.



Boys in a Dory by Winslow Homer

Lush Landscapes in Watercolor with Lyudmila Clark

Figure 1. Alicia, du Plessis, "Value in Art – In-Depth Guide with Examples and Overview." Art in Context. July 6, 2022. URL: <https://artincontext.org/value-in-art/>

Sources:

- <https://finearttutorials.com/guide/value-in-art/>
- <https://www.learntopaintpodcast.com/blog/no-math-required-using-color-perspective-to-add-depth-to-your-paintings>