



The Brilliant History of Color in Art

By Victoria Finlay

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The history of art is inseparable from the history of colour. This book takes readers across the globe and over the centuries on a tour through the history of color in art. It aims to uncover the origins and science of colour. It is illustrated in full colour throughout with 166 major works of art.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Who knew that colors have such fascinating stories to tell? Finlay does a wonderful job of describing, in clear, accessible, witty language, how artists around the world, from prehistoric times to the present, have used natural materials, including charcoal, soot, plants, insects, shells, and gems and minerals, to produce magnificent paint and ink colors that continue to dazzle. Today, though, synthetic paints and even computers produce an astonishing range of hues. Browsers and cover-to-cover readers will find some tantalizing information here. For example, Vincent van Gogh once ate his toxic chromium yellow paint; Santa Claus wasn't always clothed in red; thanks to Isaac Newton, there are seven colors in the rainbow; human and animal body wastes were once essential ingredients in color production; and some commonplace colors were created by sheer accident. The handsomely designed book includes 166 excellent reproductions of artworks, many from the collections of Los Angeles's J. Paul Getty Museum. It is filled with illuminating captions and sidebars; reproductions have been perfectly chosen and placed to illustrate the author's narratives; and a "brilliant history of color" is a compelling, readable account of humankind's yearning to express itself beautifully since the beginning of time. An illustration list and lengthy index are included. Recommended for large public library collections and for school libraries; useful in art classes, particularly in units on art history/appreciation, drawing, and painting.—Carol Goldman, Queens Library, NY

Review

"Beautifully illustrated with examples, mostly drawn from the collections of the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, and rich with lesser-known anecdotes from art history, the book succeeds perfectly in walking a fine line between the educational and the entertaining to deliver a wholly satisfying and stimulating perspective. It will please new and veteran artists, those interested in historical tidbits, and newcomers to the field."

—*Library Journal*

"This colorful volume tells the stories of the major colors in the artist's palette throughout history, from ultramarine to madder red to modern colors, like chrome yellow. Perfect for the student of art or art history, or aspiring or accomplished artist."—*Seattle Times*

"This fascinating history of color in art is a real page turner."—*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

"Victoria Finlay's *The Brilliant History of Color in Art* is a global, historical journey into the origins and science of color. Ever wondered how the first color photograph was created? Where the Lascaux cave painters got their dyes? Or why we call small dots of digital color 'pixels'? Finlay's lucid stories are accompanied by gorgeously reprinted art from many of the greatest artists of all time."—*Zocalo Public Square*

"A cracking good read."—*Fine Art Connoisseur*

Best Art Book of 2014, *The Huffington Post*

About the Author

Victoria Finlay is the author of *Color: A Natural History of the Palette* and *Jewels: A Secret History*. She was formerly arts editor at the South China Morning Post.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ginger Amundson:

Book is definitely written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can realize everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A guide The Brilliant History of Color in Art will make you to become smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think which open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It is far from make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you in search of best book or suitable book with you?

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Neil Calvert:

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Arthur Smith:

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