

APS Adventures in Pastel B-5: “Doing the Splits”

Welcome to our fifth Adventure in Series “B”. This challenge is focused on working with a split complementary color scheme. One of the many ways artists can create harmony in their paintings is by using a split complementary color palette. In this Adventure we want to explore this particular technique using any subject or style of painting you enjoy.

For this Adventure you will need to have available a color wheel which uses twelve colors. (For example, see the illustration below which is created with pastels.) You, of course, are free to use any color wheel that is comfortable for you. The focus is on finding and painting with the colors of a split complement. See below, Monet’s “Regatta At Argenteuil” painted in 1872. Notice how the artist used the colors of red orange with the split complements of blue and green to create a beautiful landscape.

Step 1: Using a color wheel with twelve colors, select any three adjacent colors. For example, you might select Yellow, Yellow Orange and Orange. (See the illustration below.) You will be using the two colors on either side of the one in the middle. In our example, you will be using the Yellow and Orange.

Step 2: Next, find the complement of the middle color. Again, in our example, you would find the complement of Yellow Orange which in the middle color of the three adjacent colors. Looking directly across the color wheel from Yellow Orange you will find Blue Purple. This allows you to see that Orange and Yellow are the split complements of Blue Purple. So in our example your palette would be based on Yellow, Orange and Blue Purple.

Step 3: Now that you have found the three colors for your palette, choose more pastels that have varying values of the three you have identified. You will want to have lights, darks and don’t forget to find some that are neutralized, ie, grayed down versions of your three main colors. You may also use white and black if you wish.

Step 4: With your colors selected, feel free to paint any subject you desire. The surface, size and style are also your choice.

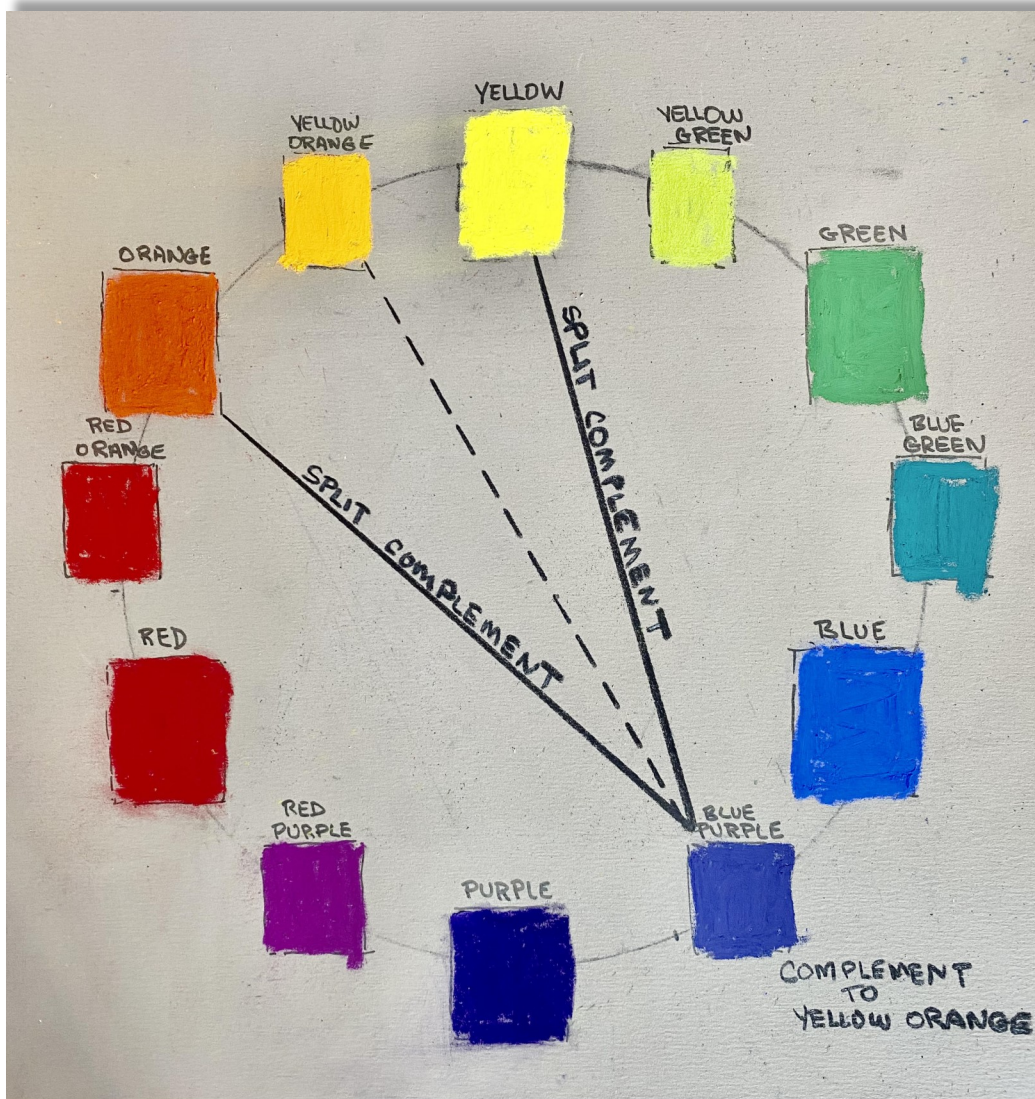
Step 5: Take a **photo of your three main colors and another of your painting** and send these to Kay Gordon (jkaygordon364@gmail.com) by **November 23rd** at 6:00 PM. Please **include the size and title of your work**. Feel free to comment on your process and your experience of working with a split complementary palette.

Step 6: Remember this deadline is firm and nothing can be posted that is received after 6:00 PM on November 23rd. This Adventure is so we can paint together, learn from each other and enjoy pastelling! Your art does not need to be in its finished form; just share what you have done.

ON YOUR MARK; GET SET; DO THE “SPLITS!”



Claude Monet, Regatta At Argenteuil, 1872



COLOR WHEEL SHOWING SPLIT COMPLIMENTS