

COLOUR AS A MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION THROUGH WORKS OF ART

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Abstract

If the wish to understand colour and to know why it is better to choose some colour rather than others for a particular use, we would do well to learn something of the nature and language of colour. Colour plays a prominent role with aesthetic of any art and design piece. There is need to have adequate knowledge of its meaning before it's can be affectively applied in art and design. This will go along the way in helping the artist to understand deeply what colour is, their classification and meaning before it can effectively be applied in art and design. Colour is seen as light and pigment based on definition given by the scientist and artist respectively. Colour also depends on the mechanistic and psychology played by the sensation produced in your eye rays of form, which enable you to classify them based on how they reflect.

Introduction

Colour plays an important role in our daily live because we often remember the colour of an object more than we remember its shape or form. Colour is that sensation produced in eye by rays of decomposed light colour. Colour is the pigment or hue used for painting in order to add more beauty to things. However some believed that colour only appealed to the sense, and not to the mind but for classification purpose how can one truly decide where the sense and the mind divide? The study of colour may be approached from any one of the five angles of the physiology, the chemist, physicist, the physiology, or the artist. Each of there people has his own point of view, which is quite different from those of the others. The physiologist is concerned with the way eye perceived colour. The chemist studies chemical properties of nature and artificial colouring matter used in the manufacture of dyes and paints. To the physicist, significant of colour is merely its wave length and its intensities. The physiologist shows how a person is affected by colours and how colour affects one another. With designers, what concerns him most is colour in vision and in pigment.

Literature Review

Colour Definition: Colour has been defined mainly in two ways by artist and scientific. Wangboje (1982) says there are two important elements in the way colour is seen. Colour is defined by the artist as pigment for covering the surface of any object for attraction while on the other hand, colour simply means light to the scientist. "Artist regard colour as a pigment, while scientist usually talk of colour in term of light" (Wangboje 1982) the scientist were able to prove the assertion in the sense that everything appears dark, consequently black is not regarded as colour for its absorption while white reflect all colours when light is

projected. In the artist profession both black and white are pigment like other colour but usually referred to as neutral colours.

Osborne (1980) had noted that in every day experience.

“The colour of an object that appears is not necessarily Dependent on the colour of light which illuminates it. For example when illumination is weak, or colour the mind may ignore the colour which actually present them self’s, for viewing and notice nothing remarkable in the appearance of the objects seen.”

Colour is seen in patches and this is reason why colour really touched all the sense organs seeing, tasting, feeling, smelling and hearing as this combined give meaning for expression of emotional feelings. Inuzoagba (1982), colour: simply the decomposition of white light, which is composed of the seven colours in the spectrum red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. When we pass a ray of light through a glass prism, it breaks in to the six primary and secondary colours.

Statement of Problems

This paper attempts to x- ray the definition of colour and classification with their related meanings before going to the practical application in the areas of painting, graphic design, interior design and fashion design.

Objective of the Study

The study will determine the colour usage by an ordinary person, the attitude of the artist toward the use of colour in the areas of painting, graphic design, interior design and fashion design. Also there are classifications and meaning of colours.

Colour Theory and Classification

Colour type is usually referred to as a hue, Birren (1969) opined that colour Constance whether mechanistic, psychological or a combination of both is a fundamental of the highly complex role played by the mind in its response to the incomplete visual information such techniques offer. Basically, colour can be classified in to two major categories namely Primary and Secondary colour while others are tertiary, complementary, harmonious, and intermediate.

Primary Colour: - Primary colour are colour that cannot be gotten through the mixture of pigment in other to match a very large number of colour appreciable by human colour vision. The primary colours are red, yellow and blue.

Secondary Colour: - This is a mixture of two Primary colours in equal quantity. The result produces the term secondary colour. The secondary colour are orange, blue, and violet.

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Complementary Colour: - This simply means colour that do not agree with each other on the colour wheel. The colour is directly opposite each other. The theory has been formulated by artist. For instance, blue has orange which is getting from the mixture of yellow and red and yellow has violet which is the combination of red and blue.

Harmonious Colour: - These are the colours that easily agree with each other on the colour wheel. The mixture of the colours produces another colour which stands between the two colours and appeal to the visual senses hence the colours are easily blended to give a different hue. For example yellow and green, blue and violet, red and violet, blue and green, yellow and orange.

Tertiary Colour:- When two secondary colour are mixed, the resulting colour is known as tertiary colour. Tertiary yellow is smoky yellow, tertiary blue is slate blue and tertiary red is the colour of old red bricks. Example of tertiary colours, tertiary yellow is a mixture of green and orange. Since green is a mixture of blue and yellow and red the result colour will be predomination yellow with some purple from red and blue. This purple will neutralize part of the yellow, giving yellow grey.

Intermediate Colour:- When a Primary and neighboring secondary colour are mixed, an intermediate hue results. In appearance the intermediate colour is half way between the two colours. The six intermediate hues are: yellow green, blue-green, blue- purple, red- orange, and yellow –orange.

Principles of Colour Harmony: - It is important for any artist or designer to have knowledge of the fundamentals of colour harmony. This will guide him to create beautiful colour combination and save him from unnecessary mistakes.

Harmony of Adjacent or Analogous Colour: Colour that lie side by side in the colour wheel are adjacent or analogous colour.

Harmony or Complementary:-Using equal intensities of complementary and in equal will be extremely unpleasant, but if we partly neutralize one of them, it enrich and strengths it opposite, forming one of the best harmonies of colours.

The Three Properties of Colour: - Colour expert have distinguished the three qualities common to every colour. They are hue, value and intensity (chrome).

Hue of a Colour: - Is its basic colour identify. We define hue when we call it violet, blue green, yellow, orange, red orange, red-purple and so on. But names like brown, olive, grey and pink are not hues because they are basic colours more or less neutralized.

Value of a Colour: - Means it is lightness or darkness. Sometime this is called its brightness when compared to white. We can increase the value of a colour by adding white, and the lighter or higher value produced by adding white is called the tint of a colour. The darker or lower value produced by black is called “shade”, colour values are described as tones.

Intensity or Chrome of Colour: - It's related purity or brilliance, its freedom from neutralizing factors, e.g. bright red or dull green. A colour entirely free from neutral elements is called saturated; a pink made by adding white to red is brighter than the original red, but less in tense because its proportion of pure colour is smaller

Colour Behavior: - One may described colour as” warm or cool” depending on how this colour stimulates us psychologically.

Warm Colour: - Red, Yellow and Orange referred to as bright colours. They show heat and light. They tend to advance or more forward in the sense that you can see it from a long distance, for example red, yellow, and orange.

Cool Colour: -Blues, green and navy blue, they have cooling effect psychologically. They tend to recede or move backward because they tend to be unclear from long distance.

Emotional Qualities of Colour or Symbols

White- gives a sensation of lightness, purity and gaiety.

Black- spreads gloom. It can be a symbol of mourning and death.

Blue- is a symbol for love and harmony.

Red- is used a danger signal or stop sign.

Yellow- is a symbol for joy and happiness it can also be a symbol of hope.

Orange- suggests sun light and anger. It has more personality than red.

Grey – it is also a neutral colour

Purple – it brighter than violet and it a “royal” hue it is best for depicting qualities of stateliness.

Green – reflects the in-between moments of stimulation, depression and emotion. It is cool and restful. Green can also be regard as a symbol of growth and life.

Religious symbolism of Colour:

White -symbol of light, Signifies, Purity, Joy an glory

Red- Symbol of fire and blood signifies charity.

Blue- Symbol of heaven; signifies truth.

Green- Symbol of nature signified the hope of internal life.

Purple- Symbol of sorrow and suffering.

Black- Symbol of death in most countries.

Meaning of colour in Heredity:

Yellow or Gold- signifies hour and loyalty

Silver or white- signifies faith and purity

Red- signifies bravery and courage

Blue- signifies piety and sincerity

Black signifies grief and sorrow

Green - signifies youth and hope

Purple - signifies high rank and royalty

Orange- signifies strength and endurance.

Colour Application and Methodology

Colour is a phenomenon through which feeling or emotions are expressed for the consumption of the viewers. The skillful use of colour helps the artist to give form interpretation or make a statement about his inner and outer world.

Katz(1935) observed that colour can be applied to induce an observer predictable responses of tranquility, excitement or deep anxiety. Colour is experienced as conveyor of feeling. In century many European and American artists have reaffirmed belief in the transmission of feeling through colour. In the application of colour on any piece of art work, one has to give due consideration for the concept, nature, relevancy and interpretation because colour serves as symbol or identity.

Painting Colour: - Are not just applied on that is the surface of a board canvas, or paper in a raw state directly from the bottle or tube. The colour has to be well mixed with other colour and perhaps toned with white and grey colour for softness and for the purpose of achieving colour mixing is called colour cooking ,since the rawness of the colour are achieve.

Doff (1971) affirmed that the application of the colour must be based on emotional decision with different brush strokes bearing in mind that the highest color must be never touched the darkest colour otherwise a chilly effect is created and mixed complementary colour must never be mixed or blended together but can best be super imposed to achieved control.

Graphic Design:- In making a suitable design it is vital that the graphic design totally understand the classed of colour and their related meaning on order to suit the message the intend to communicate with out loosing it is basic concept.

Carlsen (1965) observed that in the process of planning graphics design it is pertinent to consider certain factors such as the nature of the message that has to be conveyed, the way graphics marks or symbols will be interpretation by the receiver of the message or design the opportunities that exist for the production of the planning design either manual or industries colour application has a behind any design .Certain pairs of colour combination shows up more clearly than others black on yellow, green on white, red on white blue on white and black on white are good example.

Interior Design: - In decoration it is very important that the colour chosen colour scheme can inspire induce cheerfulness, encourage cleanliness and well being. Careful selection is use to make small room appear large and larger room more cosy: to brighten rooms or makes then rest full.

Fashion Design: - Has always had a great influence on people and it has been used symbolically. Dressing is fashion that reflect the beliefs and also to confirm in the social norm, customs and practice of the time”. The colour of our dress have great meaning to own belief because of the symbolism that colours represent in ones society. In modern day society, complete black dress associated with mourning and white as success or peace.

Conclusion

Colour as a concept has attracted the attention of every individual from the way it is perceived in its sensation and meaning. Although the definition of colour by scientists and artists appeared to be defferent, there is a consensus that light is a function of a colour and colour is the function light colour has really affected the emotional feeling of individual and consequently made and artist to be attached with a particular colour scheme for the expression of ideas depending on the concept and interpretation

Recommendations

Colour should be seen as light and pigment based on the definition given by scientist and artist respectively. Colour also depends on mechanistic and psychology played by the sensation produce in your eye by rays of form, which enable to classify them based on how they reflect. Colour has influence in our dressings which reflect on our beliefs, social norms, custom and practice of the time.

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