

2020-2021 WINTER CHALLENGE

Painting in a Colour Key.

Colour keys are usually described in terms of temperature: warm key or cool key. Warm colors (reds, yellows, oranges) bring to mind warm things – the sun or fire. Cool colors (blues, greens, purples) bring to mind cool things – a mountain stream or cool grass.

According to artist John McDonald, “To paint in a color key is to paint with a limited range of hues, with one hue dominating and all others relating to it. ...A color key can give your paintings more power and more impact.” In a cool light warm colours appear as neutrals and in a warm light cool colours will appear as neutrals. Working in a color key we can create the illusion of the color of a light source, emphasize a mood, establish colour harmony, and work with more sophisticated and subtle colors.

There are an assortment of articles on the internet about colour keys that you can look at. To see John McDonald’s complete article with examples follow this link:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5132270de4b03f8a261c246b/t/5db1988ab4f7c80b657126b6/1571920024148/Newsletter+-+Color+Keys.pdf>

The challenge is as follows; choose a colour key, either warm or cool and create a new work of art in that key. Explain what you are trying to accomplish in the artwork, for example whether you are showing the colour of the light source or trying to create a mood (or both) and provide a list of colours used.

Your piece may be done in any style, any medium, any size, any type of surface. The challenge is due Friday February 12th, 2021.