

Art at home!

Elements of Art: Value Scales

Value is one of the seven elements of art, and refers to the lightness or darkness of a color. We visually process values based on how much light there is. Understanding how light affects what we see is an important skill to help us recreate light and dark accurately on paper. This is why value scales are so important. They allow the artist to understand the range of values for a scene, person or object. A great example of both value and a value scale comes from the ASU Art Museum Art in Focus collection. It is Georgia O'Keeffe's 1930 painting entitled "Horse's Skull on Blue." The blue cloth and the skull both have a range of dark and light values which helps the scene appear realistic and three-dimensional.

This activity shows you how to easily make a value scale. Let's get started!

Materials:

- Paper.
- Pencils.
- Colored pencils.
- If painting: non-toxic paint, cup of water, paint palette and brush.
- Optional: scissors and hair dryer.

How to:

Working with colored pencils:

1. Gather materials.
2. Lightly draw a long rectangle with a pencil, and evenly split it into seven boxes.
3. Label the boxes 1–7 beneath the boxes. Each number represents the number of times you will color in each box.
4. Cut excess paper off if you want.
5. Lightly shade all the boxes with a pencil or colored pencil.
6. Then, lightly shade boxes 2–7, leaving the first box as is.
7. Color boxes 3–7, and continue to shade in the boxes in this manner until done.

Working with paint:

1. Gather materials.
2. Lightly draw a long rectangle with a pencil, and evenly split it into seven boxes.
3. Label the boxes 1–7. Each number represents the number of times you will paint over each box.
4. Cut off excess paper if you want.
5. Choose one color.
6. To get a lighter value of the color, make your mixture with more water than paint.
7. Paint all the boxes and let them sit until dry, or you can speed up the process with a hair dryer.
8. Paint boxes 2–7, leaving the first box as is, and let dry.
9. Paint boxes 3–7 and let dry. Continue painting the boxes in this manner until done.

That's it! Practice making value scales in various colors with both pencils and paint. Value scales can help you know what value to choose when making three-dimensional artwork.

Please share your work with us on social media [@asuartmuseum](https://twitter.com/asuartmuseum)!



Safety:

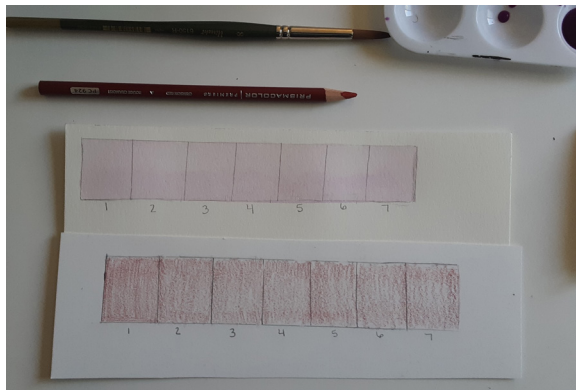
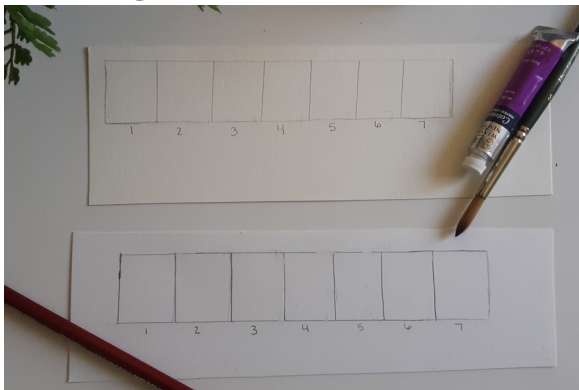
Make sure paint is non-toxic for kids.

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Preparation:



Making the Value Scale:



Additional Links:

<https://thevirtualinstructor.com/Value.html>

<https://www.thedrawingsource.com/value-scale.html>

<https://www.georgiakoeffe.net/the-horse-skull-on-blue.jsp>