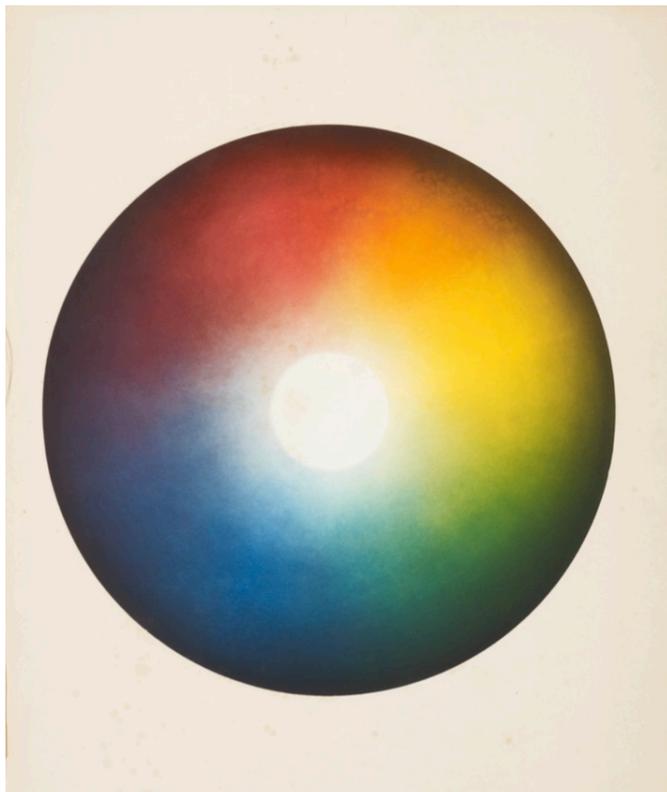


# Journey into Color



This seminar will explore color through the lenses of science, history, the arts, nature, and culture. There are many intriguing aspects to color. From physics, physiology, psychology, color theory, the historical origins of paints and dyes, to color and gender, optical illusions, commerce, and crayons, there's something for everyone in this seminar.

Each participant will create and give 25-30 minute presentation on a color-related topic. Any format is acceptable, such as lecture, PowerPoint presentation, demonstration, storytelling, or facilitated group discussion.

**Moderators:** Jessie Tropp has moderated LIR seminars on varied topics, including Textiles, Plastics, and Idioms. As for color, none of the walls in her home are white, and hand-dyed yarn is her favorite colorful indulgence. A first-time moderator and former librarian, Martha Cohen has dabbled in art for over 30 years, exploring collage, jewelry-making, needle-felting, mixed media assemblage, zentangles and encaustic painting.

**Resources are on page 2, Topic suggestions are on page 3.**

**Resources:** (There is no required reading for this seminar)

- Color Matters: [colormatters.com](http://colormatters.com), a great source for inspiration
- The Captivating Invention of Color, a TED talk by Carolyn Purnell, who shares the fascinating history of color. <https://youtu.be/QxGAofhYi7M>

Most of these **books** are available at local libraries or through CWMARS.

- The Secret Lives of Color, Kassia St. Clair: Through exploring over 60 individual colors, St. Clair offers a unique study of human civilization.
- Secret Language of Color: Science, Nature, History, Culture, Beauty, Joann and Ariele Eckstut
- Color: A Natural History of the Palette, Victoria Finlay
- Bright Earth: Art and the Invention of Color, Philip Ball
- Full Spectrum: How the Science of Color Made Us Modern,
- Chromatopia: An Illustrated History of Color, David Coles
- The Color Revolution, Regina Lee Blaszczyk, MIT press, 2012, about the relationship of color and commerce
- Color: A Visual History from Newton to Modern Color Matching Guides, Alexandra Loske,
- Through the Language Glass: Why the World Looks Different, Guy Deutscher, Picador
- Author Michel Pastoureau has several books on the history of individual colors

For fun:

- Sacré Bleu: A Comedy d'Art by Christopher Moore (a snarky tongue in cheek comedic novel about Toulouse-Lautrec and Van Gogh, and the ultramarine pigment used in paints; especially enjoyable in audiobook form.)

**Some topic ideas:** (feel free to come up with your own)

- Physics of color (color as light)
- Physiology of color vision
- What it's like to be colorblind
- Psychology of color
- Color systems: the color wheels, etc
- Color theory: Hue, chroma, saturation, value, tone, shade, tint
- Color formats (CMYK vs RGB)
- Color standardization
- Milton Bradley and color standards
- Isaac Newton's Opticks, a study of the nature of light and color
- Goethe's Theory of Colors, on human color perception
- Colorants overview: what are pigments, paints, dyes, and inks.
- Colorants: pick one or more to cover in depth
- Colored glass
- The Vantablack Controversy: Anish Kapoor vs. Stuart Semple
- Color and gender
- The naming of colors
- Color as property: branding, trademarks, etc
- Color forecasting
- Color and Fashion
- Color and beauty
- Color in different cultures
- Crayola
- Color in art (too many subtopics to list!)
- Josef Albers and the optical effects of color interactions
- Pick a color to talk about (see St. Clair's book for ideas)
- Color photography
- Color in literature
- Color Music: Louis-Bertrand Castel and his attempts to turn Color into music
- Color in food
- Color in nature
- Colorful animals/ color tricksters