

## Spencer Art Reference Library

### Library Guide

#### Color! Theories and Histories of Color

Resource List | December 1, 2007

The following Bibliography is a selection of works about color theory and history. Color theory is the study of color from an art-making perspective. Color theory includes how colors interact with each other, how people see color, and more. The history of color is similar but different in that it concentrates on how people thought about color in the past, and how the symbolic meanings associated with different colors have changed over time. Below is a selection of representative works from both approaches. The display includes some facsimile copies of classic works of color theory, such as Josef Alber's *Interaction of Color* and Johannes Itten's *The Elements of Color*. Unless otherwise noted, the books listed below are in the library stacks collection.

To explore the subject of color theory and history further, please contact the reference staff at the Spencer Art Reference Library (telephone: 816-751-1216). Library hours and services are listed on the Museum's website at [www.nelson-atkins.org](http://www.nelson-atkins.org)

Selected by: Roberta Wagener | Library Assistant, Public Services

#### **Color Theories**

1. *Interaction of Color revised and expanded edition.*

Author: Albers, Josef.

New Haven & London: Yale University Press,  
2006.

Spencer Art Reference Library

Call No.: ND 1489 .A43 2006

2. *The Elements of Color: A Treatise on the Color System of Johannes Itten Based on His Book The Art of Color, edited and with a forward and evaluation by Faber Birren.*

Author: Itten, Johannes and Faber Birren.

Translated by Ernst van Hagen

New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company,  
1970.

Spencer Art Reference Library

Call No.: ND 1493 .I88 I88 1970

3. *The Principles of Harmony and Contrast of Colors and Their Applications to the Arts.*

Author: Chevreul, M.E. Revised edition with a special introduction and a newly revised commentary by Faber Birren  
West Chester.: Schiffer, 1987.

Spencer Art Reference Library

Call No.: ND 1488 .C46 1987

4. *Color Choices: Making Sense Out of Color Theory.*

Author: Quiller, Stephen.

New York: Watson/Guptill Publications,  
2002.

Spencer Art Reference Library

Call No.: ND 1490 .Q54 C64 2002

5. *Color Codes: Modern Theories of Color in Philosophy, Painting and Architecture, Literature, Music and Psychology.*

Author: Riley, Charles A. II.  
Hanover: University Press of New England, 1995.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: NX 650 .C676 R56 1995

6. *Colour: Communication in Architectural Space.*

Author: Meerwein, Gerhard.  
Switzerland: Birkhauser Verlag AG, 2007.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: NK 2115.5 .C6 M4413 2007

7. *Color Ordered: A Survey of Color Order: Systems from Antiquity to the Present.*

Author: Kuehni, Rolf G.  
Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
On Order

### **History of Color**

8. *Blue: The History of a Color.*

Author: Pastoureaux, Michel.  
Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2001.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: N 7432.7 .P37 2001

9. *Color: A Natural History of the Palette.*

Author: Finlay, Victoria.  
New York: Ballantine Books, 2002.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: N 7432.7 .F56 2003

10. *Colour and Meaning: Art, Science and Symbolism.*

Author: Gage, John.  
London: Thames and Hudson, 1999.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: NX 650 .C678 G33 1999

11. *History of Color in Painting.*

Author: Birren, Faber.  
New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: ND 1489 .B585

12. *Colors Demonic and Divine: Shades of Meaning in the Middle Ages and After.*

Author: Pleij, Herman  
Translated by Diane Webb.  
New York: Columbia University Press, 2004.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: ND 141 .P64 2004

13. *Color and Culture: Practice and Meaning from Antiquity to Abstraction.*

Author: Gage, John.  
Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1993.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
ND 1488 .G34 1993

14. *Mauve: How One Man Invented a Color that Changed the World.*

Author: Garfield, Simon.  
New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2001.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: TP 140 .P46 G37 2001

15. *Harnessing the Technicolor Rainbow: Color Design in the 1930s.*

Author: Higgins, Scott.  
Austin: University of Texas Press, 2007.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: TR 853 .H54 2004

### **General Works**

16. *Color in Art.*

Author: Gage, John.  
London: Thames and Hudson, 2006.  
World of Art series  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Collection: Reading Room  
Call No.: N 7432.7 .G34 2006

17. *Colors: What They Mean and How to Make Them.*

Author: Varichon, Anne.  
Translated by Toula Ballas.  
New York: Abrams, 2006.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: NX 650 .C676 V37 2006

18. *Colorful World.*

Author: Gallienne, Amadine Guisez.  
London: Thames and Hudson, 2005.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: N 7432.7 .G35 2005

19. *Colors of the World: The Geography of Color*.  
Author: Lenclos, Jean-Philippe and Dominique Lenclos.  
New York, London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2004.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: NA 2795 .L46 2004

20. *Feast of Color: The Merzbacher-Mayer Collection*.  
Author: Bezzola, Tobia.  
Zurich: Kunsthau Zurich, 2006.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: ND 195 .F43 2006

21. *The Shape of Colour: Excursions in Colour Field Art, 1950–2005*.  
Author: Moos, David.  
Toronto: Art Gallery of Toronto, 2005.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: N 6512.5 .C6 S53 2005

22. *Dimensional Color*.  
Author: Swirnoff, Lois.  
New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2003.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No.: ND 1495 .P8 S95 2003

23. *Chromophobia*.  
Author: Batchelor, David.  
London: Reaktion Books, 2000.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: NX 650 .C676 B37 2000

24. *I See Blue*.  
Author: Canepa, Maxmillian.  
Hamburg: Edel Classics, 2007.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
CANEPA MAXIMILIAN TR 647 .C346 I84  
2004

25. *The Hidden Sense: Synesthesia in Art and Science*.  
Author: Van Campen, Cretien.  
Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
On Order

### **Online Resources**

*Fashion in Colors*. December 9, 2005–March 26, 2006. Home page Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum. 19 November 2007.  
<[http://cooperhewitt.org/EXHIBITIONS/fashion\\_in\\_colors/](http://cooperhewitt.org/EXHIBITIONS/fashion_in_colors/)>.

Ford, Janet Lynn. *Color Theory Tutorial by Worqx.com*. 1998–2007. 9 November 2007.<<http://www.worqx.com/color/index.htm>>.

Morton, J.L. *Color Matters*. 1995–2007. 9 November 2007.  
<<http://www.colormatters.com/entercolormatters.html>>.