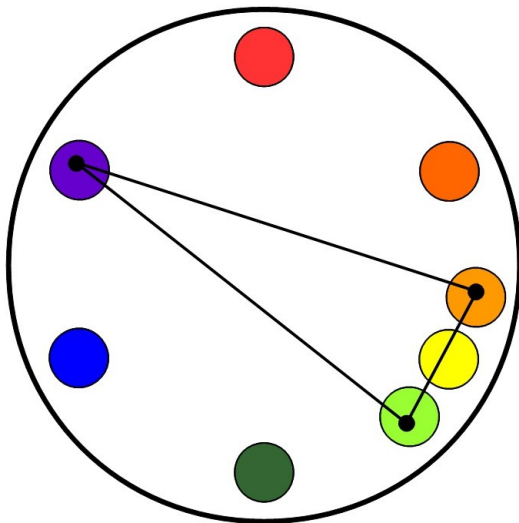




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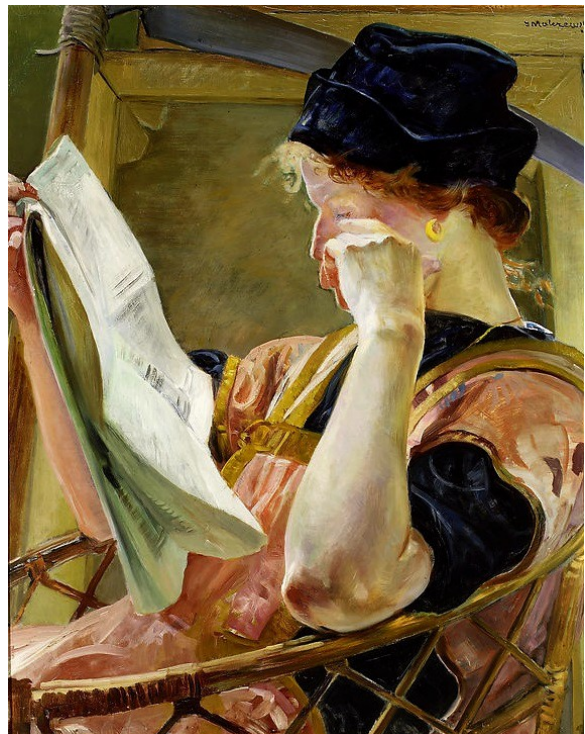
Ask the Expert: Split-complementary Color Schemes



A split-complementary scheme creates a rich, full-palette effect with just a few colors. Achieving harmonious balance is easy with split complements.

Depending on the colors selected, a split-complementary triad can support strong value contrast (e.g. yellow paired with red-violet and blue-violet) or a subtle, mid-value range to emphasize glowing color (e.g. red paired with blue-green and yellow-green).

By mixing near-complements across the color wheel, it's possible to create a broad range of neutrals useful for naturalistic effects in observational painting. The result is a full range of warm-cool juxtapositions to create the impression of naturalistic light and shade.



1907 painting by Jacek Malczewski exhibits a split-complementary triad composed of yellow paired with blue-violet and red-violet

Questions? [Ask the Expert](#)

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