## Color Theory

Colors and color schemes

## What is Color?

- Color is what the eyes see when light of different wavelengths hits objects and reflects back.
- Color can influence how a viewer sees emotion or feeling in an artwork. Often color schemes are used to convey intent by the artist.


## Basic color wheel

- 12 colors based on the RYB Color Theory is: model (red, yellow, blue)

- Guidance to color mixing
- Color combinations
- Intentional use of color in art


## - 3 basic color groups:

- Primary


YELLOW UFFINAFY



Broadway Boogie Woogie by Piet Mondrian

by Andy Warhol

## - Warm and Cool

Cool colors are calm and soothing.
They tend to recede in space.


Warm colors are vivid and energetic. They tend to advance in space.

## Warm Color Scheme



Orange and Yellow by Mark Rothko

## Cool Color Scheme



The Japanese Bridge by Claude Monet

## - Monochromatic



One color using tints and shades.

Tints lighten a color by mixing with white.
Shades darken a color by mixing with black.

Blue Nude
by Pablo Picasso


## - Analogous Colors



The Sunflower
by Gustav Klimpt
Colors next to each other on the color wheel

Create harmony.
Often found in nature.


## - Complementary Colors

Colors opposite each other on


World AIDs Day by Keith Haring the color wheel.

High contrast is very vibrant.


## - Split Complementary



Right Bird Left
by Lee Krasner
One color plus the two adjacent to its complement.

Same visual contrast as complementary color scheme, but with less tension.


