

Capturing Color

Composition Lesson

Bellwork

Color Hunt!

Look around the classroom and find an object that represents a dominant color(*red, blue, yellow, etc*). Describe the object and it's color in a sentence. With two more sentences, explain how that color makes you feel and what mood it conveys.

Discuss with your neighbors and be prepared to share with the class.

Objective

Students will be able to:

- better understand compositional elements.
- incorporate compositional elements into their own photography.
- avoid neutrals, browns, blacks, and whites when trying to capture colors, so they should instead focus on only capturing pure colorful objects.
- In class and in this lesson are several color relationships based on color theory.
 - Students do not need to demonstrate or remember these but should use them to their advantage when finding or creating colorful shoots.

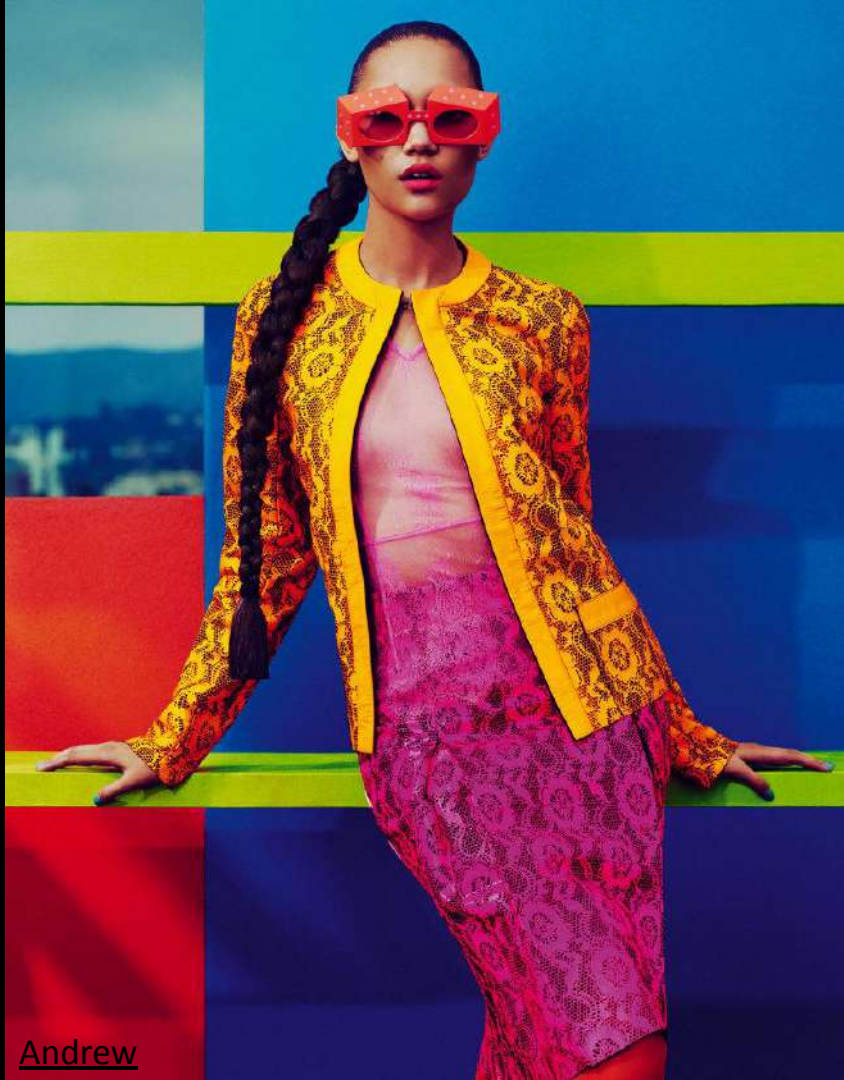


Color in the Wild

Capturing **color** in photography is all about noticing and choosing colors that stand out and grab **ATTENTION!** Here are some key things to keep in mind:

- Learn common color combinations and keep an eye out for them when you're shooting.
- Nature is full of color, but the challenge is framing your shot in a way that removes distractions and competing elements.
- You don't need a big budget to get great color—focus on finding interesting color relationships around you.
- Sometimes, the colors you want won't naturally appear in your environment, so get creative and make the most of what's available.
- When possible, try to avoid neutral colors—they can make your image feel less vibrant and exciting.

The key is to train your eye to see **color** everywhere and use it to tell a story in your photos!



To summarize...

Avoid this



Photograph this



Both photos are not great. But you can see the difference in colors. Pure colors are what we're after, not neutral colors like grey or black. Avoid neutral colors and try to isolate pure colors.

Color Theory

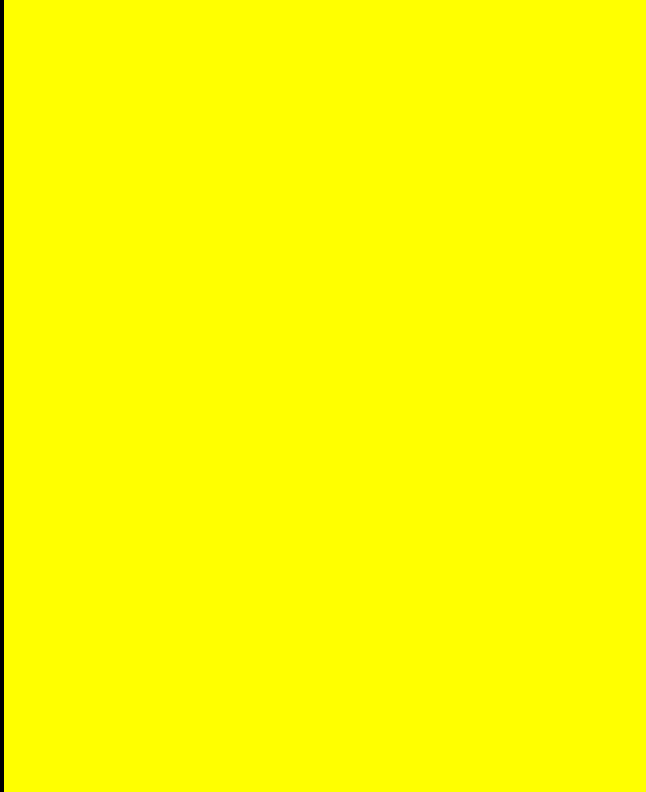
1. True color
2. Color wheel
3. Color value scale
4. Complementary color pairs
5. Simultaneous contrast
6. High contrast colors
7. Vibrating colors

Again, do you need to remember all of this?

NO

But you must *USE* these color relationships to your advantage.

What color is this?



Color Names

Color group name

Yellow

Corporate color name

Canary yellow (*Meaningless*)

Additive color versus subtractive

Yellow light versus Yellow ink/paint

Pigment color

Arylamide or Azo yellow

PY3

Process color- CMYK

%100 yellow of CMYK

Hex code

FFFF00

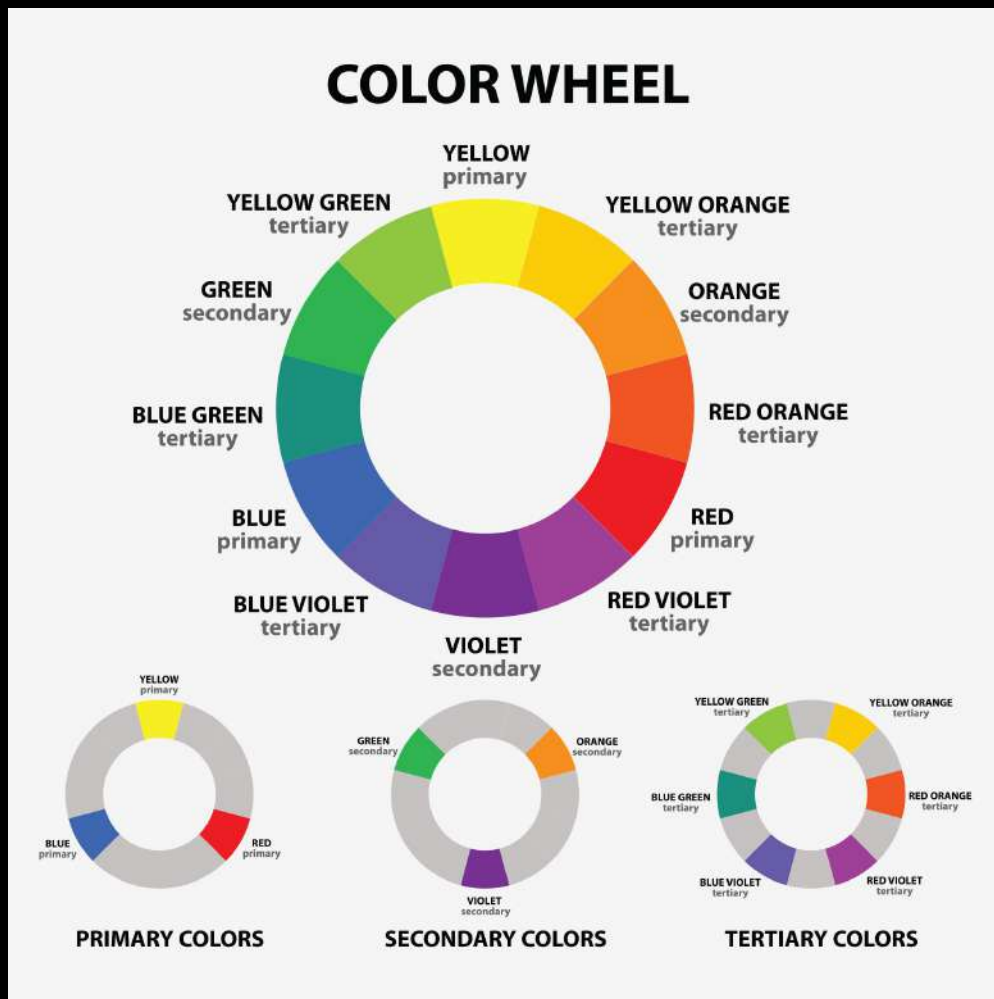
RGB color

R 255 G 255 B 0

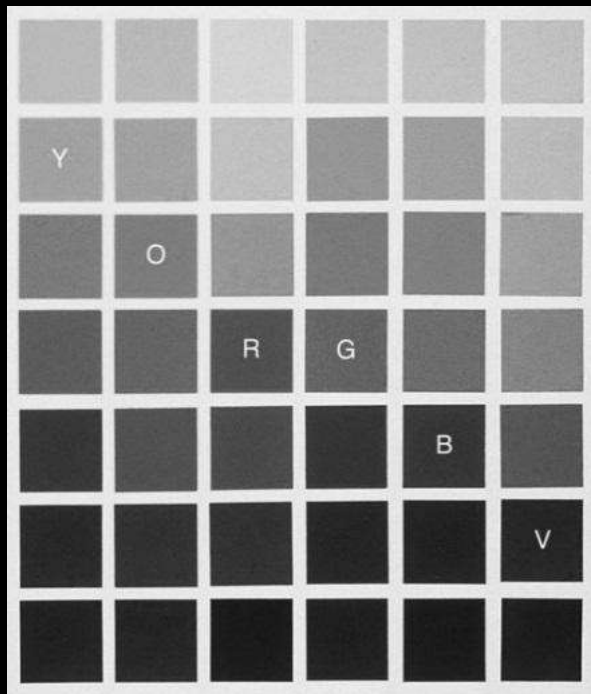
Color Wheel

A *color wheel* will contain

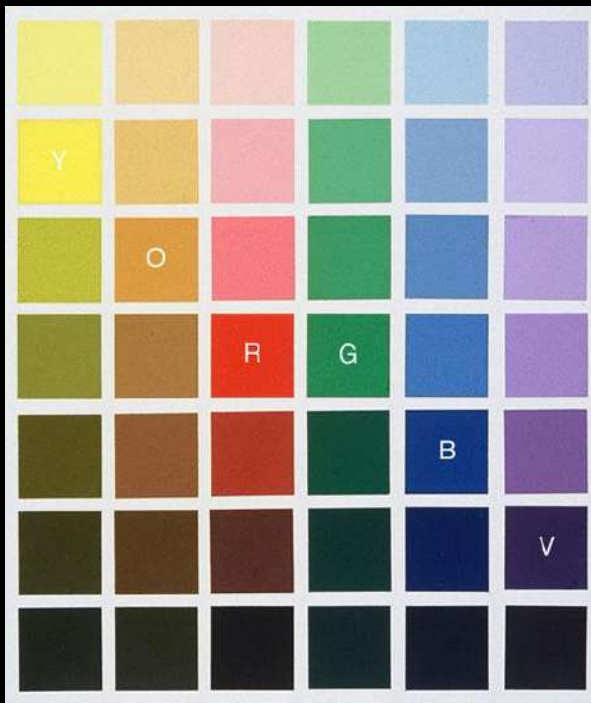
- All three primary colors
 - Red, Yellow, Blue
- All three secondary
 - Orange, Violet, Green
- All six tertiary colors
 - Yellow orange, Red orange, Red violet, Blue violet, Blue green, Yellow green



Color Value Scales



Your color value scale demonstrates the relative value of each color



10 images from the week in Nepal Skanda Gautam



Why does this work? What makes the color pop?

What does complimentary mean for Colors?

Complementary colors are pairs of colors that are **opposites** on the color wheel. When placed next to each other, they create strong contrast and make each other stand out.

Some common complementary color pairs are:

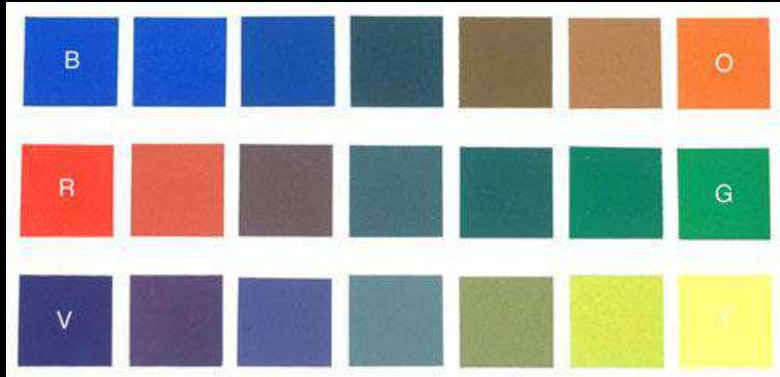
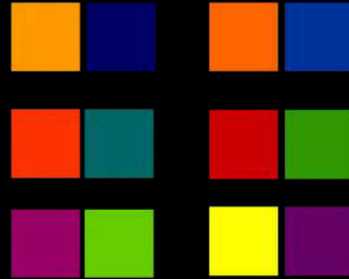
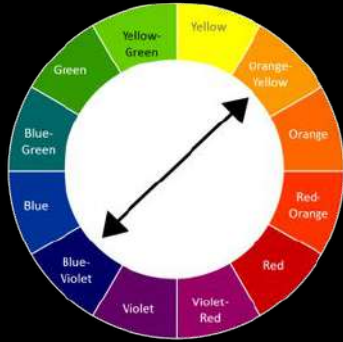
- **Red & Green**
- **Blue & Orange**
- **Yellow & Purple**

Using **complementary colors** in photography can make your images pop and feel more dynamic.

For example, think of a bright orange sunset against a deep blue sky or a red flower standing out against green leaves.

Complementary color Pairs

Complementary colors are opposite each other on the color wheel.

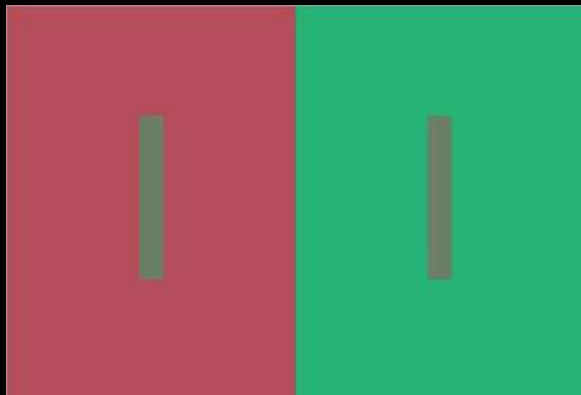


What are these colors? How do they create contrast?

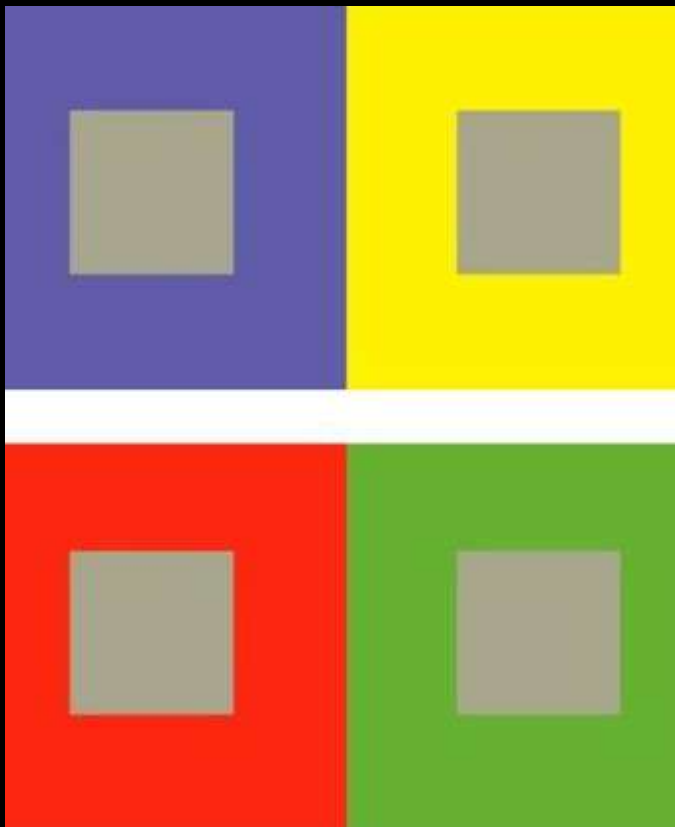
Simultaneous contrast

This principle highlights how surrounding color values and warmth create receding or advancing colors.

Colors surrounding neutrals or other colors change their color properties.



Are these greys the same?



Are these greys the same?



What about these reds?

Warm versus Cool

Warm colors, like **red**, **orange**, and **yellow**, are the colors of **fire**, **sunsets**, and **energy**.

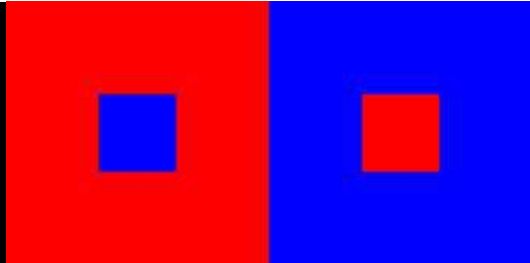
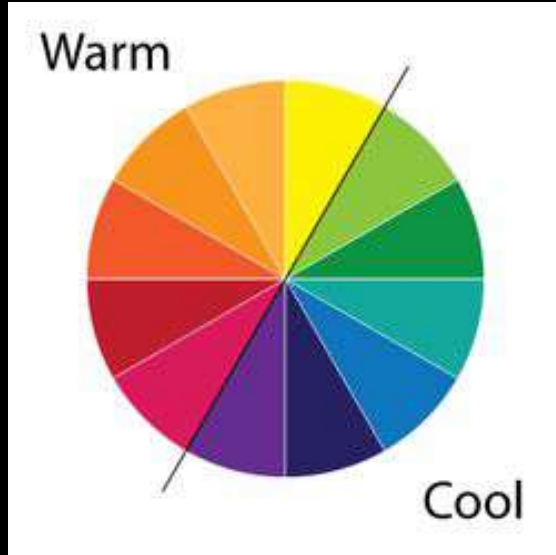
- *They tend to feel exciting, bold, and inviting, often creating a sense of warmth or intensity in a photo.*

Cool colors, like **blue**, **green**, and **purple**, are the colors of **water**, **forests**, and **shadows**.

- *They usually feel calm, relaxing, or even mysterious, giving photos a more soothing or moody vibe.*

Understanding warm and cool colors can help you set the mood of your images and make your compositions more visually interesting.

Qualities of Warm and Cool colors

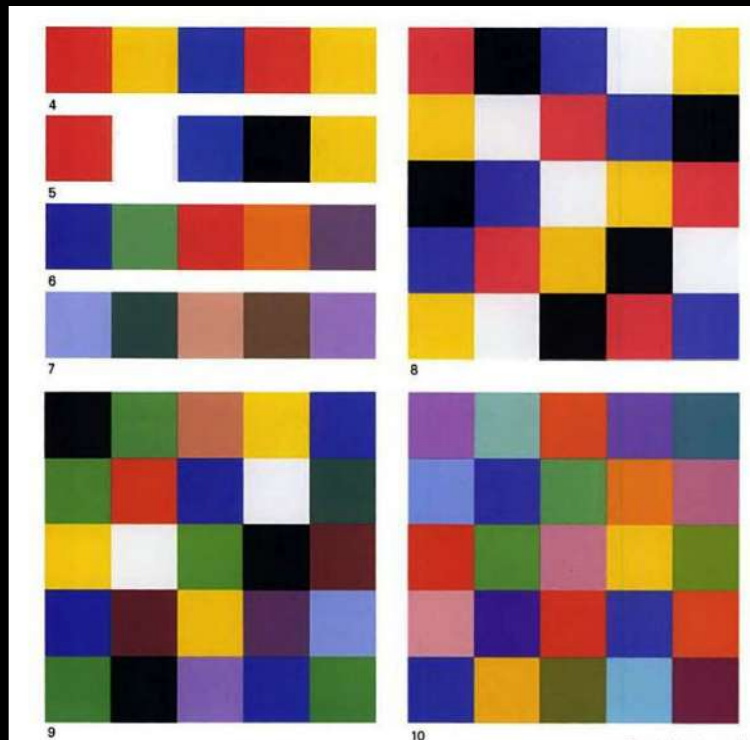


Breast Cancer Now- Ilka & Franz



What Advances, what Recedes?

The highest contrast comes from primary colors and black and white.



By decreasing the saturation and adding grey to these colors you decrease the contrast

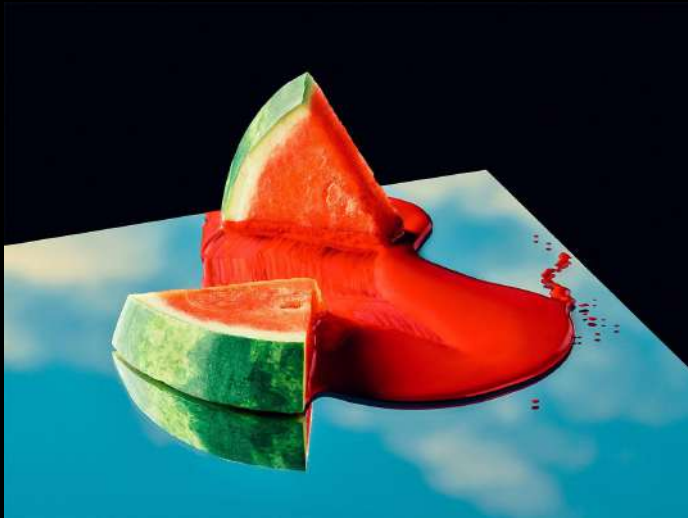
High Contrast Color Pairings



Which image has more contrast?

Vibrating color pairs

One should never use these color combinations on a screen unless you want to cause eye strain.



Westward Ryan Szulc

red/green	red on green	green on red
blue/orange	blue on orange	orange on blue
green/magenta	green on magenta	magenta on green
yellow/cyan	yellow on cyan	cyan on yellow
blue/magenta	magenta on blue	blue on magenta
orange/yellow	yellow on orange	orange on yellow (not so bad)
blue/green	green on blue	blue on green
purple/yellow	purple on yellow	yellow on purple

Tape On Me
Multiple
Owners

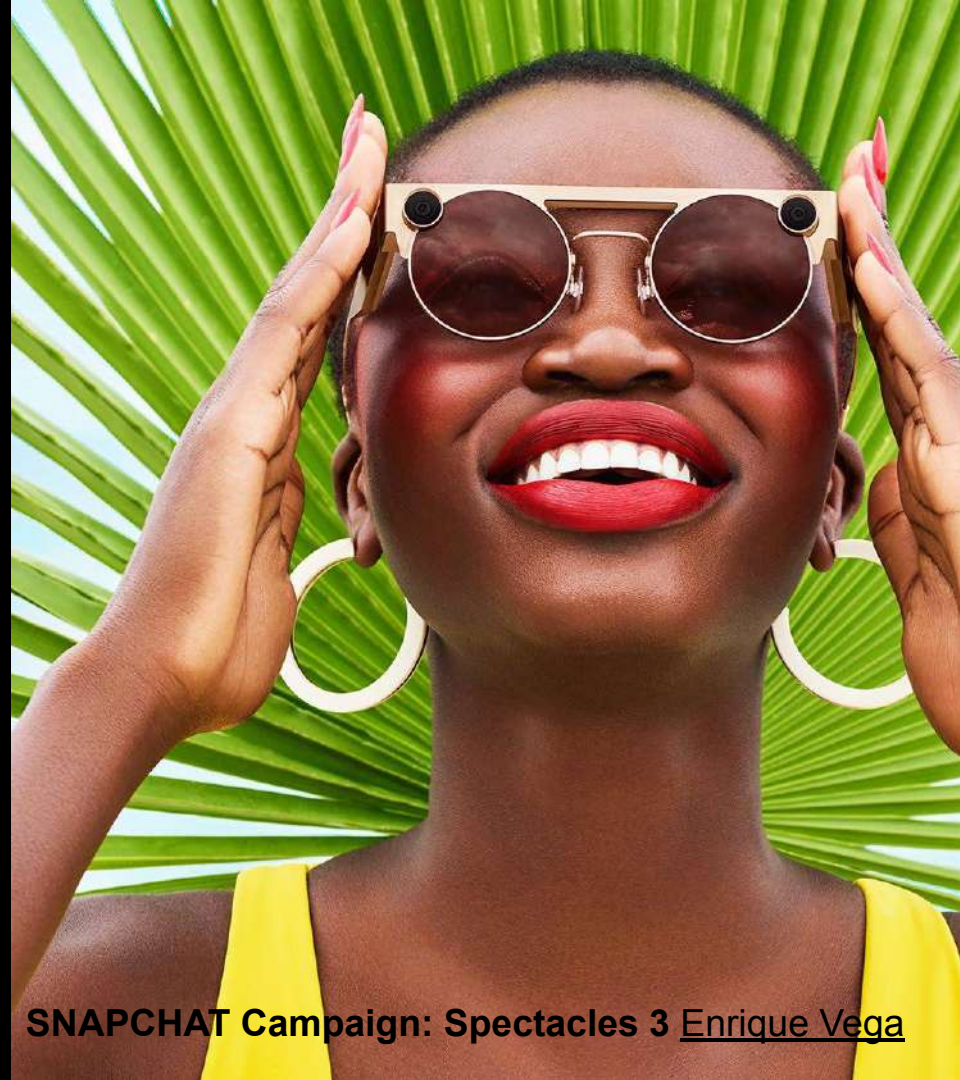


What did they
do to accent
the colors?



Tips for finding and making colorful photos

- **Make sure the scene is well lit**, intense bright light will ensure full rich color
- Light sources do not have to be perfect white light, colorful lights instantly add color to a scene
- We can use colored gels to cover the lights in class, these can be used to cover lights and cover the lens if needed
- **You can have your partner dress up in colorful clothes**
- **Find a colorful location**, a solid color backdrop, or purchase simple colorful sheets of poster board for backgrounds
- **Disposable table clothes, party favors and decorations, and wrapping paper are also cheap colorful items to use for a shoot**
- **We'll return to these concepts and tricks later as well.**



SNAPCHAT Campaign: Spectacles 3 Enrique Vega

Closure

What do you think about the colors you've been capturing and the colors that you will hopefully get to capture after this lesson? Will it be the same or different?

What do you think will be the most difficult part of capturing color?

Discuss with your neighbors, and be prepared to share with the class.