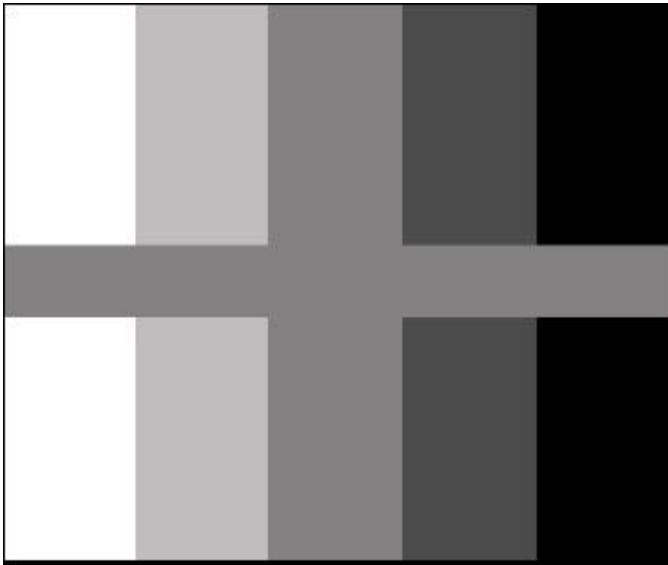


Chapter Four: *Combinations*

Question: What do key lime pie and a beautiful quilt have in common?

Answer: It's the COMBINATION of ingredients that makes them special.

My key lime pie recipe includes raw eggs, lime juice, sugar, and sweetened condensed milk. I don't want to eat any of those items alone. But, together they're fabulous! And so it is with color. The real impact of any color comes when it's used in combination with others. We've already gotten a taste of this with intensity.



Combinations

Even though this is a book about color, I can't overstate the importance of value. It is THE thing that determines the design on any artwork! This makes it - EXTREMELY important!

How dark is dark? How light is light? Obviously, there's no clear cut answer, because value is relative. It's the combination of values that make one area seem light and another dark. We assign terms like light and dark by comparing all the values to one another. Look at the gray horizontal stripe in the

value sketch. Can you see that it's darker on the left and lighter on the right? In reality, it's exactly the same color throughout. However, it SEEMS to change because we automatically compare it to the values around it.

It's pretty obvious that value is a major player in black and white artwork, like the simple sketch at right. The image is defined only by light and dark.





In the photo at left, you can see that the contrast between the dark crevices and the lighter rocks creates the design.

Now, look a bit closer. Part of the rock wall is in shadow and part is in sunlight. Cover each half, so you can see just the shady portion and then just the sunny portion. Notice how the changes in value contrast affect the clarity and drama of the image.

Look at the white fence, at right. Suppose you wanted to reproduce this fence with fabric, showing lots of detail. How many pieces of fabric would you need? Would they all be white? You'd need one or more gray fabrics, too, right?

The variations in value DEFINE the image.



At left is another example of black and white artwork.

This combination of black, white, and gray is very effective, even though it's completely without color.

Side note: This color combination is called Achromatic, which means "no color."

Winter Wolf
©Linda Schmidt

As color is added, value remains critical. This is evident in the images shown below.



Soldier's Path
©Holly Knott

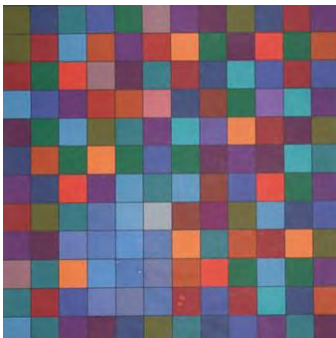
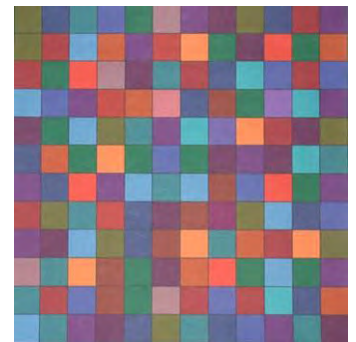


Notice, too, that contrasts in value always attract attention.

To learn a little more about what attracts your attention, quickly cover the two computer sketches below

Now, look at the sketch at right, and notice which squares stand out to you. The brighter ones? If so, you know it's because these colors are more intense.

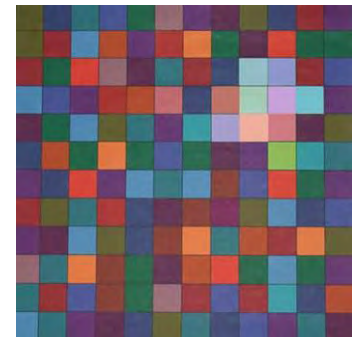
In the next image, a few of the blocks have been changed to a different color. Uncover the image, look for them, and notice how long it takes you to find them. (Keep the third image covered.)



In the final image, the value has been changed in a few blocks. Uncover the image, look for them, and notice how long it takes you to find them.

Which did you find faster, the color change or the value change?

Changes in value are much more attention getting than changes in color. It's just like you learned in chapter one: "Value does all the work and color gets all the credit!"



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