COLORS IN PROCREATE

ABOUT

Hi there! Thanks for picking up this book!

I'm Flo, a digital artist based in the Netherlands. I have always loved drawing, scribbling in my notes during classes when I was younger and always eager to learn as much as I could. About 12 years ago I found out about digital drawing and fell in love instantly!

I bought my first drawing tablet right away and started practicing. I have learned a lot since then and a few years ago I started sharing my art and knowledge online on Instagram and YouTube. That's probably how you found me!

I don't just have a passion for drawing and painting (mostly digital), but I also have a passion for teaching. Creating art can bring so much joy and it can be so relaxing. I love sharing that! That's why I have dedicated my life to teaching drawing and painting skills online!

Anyone can learn how to draw and I'm happy to be able to help with that!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?

It's pretty much the standard question that kids seem to ask. It shows the important role that colors play in our lives. Colors can have a great effect on our mood, feelings and emotions.

The emotions a color evokes can be personal, but there are also some effects of color that have a universal meaning. Warm colors for instance, like red, orange and yellow, can evoke feelings of warmth, but also feelings of anger. Cool colors like blue, purple and green are associated with feelings of calm, but also of sadness.

So, why do we artists care?

Using color in your artwork can be a powerful tool. It can make your artwork look more interesting and it can evoke specific feelings in your audience. Colors are part of the visual language that artists speak and can make a drawing or painting easier to understand.

In this eBook, I would like to dive deeper into color theory and how you can use it as an artist. We'll take a look at the color spectrum, primary, secondary and tertiary colors and how these colors can work together. They can create harmony and balance or give each other a boost. I will also show you how you can easily come up with color schemes in Procreate, making use of color Harmonies.
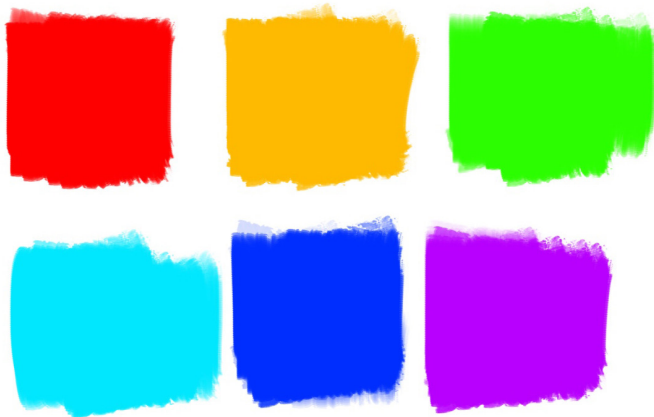
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HUE, VALUE, AND SATURATION

Every color you use in your artwork
has a hue, a value and a saturation.

So what are these?

HUE

The hue is what we ask for as kids, when we say "What's your favorite color?" The hue is the dominant wavelength of a color, it's a color in its purest form.

So a hue can be yellow, red, blue, green, etc.

VALUE

TINTS

TONES

The value refers to the lightness or darkness of a color.

When you add amounts of white to pure blue, you'll get **tints** of blue.

When you add amounts of black to pure blue, you'll get **tones** of blue.

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SATURATION

Lastly, a color has a certain saturation or intensity. When a color is 100% saturated, you're seeing the truest, purest form of that color. Colors with high saturation appear to be more vibrant and pure, while colors with a low opacity appear to be more washed out.

And what about opacity?

When creating digital art, we also use a certain opacity when painting with our digital brushes. The percentage of opacity tells us how transparent or opaque your brush stroke will be. A low opacity will give transparent strokes. Laying different transparent strokes on top of each other will result in a more opaque result though. When making digital art, you can control the opacity of your brush, of your layer, or both.

THE COLOR WHEEL

You have probably heard of the color wheel.
It's a great tool to get more insight in colors
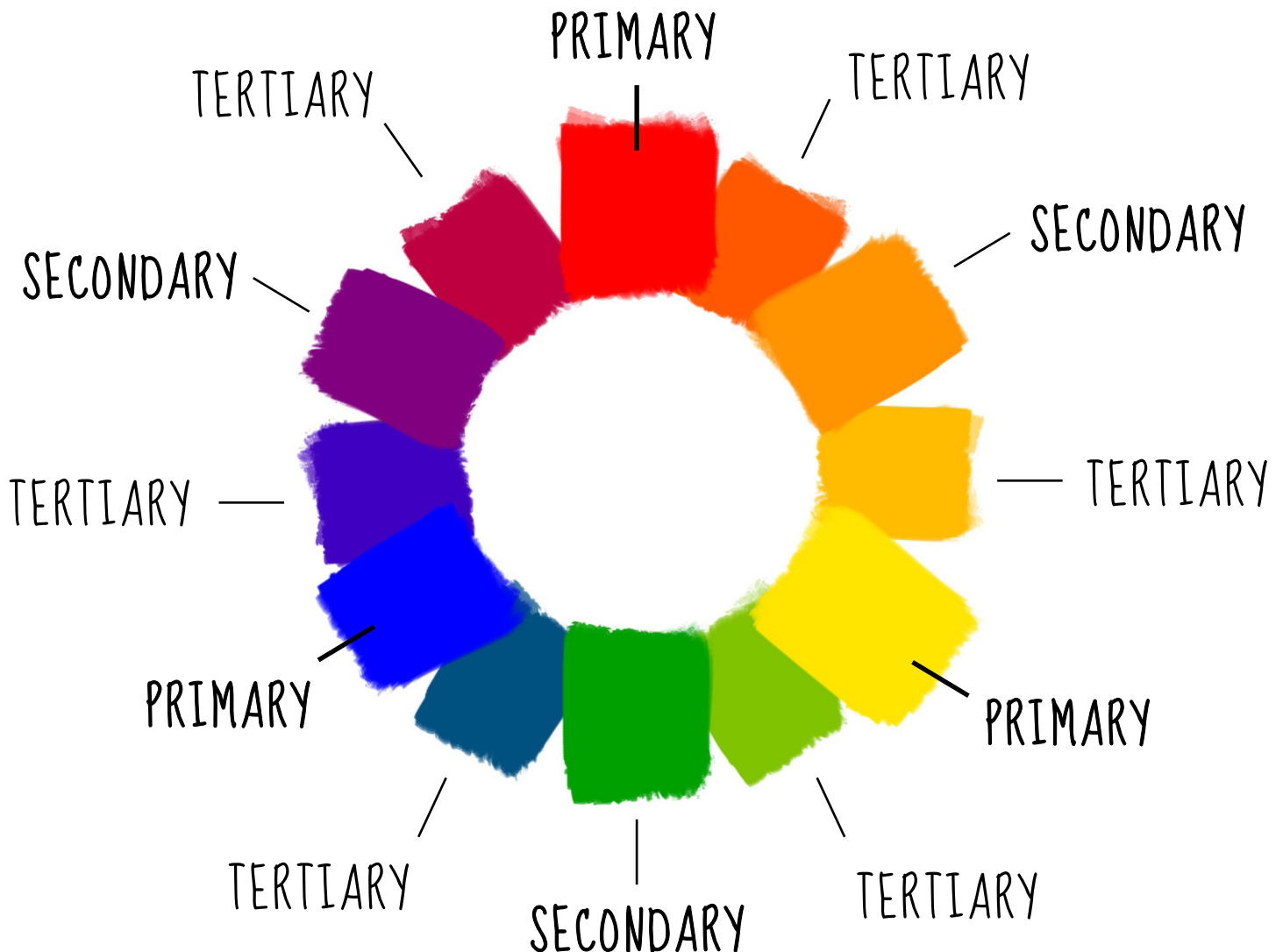and how they relate to each other.

In this basic color wheel you see the primary colors, the secondary colors and the tertiary colors. The primary colors are the purest colors, you can't create them by mixing other colors. You can mix the primary colors together to get all the other hues though.

Blue and yellow create the secondary color green, red and yellow create the secondary color orange and red and blue create the secondary color purple. When you mix the secondary colors with the primary colors, you'll get the tertiary colors.

Colors that are opposite on the color wheel are called complementary colors.

By playing with the color wheel, you can create some interesting effects in your artwork. Complementary colors can boost each other for example.

PRIMARY

TERTIARY

SECONDARY

TERTIARY

PRIMARY

TERTIARY

SECONDARY

TERTIARY

PRIMARY

TERTIARY

SECONDARY

TERTIARY

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COOL VS. WARM COLORS

We can split the color wheel in two sides, the warm colors and the cool colors. Warm colors are colors ranging from shades of red to yellow. These colors are also considered to be 'active' colors, it feels like they are coming towards you.

Cool colors on the other side range from shades of blue-green to blue-violet and also includes most shades of gray. These colors are considered to be 'passive' colors, they appear to be farther away. Cool colors can be very calming and relaxing. Warm colors often convey happiness and energy.
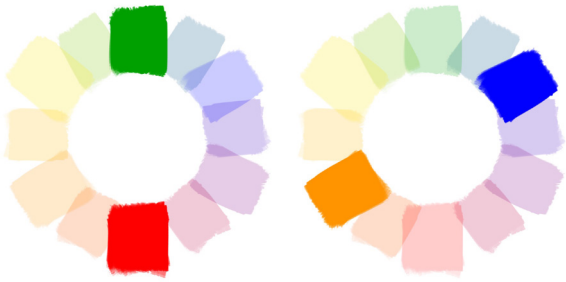
WARM

COOL

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PLAYING WITH COLORS
- COLOR HARMONIES -

You can play around with colors by using one of the six color harmonies. Using these will create visually pleasing images. The color wheel can help you find these harmonies.
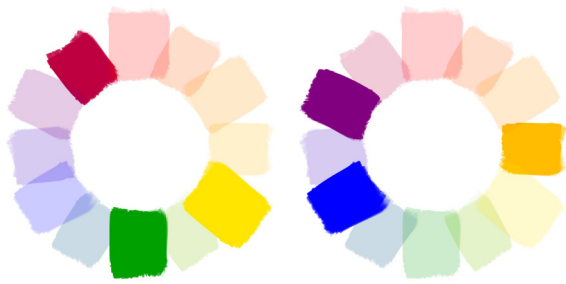
COMPLEMENTARY

Complementary colors are each others opposites on the color wheel. Using complementary colors creates high contrast in your image, but it can be challenging to pull off successfully. Using complementary colors is great when you want something to pop in your image, making your focal point stand out.
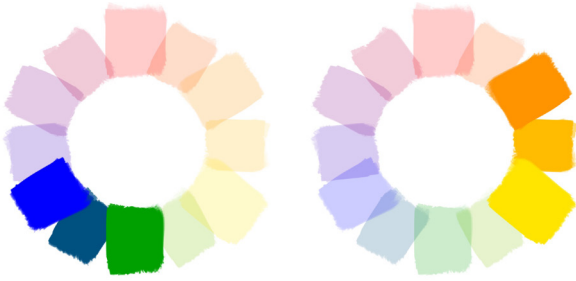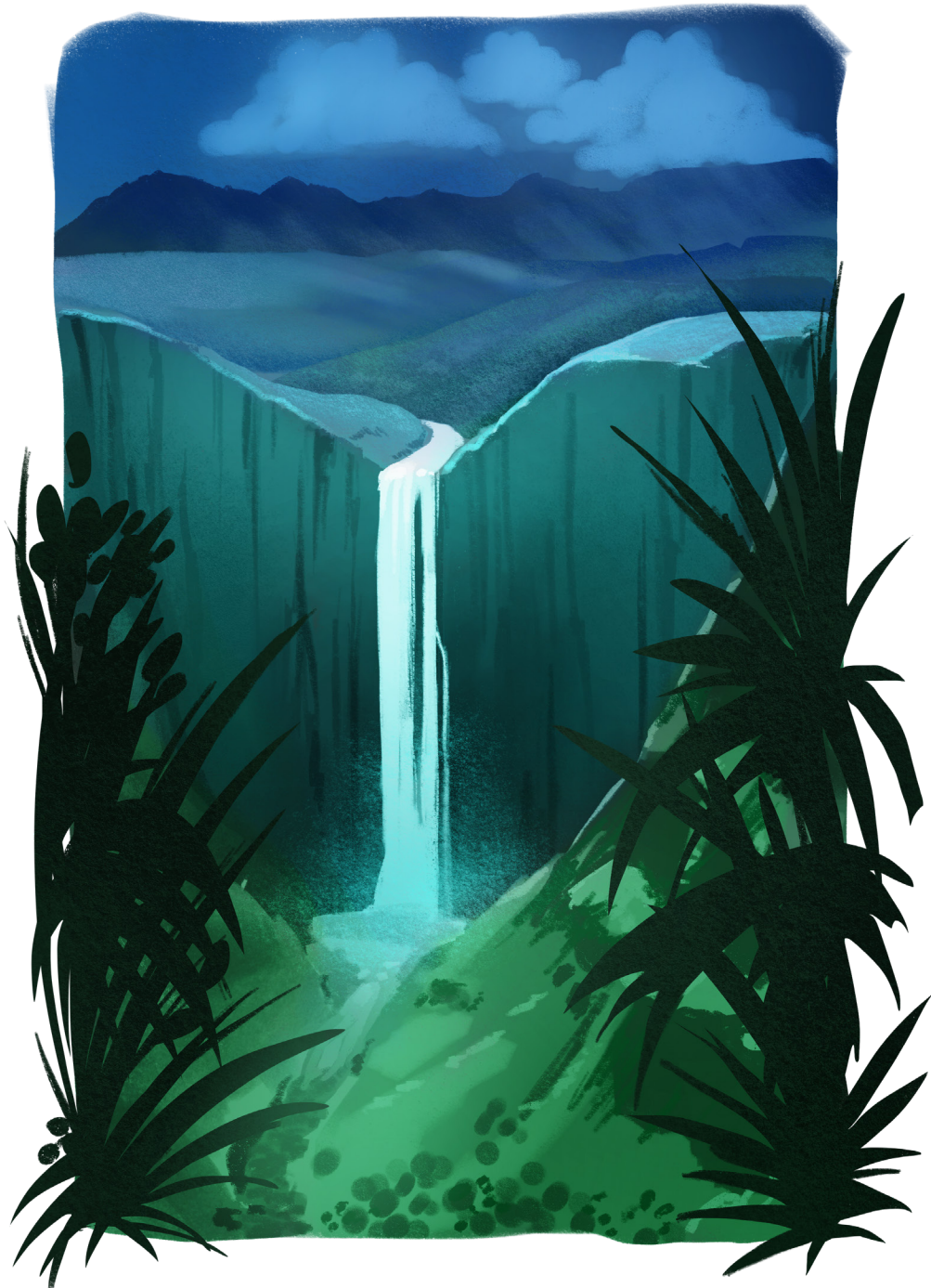
SPLIT COMPLEMENTARY

Like complementary colors, the split complementary color harmony uses colors that are opposite on the color wheel. But instead of using the colors that are direct opposites, it uses a base color and the two colors that are adjacent to the opposite color of this base color. Using a split complementary color harmony creates an impact but is not as flashy as the complementary color harmony.

ANALOGOUS

An analogous color harmony is much more calm to the eye than complementary color harmonies. It uses colors that are next to each other on the color wheel. It creates an almost monochromatic look. These look like color harmonies you'll find in nature. You can use analogous color harmonies to create calm images. When using the analogous color harmony, try sticking to either warm or cool colors.

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TRIADIC

Colors in a triadic color harmony are evenly spread over the color wheel. Like yellow, red and blue for instance. When using this color harmony, try letting one color dominate and use the other two colors as accents. You can use shades and tints of the colors to make your artwork appear more calm or you can go for fully saturated colors for a more vibrant and youthful look.
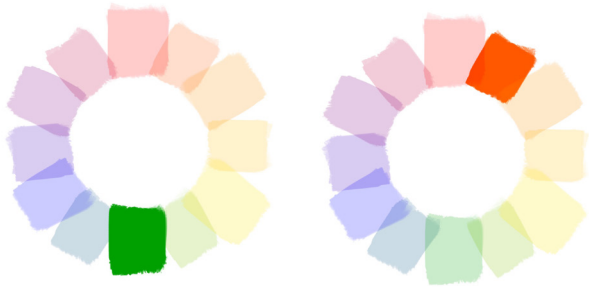
TETRADIC

The tetradic color harmonies can be split into two kinds, the square tetradic color harmony and the rectangular color harmony. These color harmonies use four colors of two complementary pairs. A color scheme using this harmony can be very eye catching and offers a lot of variety. It can also be hard to strike a balance though. Try using one of the colors as your main color and use the others for accents for example. Also, try to balance the warm and cool colors.

MONOCHROMATIC

When using a monochromatic color harmony, you only use one color, but with different shades and tints by adding white and black. This color harmony creates a sense of unity, but it can also look a bit boring when there's not enough contrast between the light and dark hues.
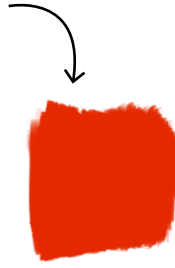

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COLORS AND EMOTIONS

The subject and the composition of your
artwork can evoke emotions in your viewer,
but the use of colors in your artwork can help
as well. So what colors should you use in your
art if you want to evoke certain emotions?

The meaning of a color and the emotion
it evokes is often subjective, but there
are also some effects that are universal.
Here's an overview of colors and the
effect they might have.

RED

Red often gives a feeling of warmth and is vibrant and intense. It can evoke feelings of love and comfort, but also of aggression, depending on the subject in your artwork. Red is also associated with passion and boldness, using red for a character in your artwork can give it as sense of power.

BLUE

This color is often associated with feelings of calm and serenity. On the other hand it can also be associated with loneliness and sadness. Blue is also known to boost creativity in individuals.

YELLOW

This color feels bright and intense, like the sun. It can evoke feelings of warmth and energy. On the other hand it can also be a color that induces irritation and aggression.

GREEN

The color green is associated with nature, it gives a feeling of calm, safety and luck. Green is also associated with jealousy and poison.

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PURPLE

This color evokes a sense of mystery, spirituality and imagination. Purple is also seen as a royal color, creating a sense of wealth.

ORANGE

Orange is a strong and energetic color, it feels bright, happy and uplifting. It can also seem too bright and overwhelming though. Orange is also associated with autumn and Halloween.

BLACK

Black is often used as a symbol of evil and in many cultures it is associated with death and mourning. This color also conveys power though and can appear sexy and mysterious.

WHITE

White often feels fresh and clean and conveys a sense of purity and peace, but in some cultures it's the color associated with death and mourning. In Western cultures the color is associated with weddings and hospitals. White is bright and can create a sense of space in your artwork, but on the other side, it can also appear cold and clinical.
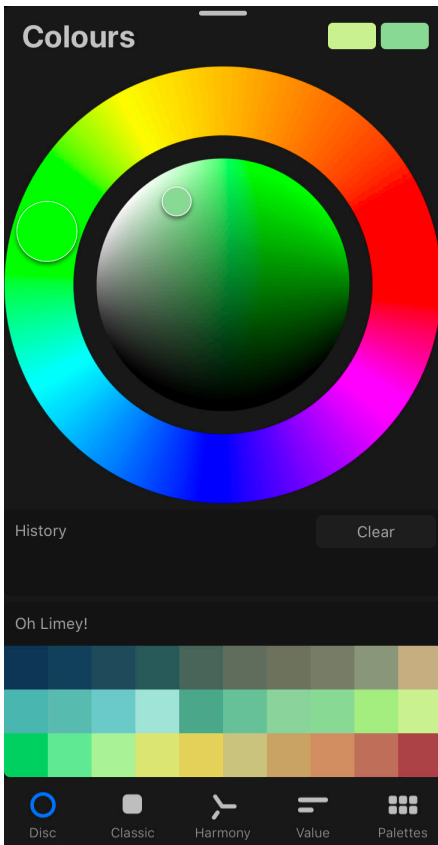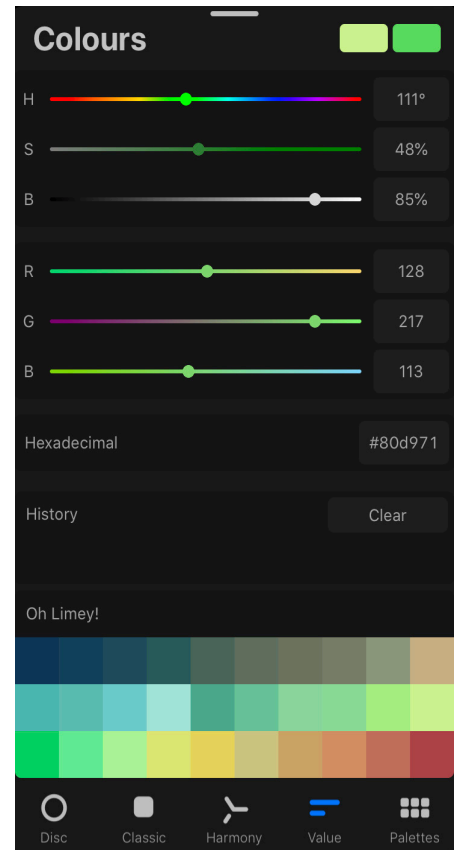
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COLORS IN PROCREATE

Picking colors that work well together might seem challenging, but luckily Procreate makes this a lot easier! Creating exciting color palettes is a breeze when you use the tools that are in the app.

The color menu can be easily found, all you have to do is click the colored dot in the upper right corner in the Procreate app. You can even detach your color menu and move it all around your canvas! You'll find five sub-menus in the color menu:
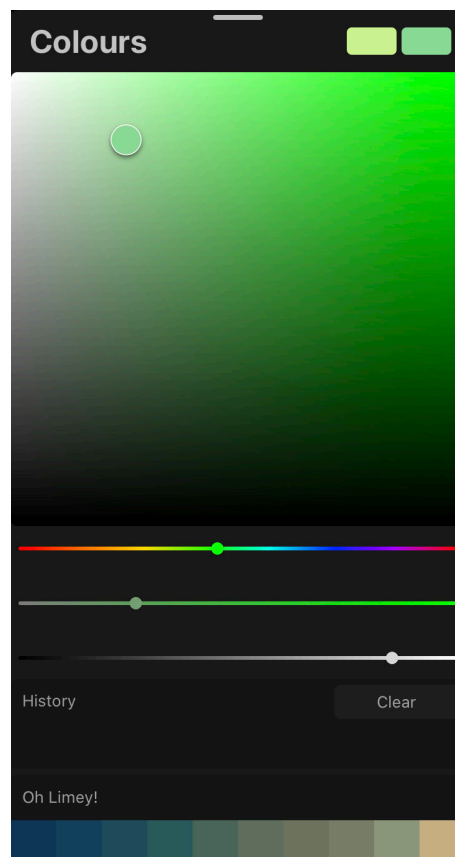

This part of the menu gives you the same options as the Disc, but instead of moving around the circle, you can use the sliders to adjust the hue. You can pick the brightness and saturation by using the sliders or by moving around the square.

CLASSIC

DISC

The Color Disc is a great way to easily pick colors, the outside of the disc shows all the hues and the inner circle lets you change the saturation and brightness of the hue.
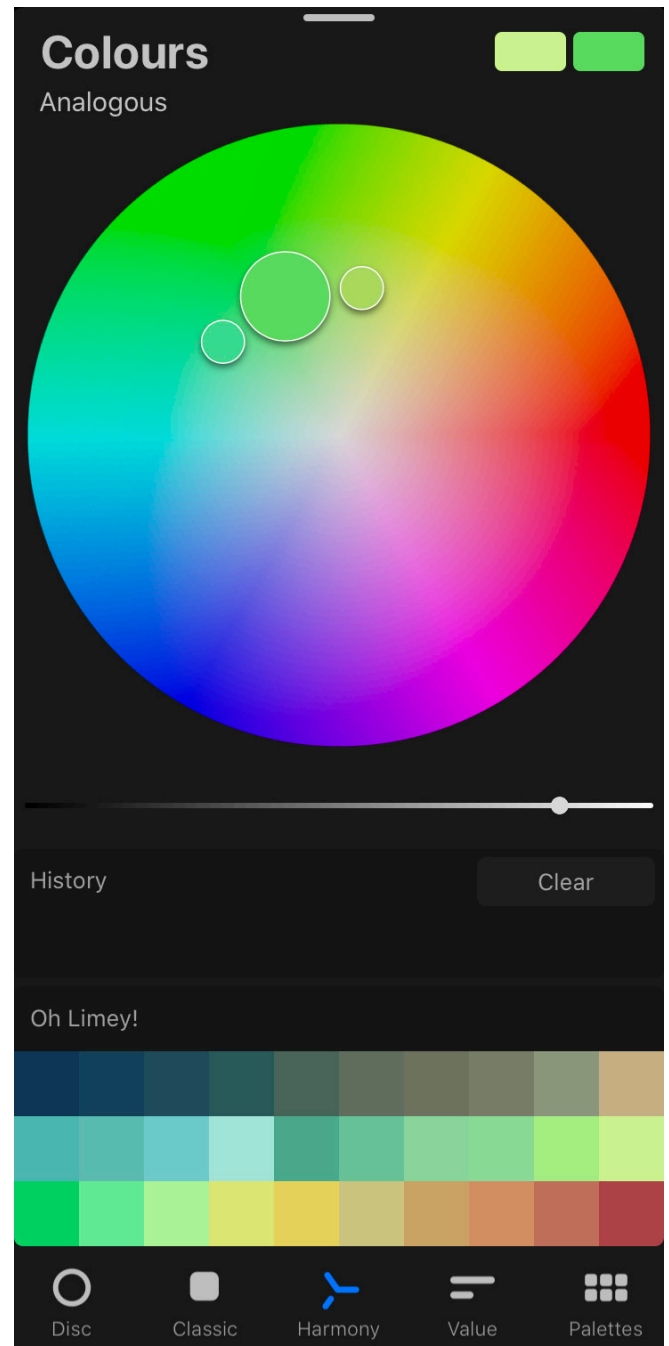

VALUE

This part of the menu comes in handy when you want to replicate colors by either entering the values next to the sliders or by entering a hexadecimal code.
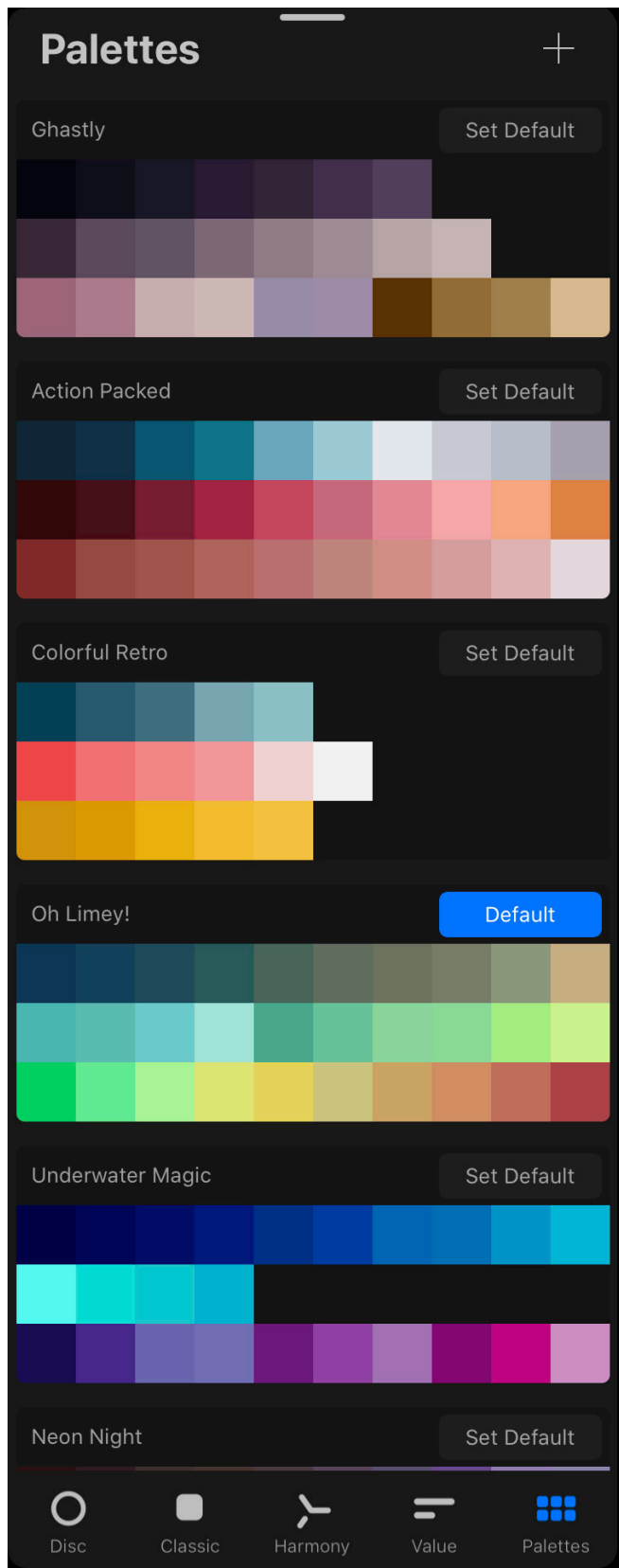
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HARMONY

The magic happens in the Harmony menu!
You can start experimenting and find
wonderful color combinations here. You
can switch between harmonies by simply
tapping the current harmony name. You can
go for Complementary, Split Complementary,
Analogous, Triadic and Tetradic.

Once you have picked one of these
harmonies, you can move around the
colors on the color wheel. The further you
go to the outside of the wheel, the more
saturated the colors will become.

To adjust the brightness, you can use
the slider at the bottom. Once you have
picked a color combination that you like,
you can play around with the hues in the
Classic menu, adjusting the saturation and
brightness while painting, to get a perfect
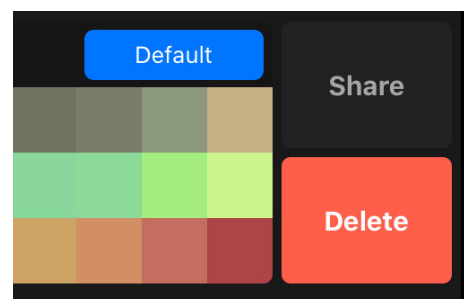color harmony in your artwork.

PALETTES

You might want to save those wonderful color combinations that you have found, that's where the Palettes come in handy!

By clicking the plus (+) sign in the upper right corner, you can create a new palette and simply drop in the colors that you like. Give it a nice name and voila!

If you want to share your color palettes with your friends or with the rest of the world, all you have to do is swipe to the left on your favorite palette and pick 'Share'.

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FINAL THOUGHTS

Hopefully, reading this ebook has inspired you to start experimenting with colors in your artwork and create some awesome color combinations.

You know the theory now, all you have to do is put it into practice to get a feel for it. If you still struggle with finding nice color combinations, then don't forget to look up the artworks of others. You can browse Pinterest for instance and make a collection of illustrations and photos that you like. But you can also find inspiration in the world around you, in clothes, in nature, in museums, movies, etc.

Colors are everywhere!

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