

**Painting 1 / Murphy**  
**Complementary Color Still Life Painting Assignment**



Piet Mondrian

Working from direct observation create a painting using complementary colors: red/green or yellow/purple or blue/orange. Key concept is to learn to mix saturated and unsaturated or neutral colors by mixing the complementary colors. Continue to identify the 3 elements of color in each mixture : **Saturation Temperature Value**. New concept: underpainting main color families before laying in planar color changes.

- **NEW Technique / Concepts:**
- Underpainting washes / Fat over Lean principle
- Complementary Color restricted palette
- Chromatic Neutral made by mixing complementary colors and white
- **Continue:**
- Value / Light to Dark
- Temperature / Warm to Cool
- Hard edge / Soft edge OR High Contrast / Low Contrast OR Directional LIGHT
- Figure / Ground relationships

**Work session:** Feb 10, 12, 17, 19

**Critique:** Feb 24 Painting and Grid **DUE Feb 28**

**Format:** 18" x 24" canvas and 1 sheet of canvas paper

**Tools:** Palette and brush

**Palette:** Complementary Colors plus white but NO black

**Process**

**Step 1:** Grid out canvas paper with 16 - 1" squares (tape to board)

**Step 2:** Draw still life composition in sketchbook which include 5 objects, environment, shadow / light and transfer the sketch to canvas. Brush on underpainting with a dominant color.

**Step 3:** Choose the largest shape (background) and mix the color. Use a palette of complementary colors to make a full spectrum painting. Put the mixed colors on your grid then apply it to your painting. Continue this process to fill at least 16 color squares. Think of your painting like a puzzle fitting color next to color shapes.