

**James River Art League 2014-2015 Artist Challenge:
“Exploring the Impact of Painting with Complementary Colors”**



JRAL’s 2014-15 Artist Challenge will explore an aspect of the artistic *process*: The impact of painting with complementary colors. Choosing to include complementary colors in your painting creates a strong contrast and enhances its focal point, especially when those colors are positioned side by side. It is a color relationship that intensifies the impact of a painting, regardless of the tone or value of the colors you use.

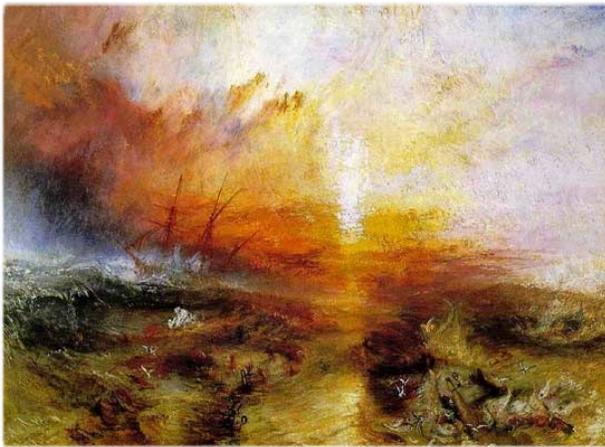
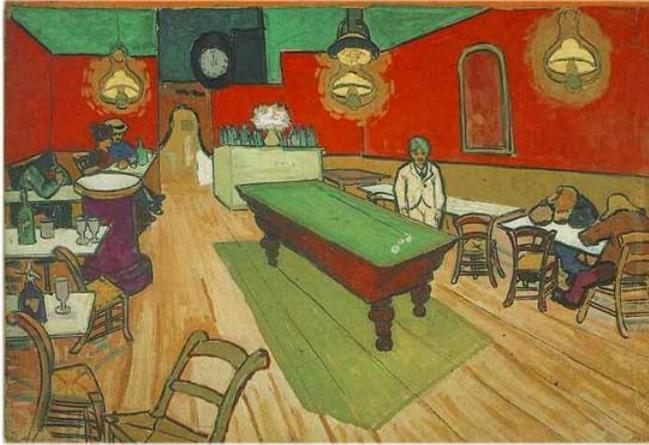
In this Artist Challenge, the subject of your painting, and how you approach the theme — how you employ complementary colors to enhance the impact of your painting — is totally up to you. Have some fun with it! You might choose to limit yourself to one triad for the entire painting. Or perhaps you’ll want to scatter a riot of complementary combinations throughout your work. Do whatever you like to visually describe the significance of painting with complementary colors.

To briefly review the basics, the complementary color of a *primary* color (red, blue, or yellow) is the color we get by mixing the other two primary colors. The complementary color of red is green, of blue is orange, and of yellow is purple. On the other hand, green, orange, and purple are called *secondary* colors, since we need to mix two primary colors to create them. So if we want to find the complement of one of these *secondary* colors, we locate the primary color that is *not* used to make it. Thus, the complementary color of green (made of blue and yellow) is red, of orange (made of red and yellow) is blue, and of purple (made of blue and red) is yellow.

Some examples of paintings that use complementary color combinations are on the reverse side. We look forward to seeing your results at our May 2015 meeting, with Adele Castillo providing the critique. Happy painting!

Examples of Using Complementary Colors in a Painting

These artists have employed the contrasts of complementary colors in their work. As you can see, the concept will work with every kind of artistic style!



Top Left: Van Gogh, *The Night Café, Arles*

Top Right: Vermeer, *The Milkmaid*

Middle Left: Turner, *Slave Ship*

Middle Right: Booth, *Lipsticks on Parade*

Bottom: Bul, *Last Year of High School*

