

# Design Elements: Shades of Gray

Chris A. Paschke, CPF, GCF, CMG

**Sponsored by Omega Moulding**

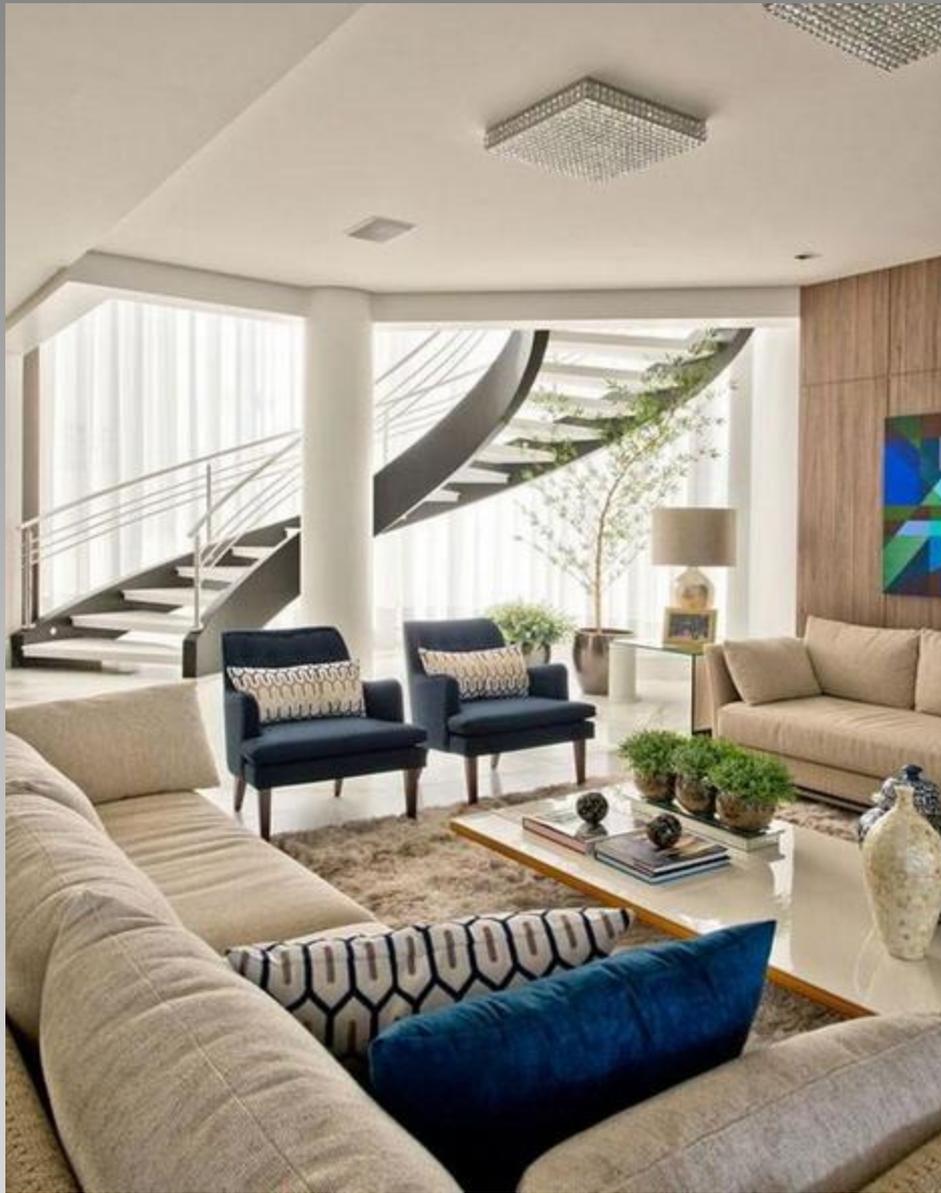
West Coast Art & Frame Expo, Las Vegas 2019



Grey based neutral rooms are back from black last year and white a few years back.



And lots of texture.



Warmer earthy palettes will also dominate and minimalism will reign.



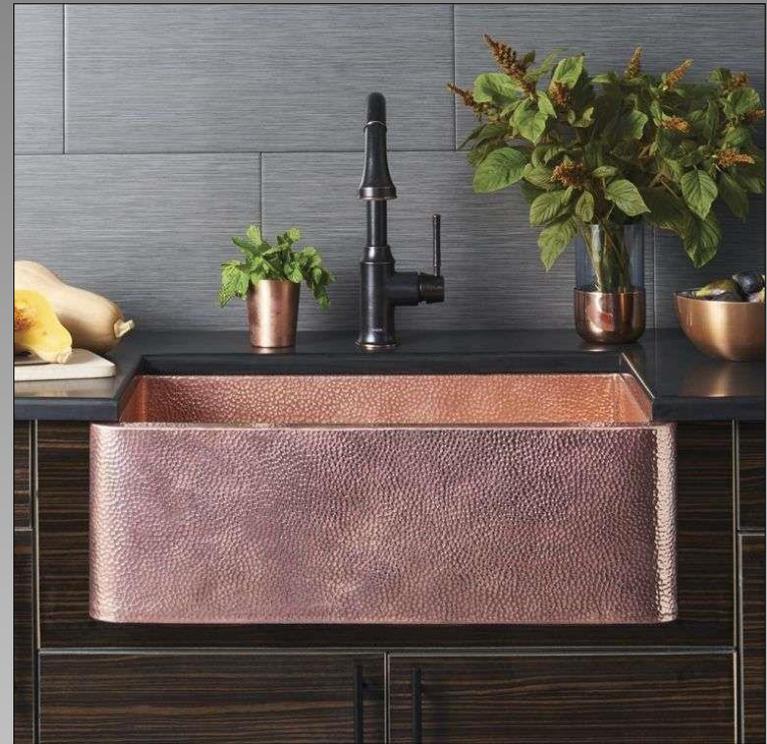
Metals in lamps, frames, mirrors both in rustic and natural designs. Ethnic textiles as cushions, chairs, curtains, and carpets.



Neutral backgrounds of white, gray, and black are accented with color and metallics.



Copper colors join the metallic ranks of popularity with gold and silver in 2019.



Softer copper tones and shades will also be seen in textures, fabrics and fashion.

*"Gray is the dominant shade of the decade  
and today's default neutral."*

- Sue Kim

Valspar color strategist



Avant-garde styling will use warm and vibrant tones, that make a perfect balance with light or warm colors.

Art will be a dominant part of décor.

Larson-Juhl showcases a fabulous display of same format photos. Same frame, same mat with assorted sizes...using common line arrangement.



*"Designers would be paralyzed without white."*

- Andrea Magno  
Benjamin Moore

Benjamin Moore offers more than 250 shades of white.



Neutral, neutral, neutral.



Outdoors and  
contrasting wall adds  
the color (L)

Contrast doesn't  
always require  
a strong color **pop**  
to add emphasis





Neutral warm gray, taupe and white soften the look.



The hue of your walls impacts on your psychology.

Red increases appetite and raises blood pressure, so adversely white and off-white calms and soothes.

# Basics Review

Black, white  
and gray have  
always been  
considered  
neutrals.

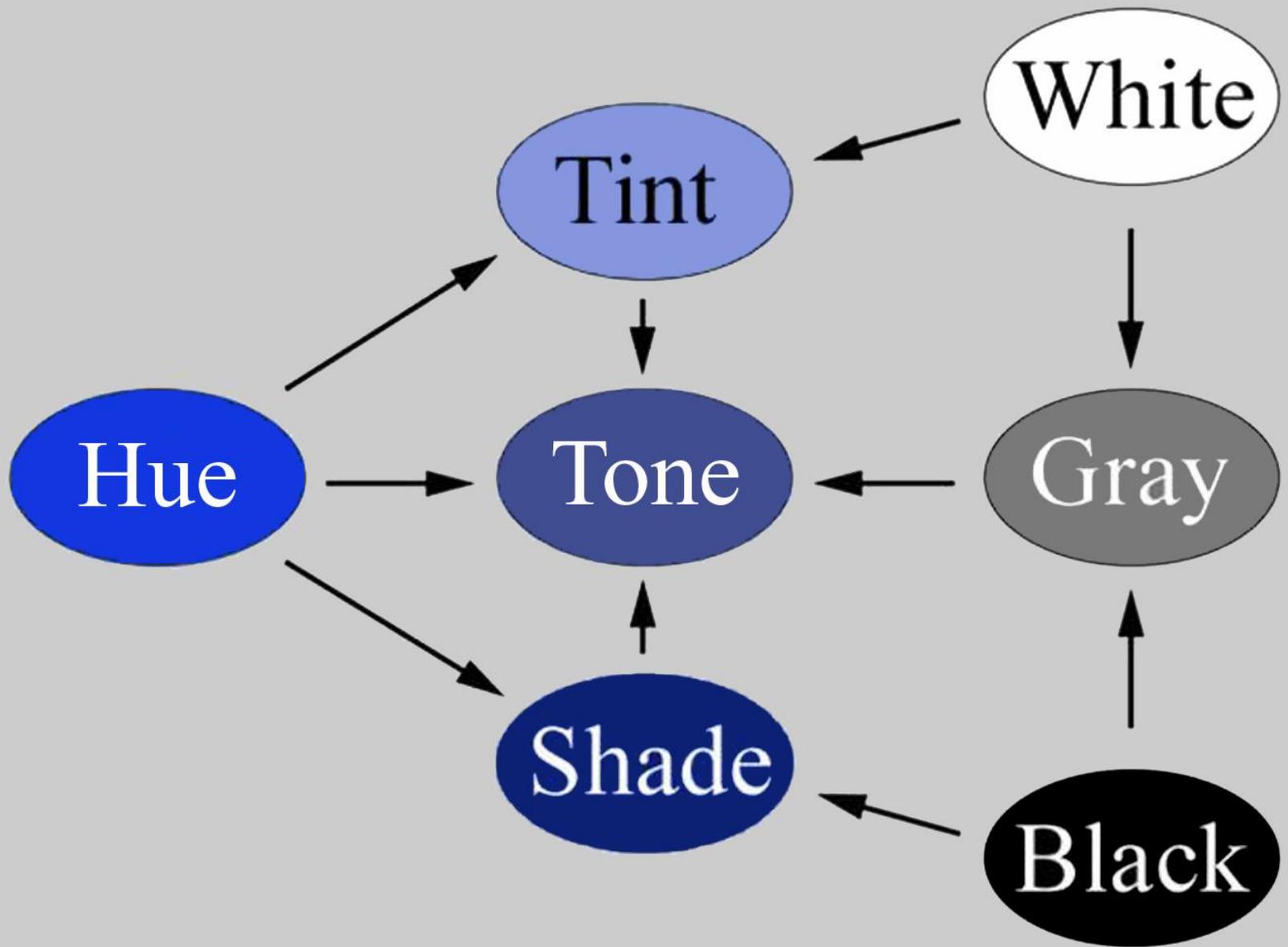
But all tinted,  
toned and  
shaded colors  
are also  
neutrals.



# Neutral Color Theory

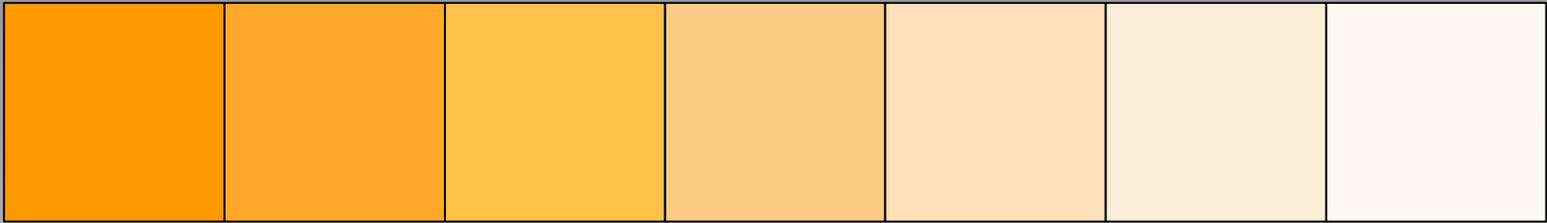
Every color has a shade—a grayed color—in the color spectrum that may become a neutral.



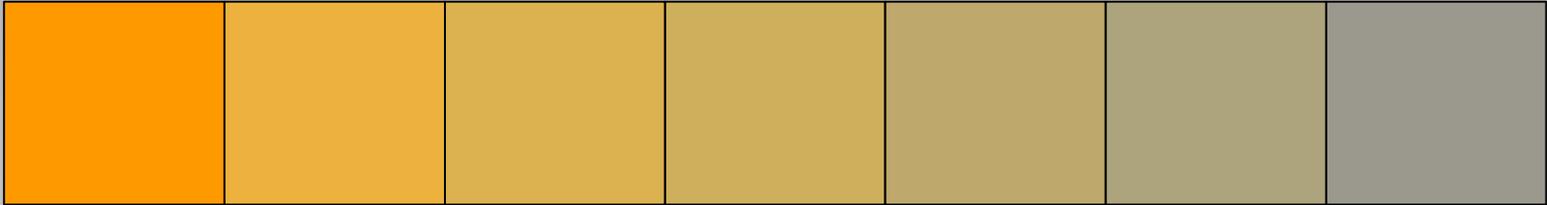


# Tints, Tones and Shades of a Color

If white is added to a color it is a **tint**.



If gray is added the result is a **tone**.



If black is added it becomes a **shade**.



# Bainbridge Neutrals Specifier Card

Neutrals Specifier for Shades of Gray 2018.

It featured 62 neutrals broken into red, yellow, blue families categorizing the tints, tones and shades of each.

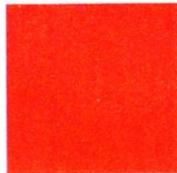
A color dot could be applied to mat corner sample for easy reference when designing.



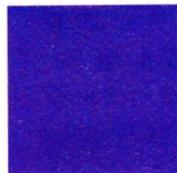
**A**



quinacridone  
magenta



cadmium red



ultramarine  
blue



cobalt blue

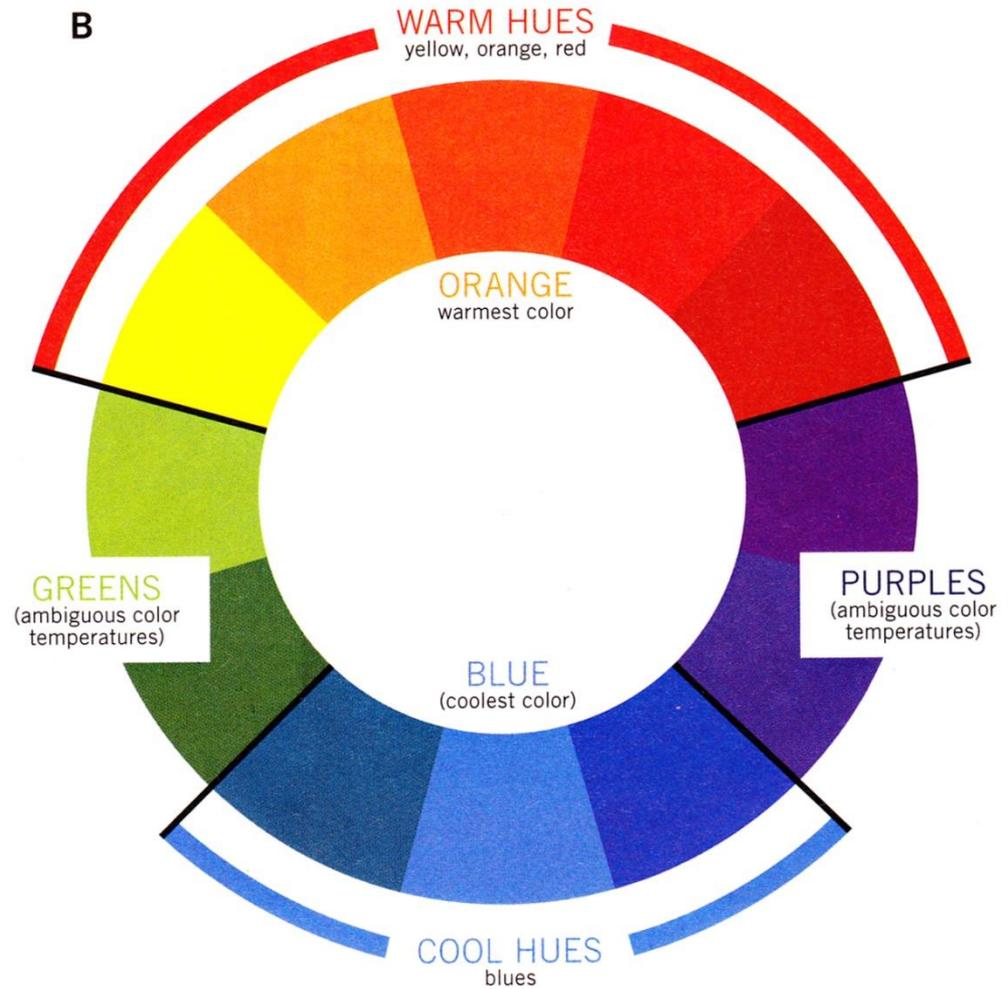
**A: Relative Versus Overall**

**Temperatures:** A red pigment that has overtones of blue, such as quinacridone magenta, may be referred to as a cool red. Cadmium red, with its overtones of yellow, is considered a warm red. Despite these distinctions, each is a red hue and conveys an overall warm color temperature. Blues also have overtones of other colors. Ultramarine blue, with its hint of red, appears warmer than cobalt blue; nonetheless, when examining patterns in color temperature, both blues stand for cool colors within a painting.

**B: Warm, Cool and Inbetween:**

When determining color-temperature patterns, pay particular attention to the blues (cool colors) and the reds, oranges and yellows (warm colors). Purples and greens, though significant for other reasons, play an ambiguous role in temperature patterns.

**B**



# Sherwin-Williams paint samplers



## RED-TONED NEUTRALS IN NATURAL HARMONIES

Use neutrals as a complete scheme by themselves, as simple background for stronger colors, or to help define design features like doorways and windows. Ranging from a whisper of beige to deep, russet browns, these Red-Toned Neutrals are comfortable and traditional.

Our Color Studio has created three distinctive Red-Toned Neutral palettes, each with trim and accent colors:

**WARM DETAILS** provides warm harmonies that are specifically selected to accent a Red-Toned Neutral. This palette gives a subtle and sophisticated look.

**SUBTLE BLENDS** gives you lighter and darker tones of a Red-Toned Neutral. It's a classic palette that's simple to work with and comfortable to live with.

**COOL DETAILS** offers cooler harmonies that will complement a Red-Toned Neutral, to give you quiet accents and interesting highlights.



## BLUE-TONED NEUTRALS IN NATURAL HARMONIES

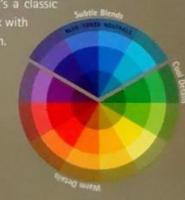
Neutrals are every color's friend, and offer an abundance of shades and nuances. Use neutrals to calm a colorful scheme, or use color to enliven a neutral scheme. Ranging from a hint of gray to smart charcoals to deep blue-blacks, these Blue-Toned Neutrals offer quiet, restrained elegance.

Our Color Studio has created three distinctive Blue-Toned Neutral palettes, each with trim and accent colors:

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**WARM DETAILS**  
YELLOW-TONED NEUTRAL WITH WARM HARMONIES

Think of all the neutrals as very low intensity hues that will work well with all other colors. Experiment freely with different shades and tones and you will be amply rewarded. Ranging from subtle creams to deep golden browns, these Yellow-Toned Neutrals are fresh and quietly uplifting.

Our Color Studio has created three distinctive Yellow-Toned Neutral palettes, each with trim and accent colors:

**WARM DETAILS** provides warm harmonies that are specifically selected to accent a Yellow-Toned Neutral. This palette gives a subtle and sophisticated look.

**SUBTLE BLENDS** gives you lighter and darker tones of a Yellow-Toned Neutral. It's a classic palette that's simple to work with and comfortable to live with.

**COOL DETAILS** offers cooler harmonies that will complement a Yellow-Toned Neutral, to give you quiet accents and interesting highlights.

730C 2" Sandstone Cove	730C	1812 Swiss Coffee	W-B-300
		730D 4" Barkin Wall	740D

**WARM DETAILS**  
BLUE-TONED NEUTRAL WITH WARM HARMONIES

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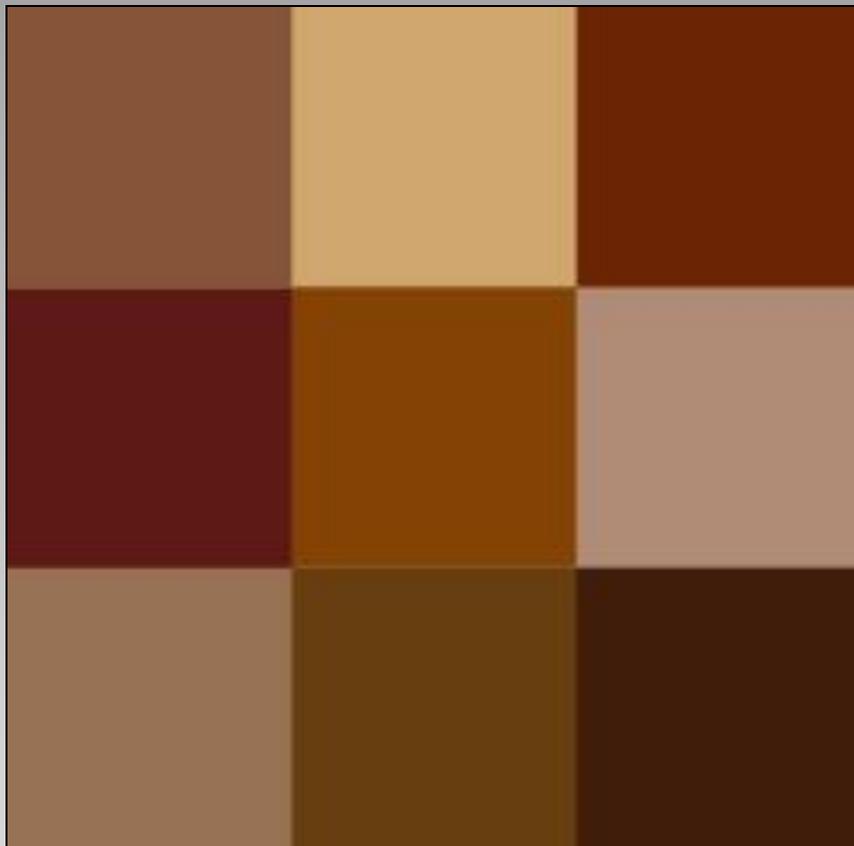
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# Color Based Neutral Tints, Tones, Shades

blue

yellow  
to green

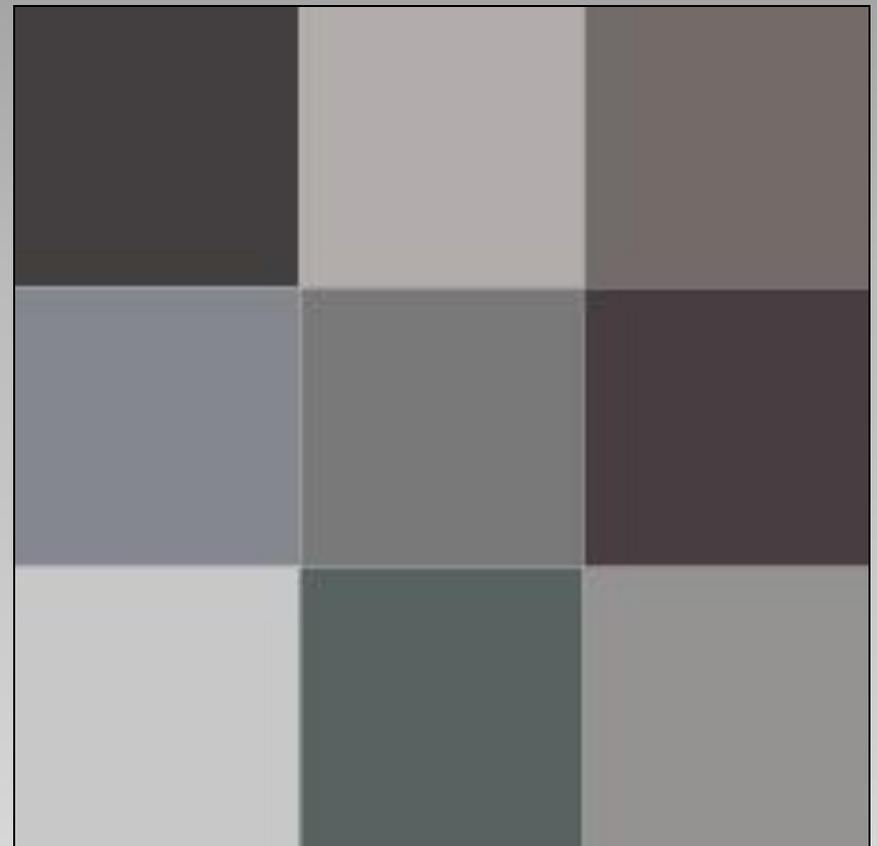
red



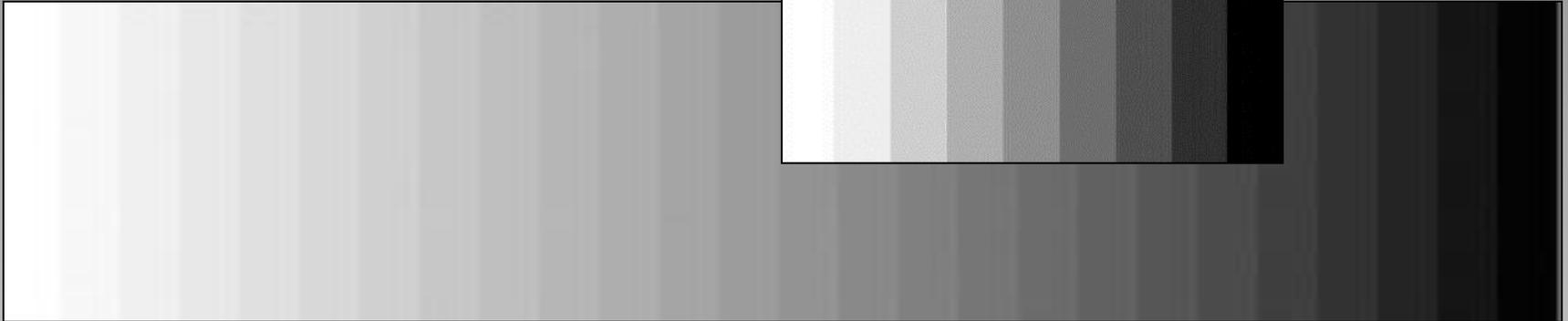
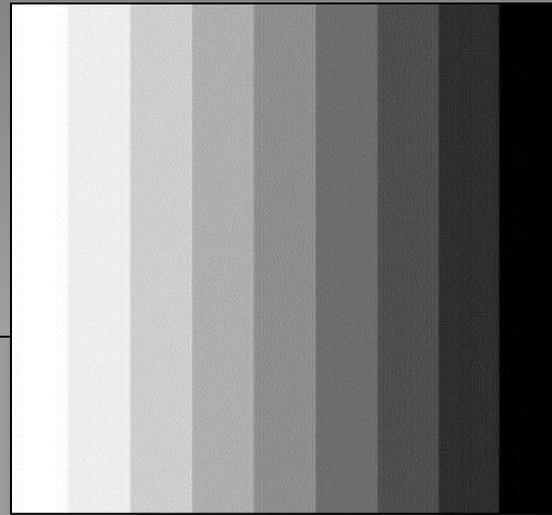
blue

yellow  
to green

red



# Gray Scale



A monochromatic palette is fine, but introducing a color or accent will control the eye and complete the picture



Cool neutral grays everywhere featuring gray on gray carpet and screen, tinted gray walls and headboard.

Accents of white, crystal, gold and a pop of red and its complement green complete the look.

Not unlike the top mat being gray, with liner mats of darker gray and red.



Cool grays, warm white and a pop of bright yellow.  
Like a triple mat of Antique white, middle gray and 1/8" liner of yellow.



Similar palette but a white wall steps down the drama from the previous slide making this a softer look.

The same happens with framing by a lighter top mat.



By adding art and a single accent color among assorted shades of neutral browns and the bedroom pops.

Well placed accents make the visual experience richer, bolder and more interesting.

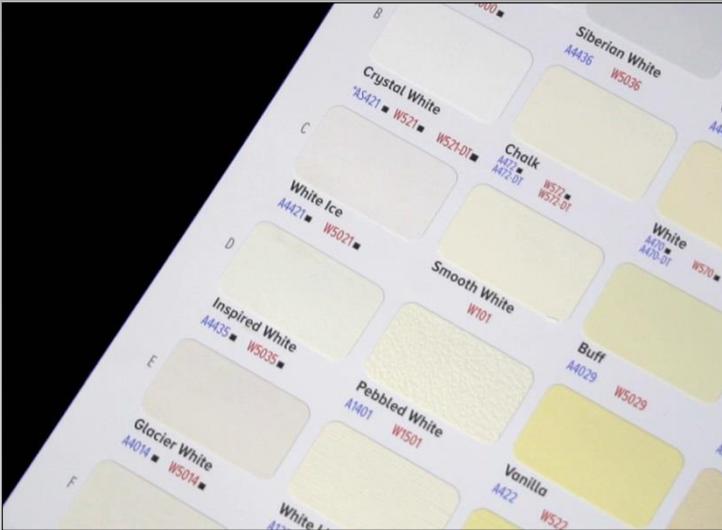




# Neutrals in Framing

# OPTICAL BRIGHTENING AGENTS

## O.B.A



Contains  
OBAs

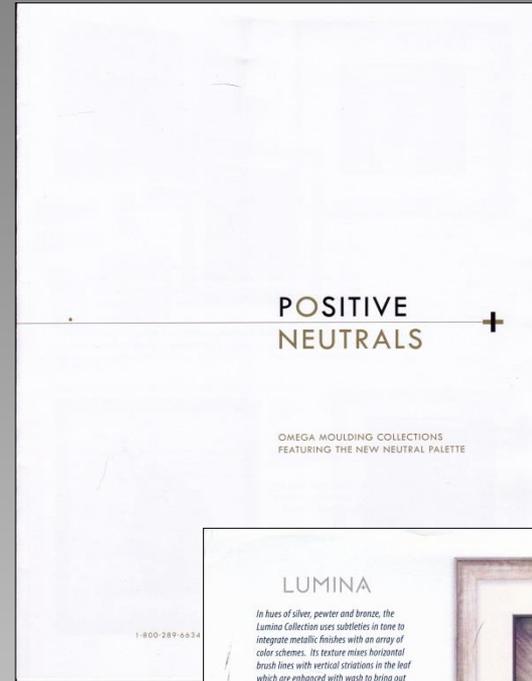
Contains  
No OBAs



## Optical Brightening Agents - OBAs

<http://www.peterboromatboards.com/videos.php>

# Omega Neutrals



## LUMINA

*In hues of silver, pewter and bronze, the Lumina Collection uses subtleties in tone to integrate metallic finishes with an array of color schemes. Its texture mixes horizontal brush lines with vertical striations in the leaf which are enhanced with wash to bring out beautiful highlights. Upon the classic scooped profile, this composition creates illumination emanating from the artwork to the eye.*

*The neutral palette and transitional silhouette of Lumina suits a variety of artwork in color and genre. It provides elegant framing solutions for photography and graphic art prints, as well as delicate fine art works such as watercolors, drawings, and hand-tinted vintage lithographs.*



**Bright As A Feather** △  
The soft brilliance of Lumina is brought forth by its texture and finish. It is an elegant solution for black and white photography and gives a delicate treatment to drawings and watercolors.



1 5/16"

1 5/16"

2 1/2"

1 3/8"

84132  
84133  
84134

84135  
84136  
84137

© Fine Arts Marketing Solutions  
Windsor, Ontario  
Watercolor on paper, c.1880

Original Chinese  
Watercolor



Subtle color  
contrast, still  
neutral

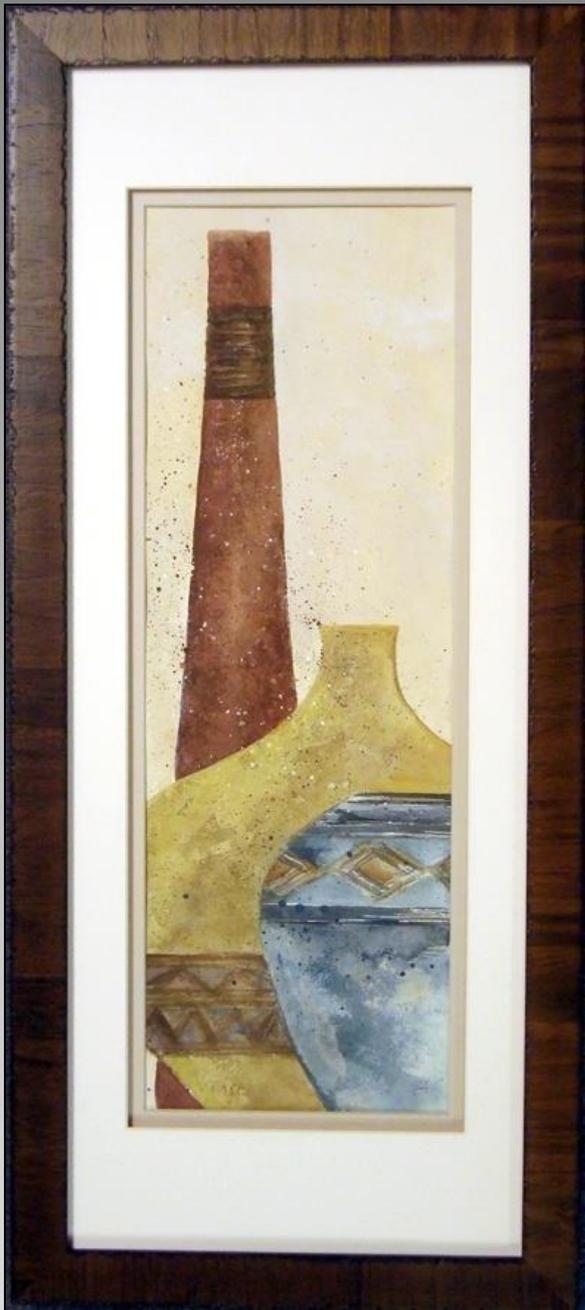
# Florence, Italy

LE Etching

Pale blue gray,  
warm white and warm  
gray triple rag mat  
with spacer



Original art – set of 3  
Asian proportions elongate  
Busy frames demand attention





Warm white expands image.  
Spacer adds depth.  
Top warm neutral ties  
to browns in the horse.



Pearl white rag enlarges image.  
Warm gray rag top brings the eye  
into the gray of the horse. Dark  
frame aligns with the ink.



Shitake silk top mat.  
Tan rag second mat.  
Gray deep bevel wrap third mat.  
Pearl white rag liner mat.



Traditionally framed with team colors, but think outside the box and try neutrals



# White as a Neutral

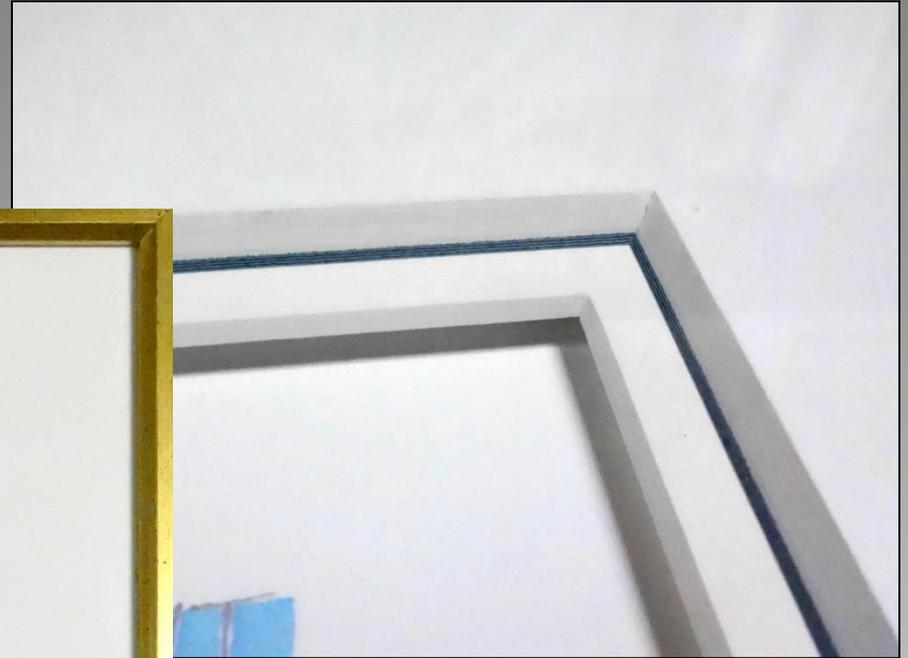
Color enriches and enlivens art, but there is nothing wrong with white on white.

Asian theory states the blank white page is already a completed work of art...so bright white or warm white rag mats can easily enhance fine art.



Creating dimension





LE calligraphy

Under tiered 8-ply  
with whit liner,  
spacer beneath



## Italian Etching

Three white tints  
(crème, white, warm white)  
for four mats with spacer.  
Top mat is used to break up  
the negative space.

# Contemporary

Narrower yet...double rag  
white on white mat with spacer  
in Nielsen #34-21 metal



# Black as a Neutral





Black, gray and white  
continues to trend

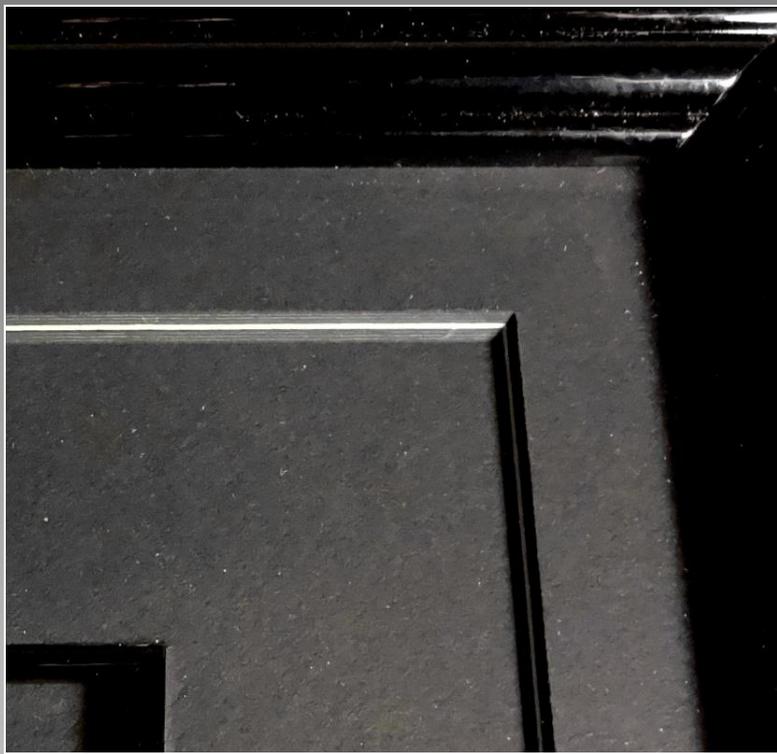


Black & white has been around for a very long time and remains the classical blend no matter how color trends vary.





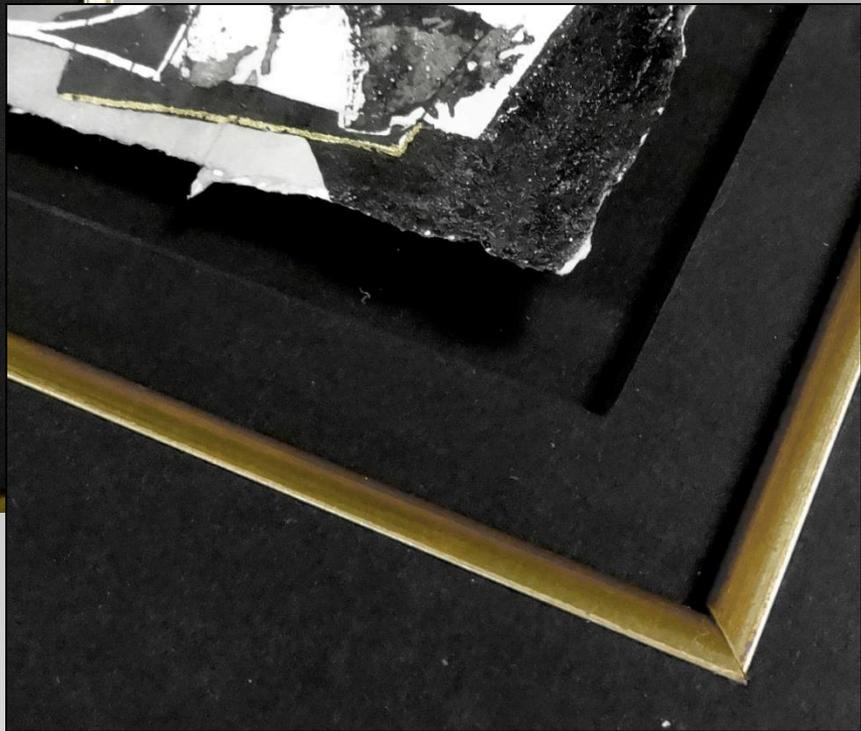
Area rugs atop wall-to-wall with animal rug accent.

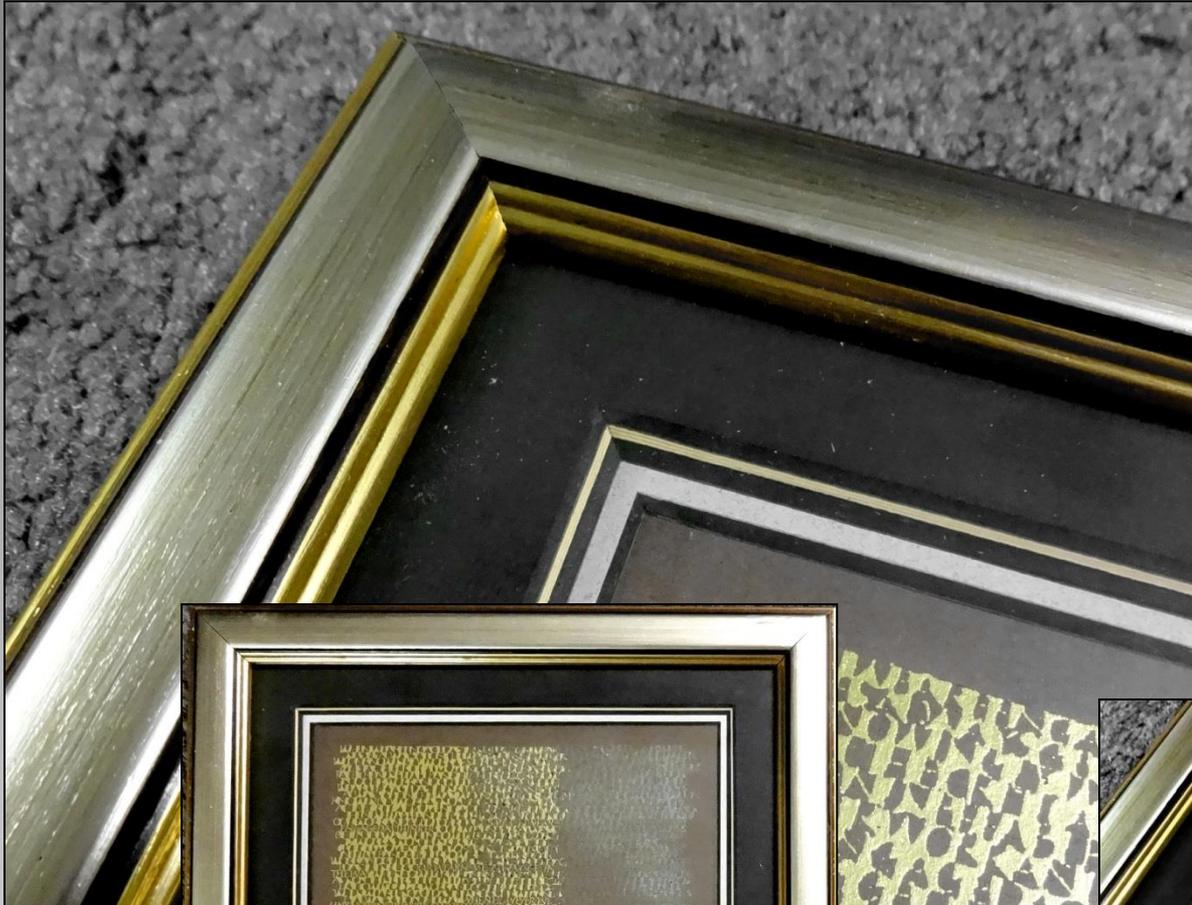


Eyvind Earle  
High Gloss Serigraph  
triple mat with fillet and  
8-ply pin stripe at top

# Original Gilded Calligraphy

floated art  
black on black on black  
with gold fillet





## Metallics

Gold & silver  
are also considered  
neutrals

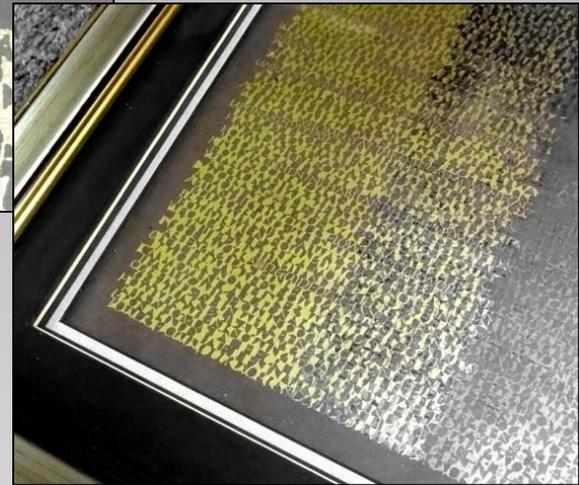




Photo  
double rag mat  
with spacer  
photo mounted by  
customer



Neutral  
Monochromatic Palettes

# What's a Neutral?

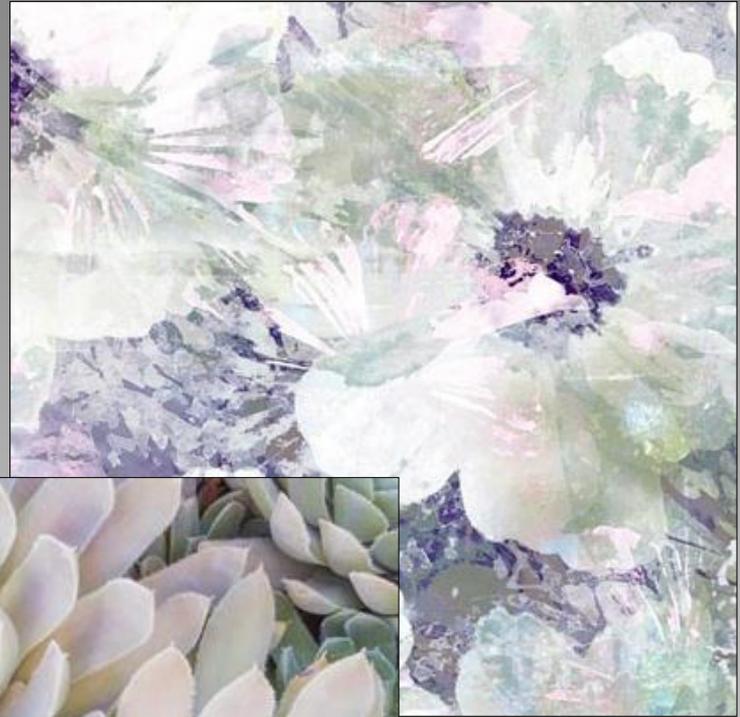
Every color on the color wheel has a tint and shade in the color spectrum that is a neutral.



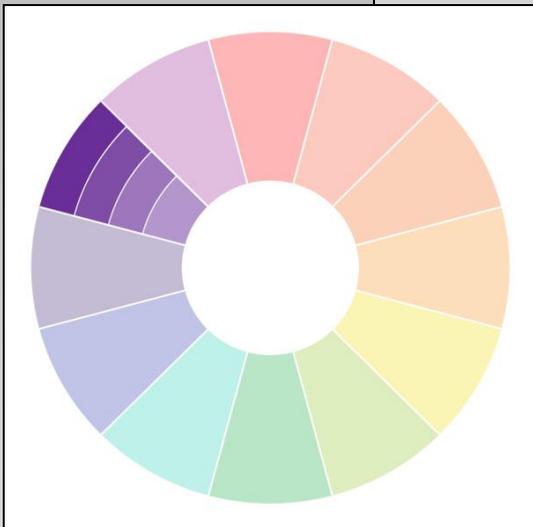
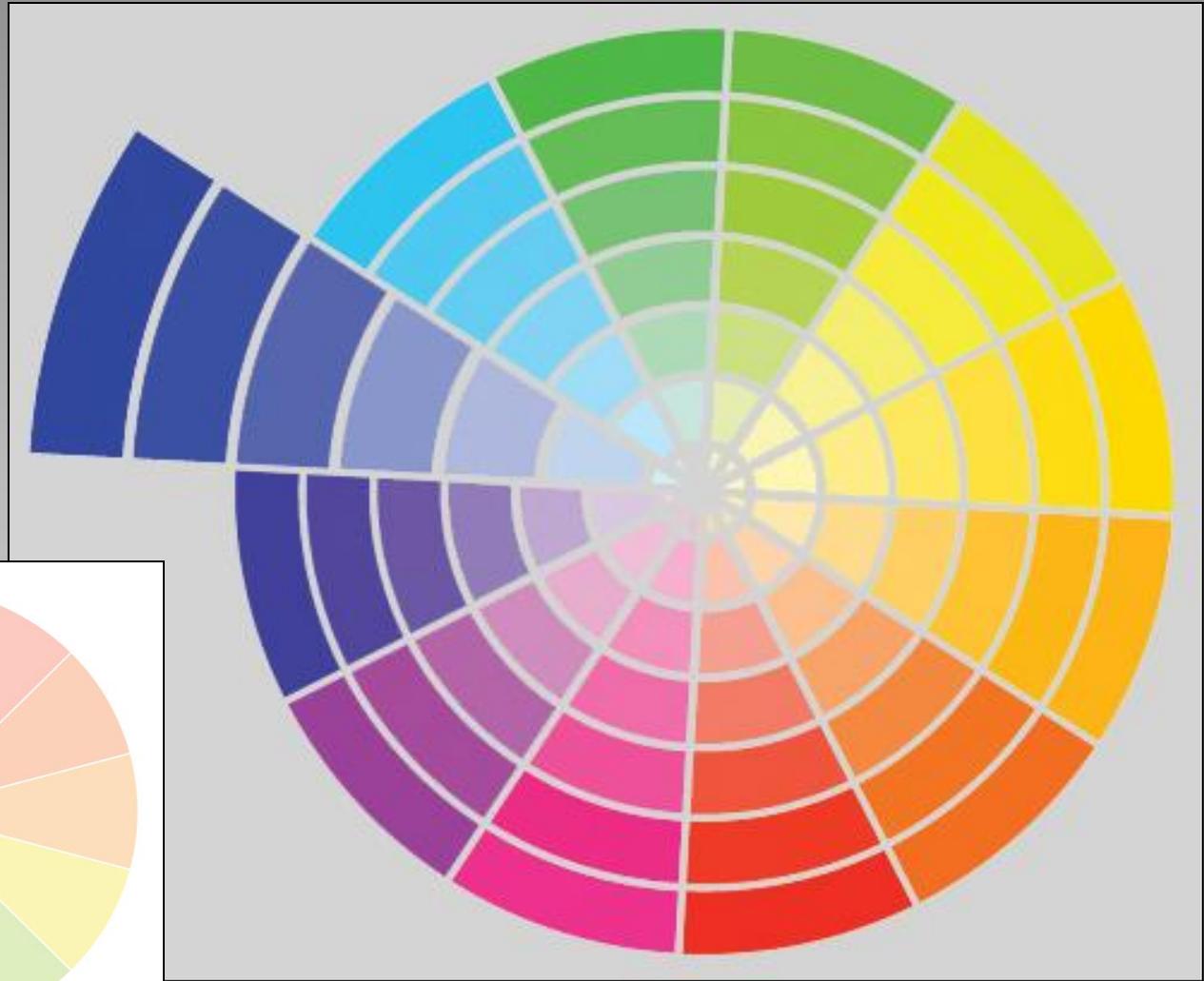
Pastel Tints &  
Soothing Neutrals



# Grayed Tones and Tints



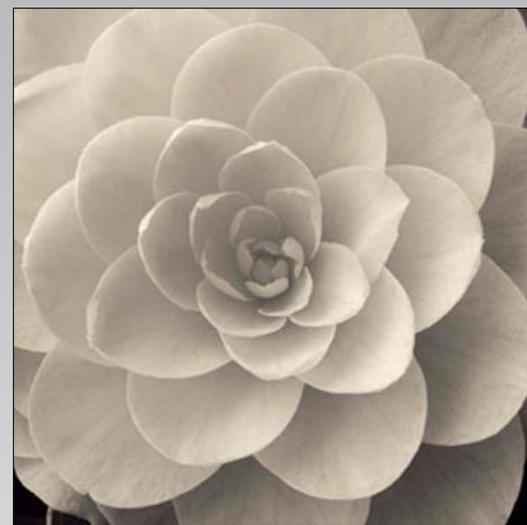
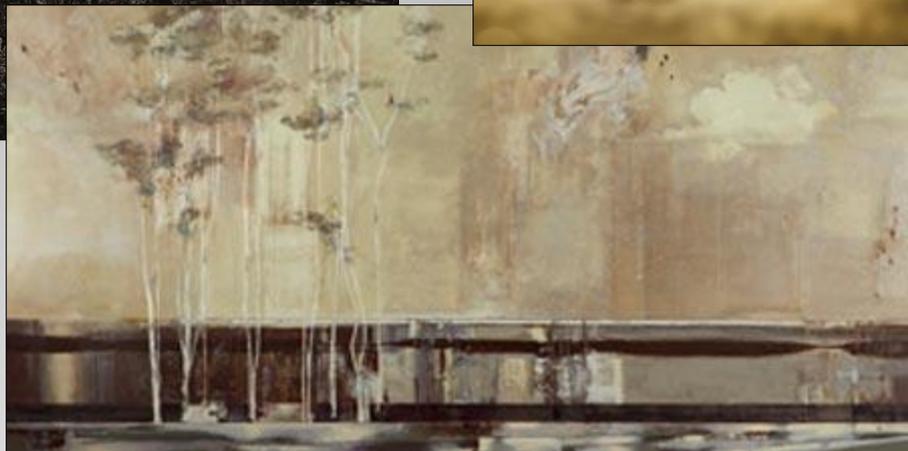
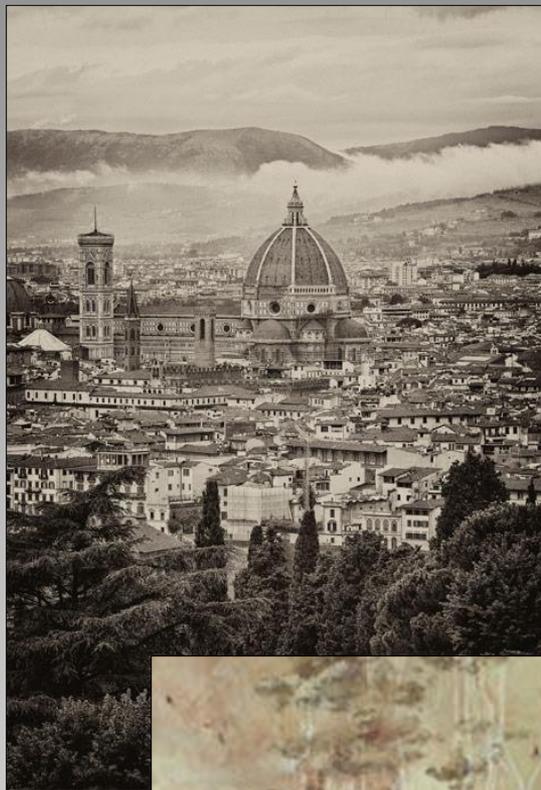
# Monochromatic Palette



# Gray Monochrome



# Brown Monochrome





When asking room colors and patterns think about contrast

Neutral Emphasis

Visual emphasis  
using neutral color...  
it's all about the drama





Same concept, color and spacer using different proportions and metal mouldings results in different visual impact.



Pay attention to rabbet sight lines when deciding mat widths.

Triple rag with decorative paper







# Neutral + Texture



Sometimes it's the addition of color...sometimes its the rhythm of pattern.  
Warm yellow based gray walls are contrasted with cool gray furniture.  
The big color accent is the neutral brown patterned flooring.

Moorman suede and black  
blackcore with spacer  
on digital photograph



# Original Calligraphy

Triple rag mat rouge and tan (top and liner) with spacer  
Frame picks up letter texture.







# Pastel Print

Antique white double rag  
mat with wide inner reveal  
and deep bevel wrap



# Colors of the Year 2019

# Benjamin Moore - Metropolitan

Color Trends 2019 range from neutrals to rich blues and greens, that all complement Metropolitan.



# Dunn Edwards - Spice of Life



*“A dark, browned, fire brick red with orange undertones is an outgoing, confident hue that adds drama and stimulates the senses.”*

# Sherwin Williams - Cavern Clay

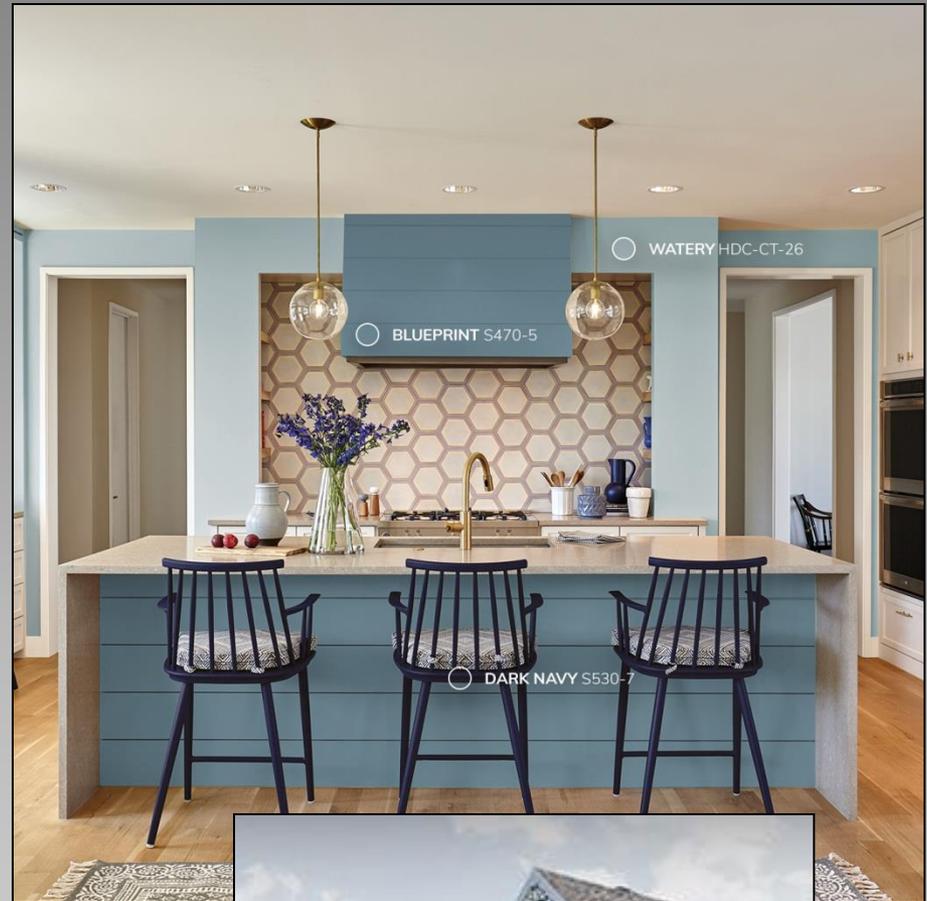
*“We believe 2019 will be a renaissance of the 1970s—with a twist, embodying renewal, simplicity and free-spirited, bohemian flair”*



Like a warm desert breeze this terra cotta and umber tone captures the essence of mid-century charm.

# Behr - Blueprint

A relaxed versatile hue for walls, ceilings, furniture, and cabinets. A timeless color offering tranquility, comfort and creativity.



# PPG Paint – Night Watch



A black infused green used as a neutral or accent, feels healthy, grounded and calm, bringing healing power from the outdoors in.



# Pantone 2019 - Living Coral



A year of warmer, happier, earthy tones, reminiscent of the 70s color palettes. Coral will be paired with green shades or desert tones. Neutrals will still be dominant, but coral will be seen as a contrast color on accessories and woodwork.



# Products 2019



# Pantone *Living Coral* Palettes

Living Coral may be the color trend setter for the year, but all tints, tones and shades of it will be seen as fashion, home décor and art.



## *Shimmering Sunset*



## *Sympatico*



PANTONE®  
19-3940  
Blue Depths



PANTONE®  
19-4053  
Turkish Sea



PANTONE®  
17-5126  
Viridian Green



PANTONE®  
17-0330  
Turtle Green



PANTONE®  
16-1546  
Living Coral



PANTONE®  
15-1912  
Sea Pink



PANTONE®  
13-0858  
Vibrant Yellow



PANTONE®  
13-4810  
Limpet Shell

*Under the Sea*



PANTONE®  
13-0650  
Sulphur Spring



PANTONE®  
16-1546  
Living Coral



PANTONE®  
18-3634  
Chive Blossom



PANTONE®  
19-2045  
Vivacious



PANTONE®  
17-4530  
Barrier Reef



PANTONE®  
18-4834  
Deep Lake

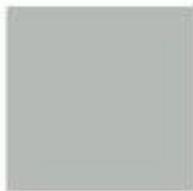


PANTONE®  
17-4245  
Ibiza Blue



PANTONE®  
16-1735  
Pink Lemonade

*Trippy*



PANTONE®  
15-4003  
Storm Gray



PANTONE®  
19-5230  
Forest Biome



PANTONE®  
18-0625  
Martini Olive



PANTONE®  
16-0543  
Golden Lime



PANTONE®  
17-1522  
Mauvewood



PANTONE®  
16-1546  
Living Coral



PANTONE®  
16-1108  
Twill



PANTONE®  
19-0405  
Beluga

*Focal Points*

# Other Paschke classes WCAF 2019

## **Design Elements: Pop of Color**

Tuesday, 10:00am-12:00pm

## **Mastering Mounting: Creative Mounting**

Lecture = Tuesday, 12:30-3:00pm

Workshop = Tuesday, 3:30-6:00pm

## **Mastering Mounting: Challenging Items**

Wednesday, 10:00am-12:00pm

Paschke Online  
Article Archive and Reference Library

<http://designsinkart.com/library.htm>

Articles by Subject:  
**West Coast Art & Frame PowerPoint and PDF**



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Tehachapi, CA

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