

# Spectrum: Color in Pigment and Light



**Large Print Labels**

# ARTexperience Gallery

---

## **Welcome to the ARTexperience Gallery**

BAM's ARTexperience Gallery was created to encourage hands-on exploration and multi-sensory experiences as valuable approaches to understanding art.

Boise Art Museum hopes it helps you investigate how art is made, who makes it, and the way ideas, feelings, creative approaches, and meaning are communicated through visual forms.

ARTexperience Gallery was made possible in 1997 by generous support from:

Richard and Sondra Hackborn

Hackborn Foundation

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Hewlett Packard Company

Union Pacific Foundation

Helming Family Foundation

Willis R. and Elaine A. Nelson

Trout Architects

Lutheran Good Samaritan Society

Armstrong Planning and Design

Micron Internet Services

Stronghold Construction

Communication Wave

Micron Foundation

## Spectrum: Color in Pigment and Light

For thousands of years, the rainbow has been a cross-cultural symbol of hope, positivity, and a bit of magic. Today, the rainbow is a recognizable, all-embracing icon of love, personal identity, and diversity. Dedicated to the celebration of rainbows, “Spectrum” showcases interactives inspired by the rich and numerous colors of our world. Participatory stations throughout the ARTexperience Gallery encourage visitors of all ages to create a rainbow block print, match colored fiber to emotions, build a colorful town, and more. A selection of artwork from BAM’s Permanent Collection is on view as part of this exhibition, which commemorates the relaunch of our interactive space at the Boise Art Museum. We are thrilled to incorporate, once again, touchable items, the art of play, and

curiosity-seeking within “Spectrum.” We hope you enjoy exploring the colors of the rainbow at the Boise Art Museum.

Organized by the Boise Art Museum

## Peter Coffin

(b. 1972, Berkeley, CA)

### **Untitled (Rainbow Spiral, Pop-up Photo Album),**

Peter Norton Christmas  
Project, 2006



color photographs, bound album

Boise Art Museum Permanent Collection

Gift of Gwen Adams and Peter Norton

# Make Your Own Rainbow Block Print

Block printing is a method of printmaking in which the surface of a block is carved away leaving behind raised lines and shapes. When ink is applied to the surface of the block, and the block is pressed onto paper, the image is revealed!



## Ink, Press, Print!

Follow the steps below to create a print, add your signature, and display for others to see.

1. Take a piece of paper and slide it into the paper holder.
2. Hold the block handle and lift the block off the base.
3. Place the block on the ink pad and press down evenly.

4. Place the inked block on top of the paper in the holder.
5. Press down firmly to transfer the image onto the paper.
6. Return the block to its home base.

Remove your paper from the holder and move to the next color inking step, and repeat steps 1 – 6 until you have a finished rainbow block print!



top:

## Roy Lichtenstein

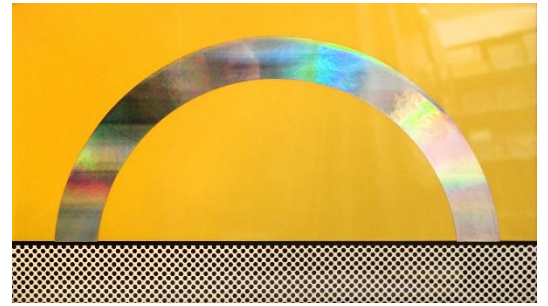
(1923-1997, New York, NY)

### Landscape 7, 1967

screenprint with iridescent silver mylar collage

Boise Art Museum Permanent Collection

Gift of Allan P. and Lenore B. Sindler



bottom:

## Carlos Estrada-Vega

(b. 1955, Chihuahua, NM)

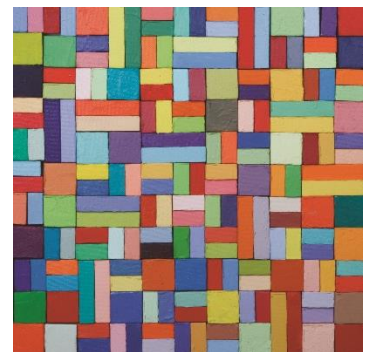
### Three Size Composition #5, 2000

oleopasto, wax, and pigments on wood

Boise Art Museum Permanent Collection

Gift of Wilfred Davis Fletcher

for BAM's 75th Anniversary



## Thom Sempere

(b. 1954, Pontiac, MI)

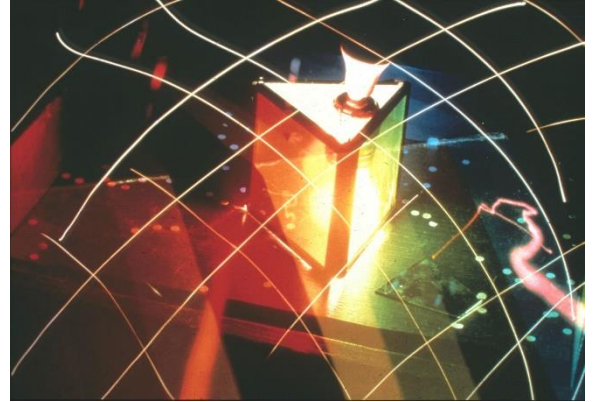
**Triangular Color**, 1981

ektacolor print

Boise Art Museum

Permanent Collection

Gift of the Artist



# Color Words

**Hue:** Another word for color.

**Value:** The lightness (tint) or darkness (shade) of a color.

**Warm/Cool Colors:** Color temperature. Warm colors can seem energetic while cool colors can seem calm.

- **Warm Colors** – red, orange, yellow
- **Cool Colors** – green, blue, purple

**Color Wheel:**

A circular diagram that organizes colors based on their relationships to each other.

**Color Theory:**

The intentional combination of colors to create an emotion, mood, reaction, or visual effect.

- **Analogous Colors:** Colors located next to each other on the color wheel.



- **Complementary Colors:** Colors located directly opposite one another on the color wheel.

- **Primary Colors:**

The primary colors of **light** are red, green, and blue. When you combine all colors of light, you get white light.

The primary colors of **pigment** are red, yellow, and blue. When you combine all colors of pigment, they make black.

## Experiment with Color

Our perception of a single color is directly linked to the colors surrounding it. When a dark color is placed on a lighter color, it will appear darker through comparison. When the same color is placed on a darker color, it will appear lighter.



### Try it!

You can experiment with color by observing how the same color appears to change when it is placed both on a light color and a dark color.

What happens when the same color is placed both on a warm color and a cool color?

What do you notice that changes?

1. Pick a small color magnet. Take two of the same color.

2. Place one small magnet in the center of a color in Experiment #1-5.
3. Place the second small magnet in the center of the partner color in Experiment #1-5.
4. Step back and observe. How have the colors changed in comparison to one another?
5. Try moving the small magnets closer to the center dividing line to see what happens.
6. Return the two small color magnets.
7. Try again with a new color.

Unknown Artist

**Roof tiles in the form of clouds**, 19<sup>th</sup> century  
molded clay



Boise Art Museum Permanent Collection  
Gift of Wilfred Davis Fletcher

Unknown Artist

**Roof tile**, 18th century

terra-cotta clay

Boise Art Museum

Permanent Collection

Gift of Wilfred Davis Fletcher



## Connect Colors to Emotions

Did you know that color can impact your mood?



While some colors have specific cultural meanings, colors can also be subjective, or unique, to each person.

If joy were a color, what color would it be?

If blue were an emotion, what would it feel like?

Pick a color of yarn from the bin below and wind it around the pegs to the word and emoji that you think best expresses the emotion of the color.

1. Pick an emotion.
2. Choose the color of yarn from the bin that matches the emotion, and pull upward.
3. Weave the yarn toward the emotion word and emoji.
4. Wrap the end of the yarn around the peg to secure.
5. Cut the yarn at the base and secure the other end.
6. Repeat with a new color.



## Play with Light + Shadow

Gently move your body, cast a shadow, and create colors of the rainbow.



Notice what happens when two colors overlap. What new colors do they make?

The experience of color is the result of your eyes and brain perceiving the wavelengths of light. The white light that is shining on the wall contains all the colors of the light color spectrum and its corresponding wavelengths. When you place an object in front of that light, some light will bend around the object. The wavelength of light determines the amount of bending, resulting in the color that you see.

# Search + Find Notice Colors in Nature

Use your observational skills to find all the colors of the rainbow.



Choose a blue or purple **Find It** deck from the bins below to start your search!

Color is used in nature for camouflage, communication, and to regulate body temperature. While all colors exist in nature, did you know blue is the rarest?

## Cheryl Sorg

(b. 1967, Cincinnati, OH)

### **Raining Upward, 2024**

tape, plastic sheet, and  
jump rings



Boise Art Museum Permanent Collection  
New Acquisition

“Raining Upward,” by Cheryl Sorg, expresses the interconnected nature of rain, the sun, and rainbows. Each of the 2,800 raindrops in this artwork holds a rainbow of color within its luminescent finish. Through this artwork, the artist gives us an everlasting rainstorm of rainbows.