

COLORED LIGHT

In white light, shadows are transparent black or the *complement* of white. In colored light, shadows work the same way, that is they will be the *complementary* color of the light source. These shadows, as with black shadows are similar to transparent films placed over colors. Any color, regardless of hue or value will be modified equally when this transparent film is overlaid.

The examples below continue the studies begun on the previous page, but colored light has replaced white light. Where white light separates and emphasizes the differences among the hues, colored light unites dissimilar hues under common colors. In these examples, the separate colors all take on an amber hue in the light. They are similarly united in the shadows by a common hue. The artist need not be concerned about what color to paint the shadows, for they are all modified equally by a single transparent hue.



COMPLEMENT OF LIGHT SOURCE:
This color plus varying percentages of black will produce the shadow color.

SHADOW COLOR

Shadows are transparent films. Colored lights produce shadows which are generally a mixture of their complement plus black. The percentage of black is based on light intensity.



AMBIENT LIGHT: Ambient light is any illumination which is not a direct light. The most common ambient light is that produced by the blue sky. We live in a dome of ambient light or sky. Realizing its influence on colors which are not in direct light and adding a percentage of that hue to the shadow color, will create an even richer and technically more accurate shadowed area.



OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Compare how each color is modified by the color and intensity of the direct light. Note, for example, how the yellow green becomes duller in amber light. Orange, on the other hand, becomes more intense.
2. What happens to neutral gray as it is placed in colored light?
3. Did the dark, cool green brighten or dull under amber light?
4. Note which shades are dulled and which are intensified. Why?
5. Note that there is no white in the two examples in colored light. Why?

Exercise: Following the same procedures of the "white light" assignment, translate the same format from white to a colored light source. Observe the effects of a colored light on a variety of colors before creating a graphic illusion.