

**VANISHING BOUNDARIES
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This graphic image has the same color text repeated four times. From a couple of feet away, note which lines of text merge into the background. At this distance, the individual colors are seen as one luminous hue. This phenomenon is called a “Vanishing Boundary”.



Vanishing boundary describes the visual phenomenon in which two colors of equal value and similar hue, are seen as a single color when viewed from a specified distance. This third color appears more luminous than either of the hues in another context.

This phenomenon has little to do with the brightness or intensity of the colors. Examination of an Impressionist painting at close range reveals colors which are, in most cases, toned or grayed. Step back a few feet, however, and marvel at the luminosity created by *vanishing boundaries*.

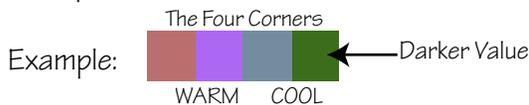


Monet's Vanishing Boundaries

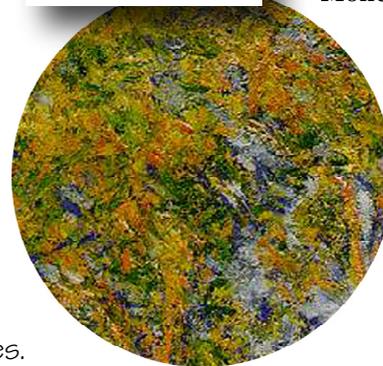
ASSIGNMENT: Create a color study which incorporates VANISHING BOUNDARIES.

A SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:

1. Create a matrix composed of 4 corner colors of equal value and similar hue. Vary the chroma and color temperatures of these hues. An option: One corner may have a hue of lighter or darker value.



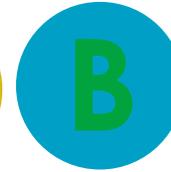
2. Using only the colors in the matrix, create a composition composed solely of horizontal bands of varying widths. Some criteria might include:
 - a. Select the colors much as a director of a play might choose key actors. In other words, who will be the lead/s and who will be the supporting actors.
 - b. Carefully consider the width, placement and repetition of each band according to the theme of the play.
 - c. Check the reading of the composition from a distance to check for Vanishing Boundaries. (If two adjacent colors blend into one, you have a vanishing boundary. One vanishing boundary; a picture it does not make.)
3. Using the same colors, create additional compositions so that a different hue takes the lead.
4. You're on your own.



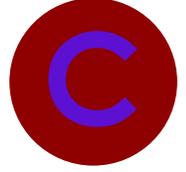
Detail



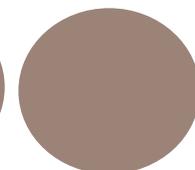
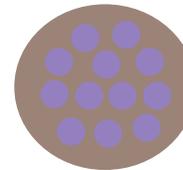
In example "A" the hues are similar, but the letter is slightly lighter in value.



Example "B" has equal value and similar hues, creating VB.



Example "C" has equal value. Although the hues are more dissimilar than those of "B", the result is most luminous.



Compare these two colored ellipses from a distance to see the difference in color luminosity. Large areas of a single color can be made more luminous by introducing vanishing boundaries as seen on the left.

Find graphic examples of Vanishing Boundaries in other sources, e.g., displayed art, periodicals or photos taken by you and others.