How to mix a range of colours using three single pigment Winsor & Newton Professional Watercolours

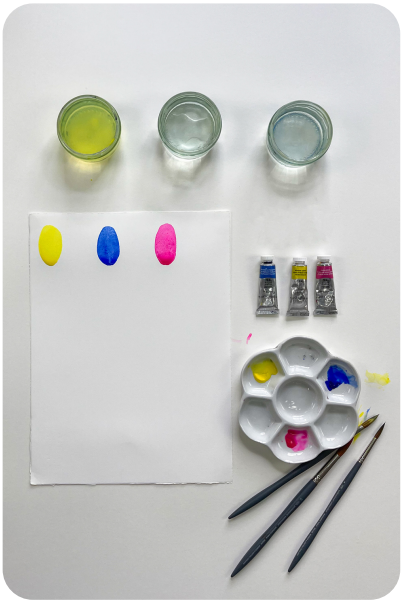
1

Choose three single pigment primary colours (or equivalent).

Three I use regularly in the studio are: **Winsor Lemon**, **French Ultramarine** and **Opera Rose** (as an alternative to red or magenta).

I love the way that they sit alongside one another and combine to make new colours.

2



Paint a swatch of each primary colour in a row across your page, leaving space to the side of each.

Using single pigment colours can help the qualities of each paint to show more distinctly - take note of things like how transparent or opaque they are.

Note: use a different brush for each colour

3

Mix a pool of each secondary colour, enough to paint a swatch next to each primary and for further mixing.

Use the **Winsor Lemon** and **French Ultramarine** to make green; **Winsor Lemon** and **Opera Rose** for orange; and **French Ultramarine** and **Opera Rose** for purple.

4

Now I like to explore making a wider range of hues by mixing complementary opposites in varying ratios.

This is a great way to create subtler colours or muted tones without adding black.

Paint a swatch of orange and blue on each end of the next row.

Tamsin Relly

South African-born and London based, Tamsin Relly's multi-disciplinary practice includes painting, printmaking and photography. Her work explores the reciprocal relationship we have with our planet's ecology and the ways in which we find connection with the living world.

You'll need:

- 3 x single pigment primary colours, or equivalent
- 1 x sheet watercolour paper (eg: hot press 300gsm)
- 3 x watercolour brushes (eg: size 8 /10)
- 3 x jars of water
- Palette (preferably round)

Colours Used:

Use any three primary colours in the Winsor & Newton Professional Watercolour range.

Winsor Lemon | French Ultramarine | Opera Rose

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5

Mix a touch of blue into the orange, to shift the hue a little; and paint next to the orange.

Add another drop of blue for the next swatch. Now start the other way, adding a little orange into the blue, and so on, until the swatches meet in the middle.

6

Repeat step five in the row below, this time exploring the hues between yellow and purple.

For best control of the mixing, generally I suggest starting with the less dominant colour, and working towards the other - in this case being yellow to purple.

7

Once again, repeat step five, using the green and red (or red equivalent). Using single pigment colours help allow for clean colour mixing.

I am always excited by the range of colours one can make from just a few.

8

Use all three colours to mix a neutral grey. Use roughly equal parts **French Ultramarine** and **Opera Rose**; and a little less **Winsor Lemon**.

Paint a swatch on the left of the final row, keep adding a little water to create increasingly lighter samples.

Keep brushes clean between mixing and change water as needed. When mixing two colours it can be helpful to mix the more dominant of the two into the other. For example when making green, mix blue into the yellow, adding a small amount at a time, until you reach the shade you want.