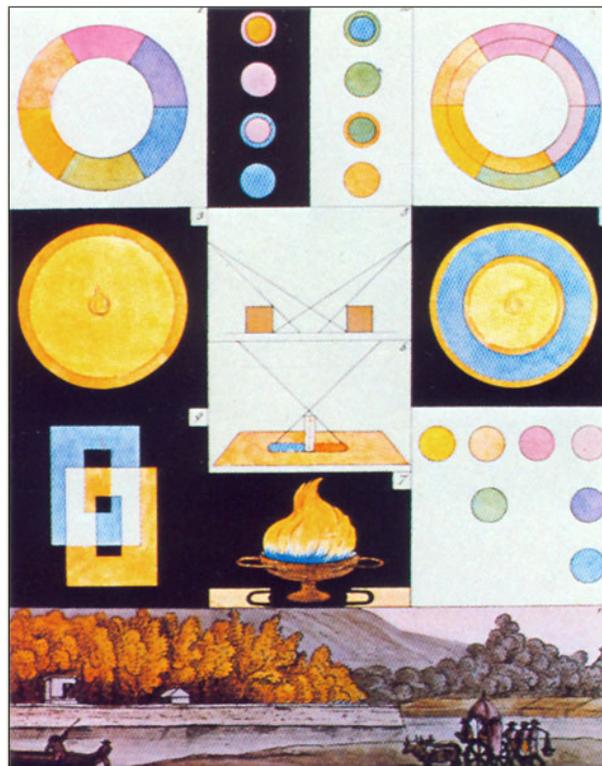


Using Colour I

I am always trying to increase my understanding of colour so that I can use it in my glass work to make a visually appealing finished piece. Colour theory is generally based on opaque or pigmented colour so it is useful when working with opaque, solid coloured glass. However, glass also has other properties such as transparency, translucency, light reflection and refraction, and depth. This is why working with glass is so addictive – there are so many ways to use those properties.

Colour harmony is really the arrangement and combination of colours in a way that is pleasing to the 'eye'. It could be a glass plate, a painting or a chocolate dessert! The reason 'harmony' is important is that when we look at colours in an object we feel an inner sense of order and appreciation of the piece.

Since I am trying to sell glass for a living it is very important that the pieces I make have an 'impact' on a potential buyer and that the customer becomes a client. My pieces are all handmade, functional, affordable and aesthetically pleasing to the eye because I select colour combinations carefully. If the colours are all from the same part of the colour wheel then the effect may be too bland to attract a buyer. Alternatively too many colours, and too many complementary colours (opposite colours on the wheel) then it may be too chaotic and discordant to the eye.



A page from Goethe's Theory of Colours published in 1810 and which challenged Newton's laws.

Sir Isaac Newton saw colour (correctly) as a problem of physics as light struck objects and then entered our eyes. Johann Goethe, a writer, artist and politician, believed (also correctly) that our perception plays an equally important part in how we see colour. JMW Turner was a master of colour and used Goethe's 1400 page book *The Theory of Colours* extensively.



Goethe by Andy Warhol – a master of using colour

Every colour looks different according to its background. Red on black appears more vibrant than red on white and red on blue-green is brighter than red on orange.

I have noticed over the years that certain colours do 'sell' themselves. People are attracted to blues, greens and yellows seemingly more than reds and purples. Having said that I predict that all I am asked for in the next years are reds and blacks! I am clearly no expert!!