

## Value Defined

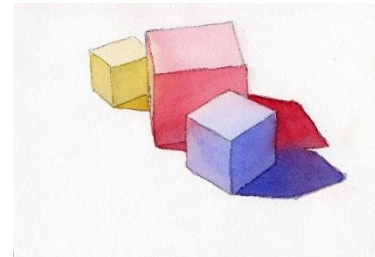
**Value** is a measure of the relative lightness or darkness of a color or color shape. It is also referred to as **tone** and is one of the three characteristics of color.

Learning to see the many hundreds or thousands of values as they exist in nature and to then transpose them a limited range of steps is fundamental to understanding and applying good **value** design in your paintings.

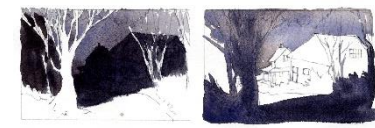
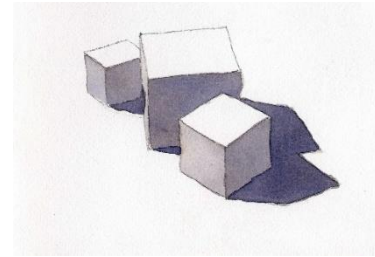
## Important Uses Of Value For The Artist

Value, consciously designed and placed, will support many aspects of the painting. Primarily, though, Value has three important uses to the artist in developing compositions for painting:

- First, properly applying a range of values supports the representation of an object with its local color and some of its three-dimensional form.
- Second, properly applying a range of values supports the representation of the quality, intensity and direction of light.
- Third, and perhaps most important, the conscious placement of contrasting light and dark shapes helps draw the eye to places in the composition, especially the focal point. Essentially, replacing or rearranging the values as they scene, with an arrangement of values that best fit the design painting.



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Of all the characteristics of color, value is the most important one to understand and use when composing your paintings. The range and of value will arguably have more effect on the viewers perception of space and mood than any other – hue, chroma or temperature.

Learn to use it well and wisely. It will boost the strength and accomplishment of your work tremendously.