

Viewing light affects colors

TRYING ON CLOTHES can be really depressing. It seems that every time I go into a fitting room, there are three or four thin people

looking in the mirror, checking to see if the color of pattern looks good on them. They also check the length and then turn to see how it views from the back.

But what about me? I'm in my little cubicle with the curtain tightly drawn. Breaking into a sweat, I start muttering aloud and praying silently that the button meets the hole.

The only good news for me on the fashion front is that elastic waistbands are "in" this year. Those thin guys were trying on elastic tops because they like the look. I was trying them because I need the benefit they offer.

ANOTHER DEPRESSING aspect for me is trying to find a shirt in a color to match the pants.

Store lighting these days makes color coordinating quite difficult, I've discovered.

After I found a pair of pants on the "Fat Freddie" rack, I looked for a matching shirt, size XL, of course and found what I thought was a perfect match. But my problem was far from over. It was then that I looked up at the store lights and said to my wife, "What color are these lights anyway?" There were a cross between blue-violet, reddish white with a pinkish beige halo effect.

Not trusting what I saw, I walked over to the front door to see how the pants and shirt matched by daylight. Upon reaching the glass doors, I learned two things. One was that the shirt and pants were two completely different colors and, secondly, security guards pop out of nowhere when you get that close to the doors without a bag and receipt in your hand.

ALL OF THIS leads me to the point of my story. It's no big deal when you're buying clothes for yourself and you get them home and the color seems to change. You have the option of exchanging things.

But that's not the case when you are doing an oil or pastel for yourself or a customer. Then, you must be very sure that the colors do not change. Keep in mind that even though the colors themselves do not change, what does change is the light the picture is viewed in.

So my point is that you must be careful to create the work of art in the same type of light that the picture is viewed in.

Upon receiving a commission, I always ask my customer where it will be hung and in what type of lighting.

If, for instance, the work will hang in an office, the lighting most often will be fluorescent. Fluorescent is most often a blue-white light. So it is very important that you mix your colors in fluorescent lighting.

Incandescent or bulb lighting is always a reddish-white. Even though you may need the brightness of fluorescent lighting to work by, you should constantly check your colors under bulb lighting. Let's imagine you are doing a portrait in pastel. If you render it in bulb lighting, you will enjoy how the reddish light warms the facial colors and even causes causes a bit of a glow to the flesh tones.

Be prepared for a shock, however,



artifacts
David Messing

if your customer views the work in fluorescent lighting. The bluish light flattens out most of the flesh tones and cools the highlights. To be sure that you have adjusted your colors for this phenomenon, I recommend a dual light system.

This is a drafting lamp which has both a fluorescent tube and a candle-bulb. This system will guarantee that the colors you create will be the colors your customer sees.

David Messing has been an art teacher for 10 years and operates an art store, Art Store and More at 16338 Middlebelt, Livonia. He encourages comments and questions from readers. These can be directed to him in care of this newspaper, at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia #8150.

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Honored

Two Madonna College alumn members hold the honor of being the first two interpreters to ever interpret opera in the nation's capital. Mary Wells, sign language instructor, and John Ray, counselor, educational support services, were flown to Washington, D.C., by the U.S. Air Force for a special performance recently in Constitution Hall. Of the 14 interpreters in the country who are able to interpret operas, Wells and Ray are the only ones in Michigan. They have been working together for 10 years in operas and plays and are currently working on a Shakespeare Festival at the University of Michigan-Flint.

Garden tour tickets available

Tickets for the Franklin Garden Club walk, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, will be available at the Franklin Public Library on the day of the tour. The library is at Franklin Road and Wellington in Franklin Village. Tour maps will be distributed with the \$5 tickets.

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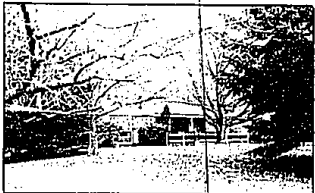
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