



# Color and Culture: Practice and Meaning from Antiquity to Abstraction

*John Gage*

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Color is fundamental to life and art yet so diverse that it has seldom been studied in a comprehensive way. This ground-breaking analysis of color in Western culture from the ancient Greeks to the late twentieth century is a John Gage triumph. With originality and erudition, he describes the first theories of color articulated by philosophers from Democritus to Aristotle and the subsequent attempts by the Romans and their Renaissance disciples to organize color systematically or endow it with symbolic power. The place of color in religion, Newton's analysis of the spectrum, Goethe's color theory, and the theories and practices that have attempted to unite color and music are among the intriguing topics this award-winning book illuminates.

With a large classified bibliography, discursive footnotes, and an exhaustive index, *Color and Culture* is an invaluable resource for artists, historians of art and culture, psychologists, linguists, and anyone fascinated by this most inescapable and evocative element of our perceptions.

## Color and Culture: Practice and Meaning from Antiquity to Abstraction Details

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## **From Reader Review Color and Culture: Practice and Meaning from Antiquity to Abstraction for online ebook**

### **Rebeccameder says**

Pretty heavy reading and denser book than I was looking for. I also hope for more nice color illustrations in a book about color.

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### **Hiwa says**

I think that help me to find more about colour within cultural ideal for my degree project

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### **Jeff Eisenberg says**

ok read-some interesting parts

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### **Erika Mulvenna says**

The author gives a heads-up in the first paragraph of the Introduction that "...this is not an academic book." and that "...thus my book opens and closes with instance of how a failure to look at colour comprehensively has led to absurdities of theory, if not of practice."

I'm not sure how you can look at color comprehensively to try and expose past problematic theories without an academic approach. And in an attempt to do so, this book seems sometimes unorganized, sometimes rambling on without a point, and sometimes too full of historic names, dates, people, and places without clear organization.

This approach (the feeling that the human soul has been taken out of the color equation) isn't a new one. It's the same approach of Faber Birren in his two volumes *Monument to Color* and *The Story of Color*. Birren included some of the same information without what I felt was an overload of facts.

The one section I did appreciate was the author's look at the rainbow as portrayed by artists through the ages including a nice selection of color reproductions. Still, it isn't enough to make this book a good addition to my library. I had buyer's remorse 10 minutes into this book.

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