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Recommended for ages 5 and over

Use this trail to find colour in the Museum. Colour changes the way we think, feel and understand the art we are looking at.

Begin your colour adventure in Gallery 5.

FREE ADMISSION

OPENING HOURS
Tuesday - Saturday  10.00 - 17.00
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Seeing Colour

Colours can look different depending on how close we are to an object. Artists have to think about this when they make artworks. As we move further away from something, our eyes blend what we see into different colours and shapes. Choose a painting and begin by taking six steps back.

What colours can you see? Which colours stand out?

Record the colours in the painting using coloured pencils.

Moving close to the painting (but too close) and use your hands as a window to pick a small area to look at. Remember not to touch the painting.

How does the painting look different now that you are closer to it?

How have the colours changed?

Balancing Colours

This is a colour wheel. Colours opposite and colours next to each other work well together.

Choose a painting. Look at the pairs of opposite colours (below) and grade the artwork according to which colour you think appears the most. If you think it has both colours in equal amounts, you can put a mark in the middle.

Colour Hunt

Make your way to Gallery 6. Look around the room. What colour stands out the most?

Did you notice the gold frames? The artists have also used very thin layers of real gold in the painting, called gold leaf.

Why do you think the artists used so much gold?

Look around the room. Many of the paintings are religious, drawing scenes from the Christian Bible. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is often shown in blue. Blue was a special and expensive colour that came from a mineral called lapis lazuli found in Afghanistan.

What other colour is Mary wearing?

Go downstairs to gallery 28

These pairs of colours are called complementary colours.

Colour is linked to feelings and emotions. Think about your favourite colour. Can you find it within an artwork in this room? How does it make you feel?

Circle the words that best describe your feeling.

Happy
Excited
Sad
Thoughtful
Angry
Peaceful

These objects are from East Asia. Most of them are very old.

Pick your favourite to draw.

Go downstairs to gallery 28

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