

DESIGN DILEMMAS

Paint groups

By Vanessa Riddell

Every year various paint companies, and the colour company Pantone, come out with their “colour of the year” announcements. These “reveals” are hyped and ridiculously over the top but it’s fun to see what different companies think will be hot for the upcoming year, or where colour trends are going and why.

According to Benjamin Moore, 2019’s colour of the year was Night Watch PPG1145-7 (a dark green). For 2020, the colour is First Light 2102-70 (a light pink). Benjamin Moore also thinks colour trends are moving from the individual experience to a more collective one. For both the 2019/2020 years, they group colours into 4 categories. These categories are:



- **Ironic & Iconic** - Bright optimistic colours influenced by pop art and the way digital lifestyles are influencing real life.
- **Redefining Luxury** - Subdued and sophisticated colours because luxury brands seem to be redefining themselves, creating more conscious ideas of luxe, becoming more service oriented, and being less showy.
- **Quietly Powerful** - Simple and austere, a less is more approach with strong but simple colours, promoting health and calm and grounded-ness.
- **Shifting intentions** - The world is changing; smaller and more diverse cohorts, more spirituality yet less religion, these colours work well with earthier and natural landscapes and a sense of community.

If you would like to find out more about paint colours, check out the fantastic Benjamin Moore web site at www.benjaminmoore.com. You will find information on colour palettes, colour insights, information on a particular colour, product catalogs, how-to advice, inspiration photos and where to find the closest paint store that stock Benjamin Moore paint. In Old Ottawa South that would be Bonds Decor.

Have a happy and colourful holiday season!

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THE CREATIVE CURRENT

Creative problem solving...when you have great ideas but have completely run out of time

By Vanessa Coplan

So I will open this piece of writing up with an apology. This is not a typical contribution to The Creative Current. But I think it does value the many different flavours, colours and fluency of creativity and how it affects people in our community. This piece of writing is in fact where the heart of my interests lie; in the creative process, the different paths one can take on that journey, that it can manifest in different ways. Not just in producing art work, but in relationship to how people interact with one another and the world.

Firstly, given the fact that this will be the last OSCAR of the year, I will give you a preview of what’s coming up in some of the future Creative Currents of 2020. Rob Cowan’s approach to embracing a socialistically creative way of life, Leslie Reid’s art practice as it relates to the internal and external landscapes we inhabit, Jeff Adrienne’s hopes for Sheridan College, Harry Loop/El deVille and more...

Back to the creative problem at hand, that being problem solving, and my problem to be exact. Here’s what happened. I mismanaged my time. I got so excited and got so caught up in the interview process that I did not leave enough time for the processing, sifting through words, thoughts, interactions and then putting all that together in an organized and coherent piece of writing. Oh sure, I thought about pulling late nights, burning the midnight oil to crank out this article and make it work, but when push came to shove I just couldn’t do it. Not because I am too old to act like a teenager, but because it would not do justice to the wealth, breadth and riches of information I have learned from my interviewees this month. So I thought it best, and much more adult of me to value what they and I have to say by holding off to write when I have more time and space in my head and in my life.

When the light bulb turned on and I realized that I would have to completely shift gears to make this writing



deadline, I realized that I was actively and spontaneously engaging in what I find so exciting about creative acts. That is the moment when the idea translates into reality, when intention is made manifest and when frustration gives way to movement. It turns out this process has a name: creative problem solving. According to Creativity Tools From MindTools.com “Creative problem solving (CPS) is a way of solving problems or identifying opportunities when conventional thinking has failed. It encourages you to find fresh perspectives and come up with innovative solutions, so that you can formulate a plan to overcome obstacles and reach your goals.”

I don’t believe all problem solving is the same. Just as all creative thoughts and actions are different, so are the paths to getting there. What seems to be missing for me from this

definition is the magic, the mystery, the unknown. Maybe it is because much of these processes can also happen unconsciously, while dreaming, driving, exercising or even cleaning the house. Much can be said for the important and organic effects of time, space and letting things percolate, bubble up from the depths of slumber, distraction, memory and mood in moving one from a place of questioning and process, to one of answers and action.

Then the next step, of course, is taking my own good advice and being more prepared next month.

Wishing you the best of the holiday season and hoping your new year is filled with creative currency.

Vanessa Coplan is an artist, art teacher, creative coach and a resident of OOS.

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