

Wine And Lipstick

In 1810, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe published *The Theory Of Colours* as his 500 pages treatise on the nature, function, and psychology of colours. He couldn't be more scientifically wrong as he started by refuting Newton's idea about the colour spectrum suggesting instead that darkness is an active ingredient rather than the mere passive absence of light... Interestingly enough his psychology of colours section is highly intuitive and insightful.



Mariani
Acrylic on paper
37x27cm

Red

... The effect of this colour is as peculiar as its nature. It conveys an impression of gravity and dignity, and at the same time of grace and attractiveness. The first in its dark deep state, the latter in its light attenuated tint ; and thus the dignity of age and the amiableness of youth may adorn itself with degrees of the same hue... (Goethe)

Blue

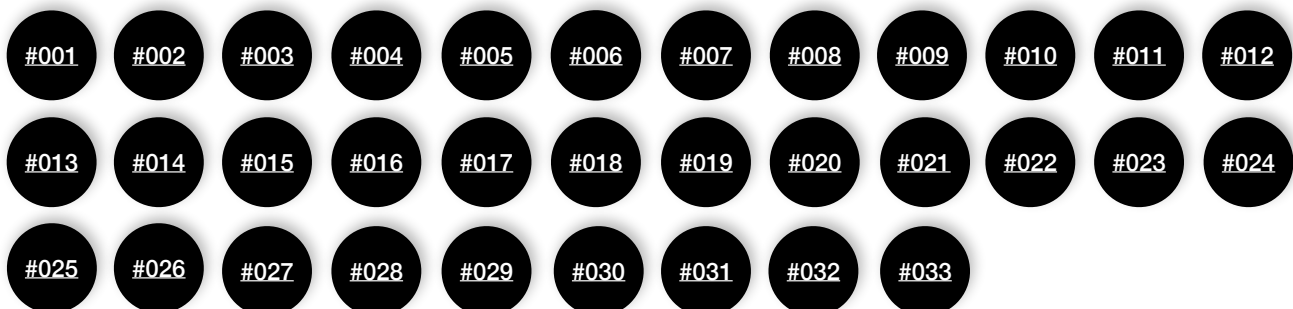
... This colour has a peculiar and almost indescribable effect on the eye. As a hue it is powerful but it is on the negative side, and in its highest purity is, as it were, a stimulating negation. Its appearance, then, is a kind of contradiction between excitement and repose... (Goethe)

And yellow; it is the pinnacle of colours to the extent that, for Goethe, a yellowish white is the *purest* of whites.

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