



Basic Tips

Color is huge component of most Modern Art. Adding color is vital to the success of your pages – these images will come to life when you do. Until then you may not realize their full potential. Peruse the Coloring Gallery for ideas.

Prep – before starting, choose and have readily available the most fitting coloring tools for each image as well as a comfortable place to color – then the focus can just be on relaxing and experiencing the “zen” that will come about.

Tool and Technique Selection and Experimentation – there are a variety of illustrations, simple and complex, that require the use of different fine art utensils to best cover the shapes. It may be helpful to use the last pages in the book allotted for practice and doodling. Use the appropriate tool for the job...i.e. don't use a sharp colored pencil to fill in a large space that could be more more easily filled with a thick marker or crayon. It will take a lot longer and it won't necessarily look better. Some designs will have larger, more vast spaces that would best be filled with a bold marker. Others will have much smaller detail, so a thin marker, gel pen or very sharp colored pencil may do the trick. Keep a quality sharpener handy. If a design doesn't have enough detail for you, you can always use a fine waterproof pen such as a Pigma Micron to "tangle" larger areas, then later fill them in with color. Colorists are encouraged to determine what works best, based on physical ability, fine motor coordination, age and skill.

Choose Quality Utensils – not all crayons and colored pencils are created equally! My personal recommendation is old school, Prismacolor and Verithin pencils. Using a light hand always helps too. If you are interested in finding out more, there are many blogs on coloring and a lot of information on the newest pencils, pens and markers colorists are recommending.

Coloring Effects – you may choose to color the images all with solid color or add gradations (shading) if you desire. It is always recommended that if you plan to shade, you start with the lightest colors and work your way to the darkest, as most of the mediums you will likely use aren't erasable and are semi-opaque. It is possible to color in marker and add colored pencil details after the marker is completely dry. Many colorists love gel pens and glitter pens. It is all

personal preference. What colors should you use? Check out the Coloring Gallery for ideas. Different color schemes have different purposes. Complementary colors are attention-grabbing and will make your image pop and give it that wow factor. Analogous colors (closely related such as blue-violet, violet, red-violet) are more harmonious, soothing and pleasurable to look at. Cool colors (greens, blues) are calming when used alone, and when used alongside warm colors will make objects appear to recede. Warm colors alone can look very cheerful and inviting.

Avoid leaks – always place a piece of freezer paper (plastic coated), chipboard or a few spare sheets of paper behind each coloring page that you attempt to use marker or any kind of water based writing utensil on. Every brand of marker responds differently to each paper type, and some may bleed, so better to be safe than sorry. Try using your marker in the direction of the lines containing each shape, instead of randomly filling in from all angles. It will look neater and you won't destroy the "tooth" of the paper by overlapping too many times.

Page Removal – It would be best to use a utility knife and straight edge close to the binding of the page needing removal. A piece of chipboard or cardboard placed underneath the image will protect the pages below. Colorists may be inspired to remove their favorite finished pages to mat or frame and hang these pieces in their own modern homes. They were designed to fit in standard mats and frames.