

Garden Portraits Newsletter

Melissa Mannon Photography

Color Harmony in Art and Nature

by Melissa Mannon

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Autumn Burst fuses the colors of Autumn with a bright pink tone normally associated with Summer.

warm colors such as red with appropriate quiet cool tones, offers up a harmony that is felt in the soul. Color harmonies encourage a “*joie de vivre*,” making us feel alive and happy when we

view them.



Rudbeckia and Sage Meld combines contrasting colors for a stunning visual impact that soothes the soul.

According to Vincent Van Gogh, “Color in a picture is like enthusiasm in life.” The vibrant colors found in my images demonstrate the beauty of the natural world and aim to provide an uplifting visual experience.

Color can elicit powerful emotions. I believe that a fusion of colors promotes well-being. Mixing festive

“In visual experiences, harmony is something that is pleasing to the eye. It engages the viewer and it creates an inner sense of order, a balance in the visual experience. When something is not harmonious, it's either boring or chaotic. At one extreme is a visual experience that is so bland that the viewer is not engaged. The human brain will reject under-stimulating information. At the other extreme is a visual experience that is so overdone, so chaotic that the viewer can't stand to look at it.” (See Color Matters

<http://www.colormatters.com/colortheory.html>.) It is the job of an artist to create

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color harmonies to engage and delight the viewer.

As a garden photographer, I seek pleasing color compositions that speak to one's heart. I want my viewer to identify with nature, to feel a passion for the earth and what it has to offer. I want the viewer to either see things and feel calming emotions that he

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Melissa Mannon Wins Writers' Journal Semi-Annual Photography Contest

Writer's Journal recently awarded Melissa Mannon first place in their semi-annual photography contest for her image “In the Gazebo”. Melissa also received a runner-up award for her image “Protea with Knives”. The winning

photograph will be published in the November/December issue of the national magazine.

“I am honored that *Writer's Journal* chose this image of my daughter in

her spring dress. We had a great deal of fun photographing it.”

The image can be viewed in the portrait gallery at melissamannonphotography.com/

Special points of interest:

- Melissa Mannon recently received a third place in Photography at the Bedford Art in the Park ‘Bel Esprit’ for her photograph entitled “Soaking in the Rain”
- See our recently released Christmas cards available through our web store www.melissamannonphotography.com/store/

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has never experienced or I want to bring him back to a familiar place of peace. Nature is a source of healing and viewing its harmonies should help us commune with all it has to offer.

Recently, my good friend Dr. Sara Thyr wrote about the color green. According to Dr. Thyr, “Green is restful and energizing at the same time. When we spend time in nature, not only are we getting away from the harried craziness of our daily lives, we are soaking up the essence of healing.”

In the garden, green combines with

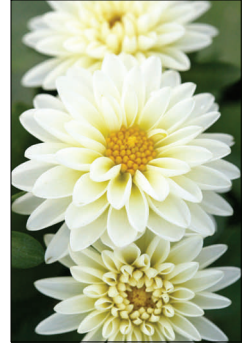
Dr. Thyr is a naturopathic doctor and midwife. Visit Dr. Thyr's web site at www.drthyr.com

vibrant yellow, orange, red, purple, pink, and blue for a showy display celebrating life itself. Follow the changing colors throughout the year and experience the vitality of life alongside the passing of time. Profuse harmonizing colors make me feel grounded and alive.

Autumn is my favorite season and my favorite time to photograph in the garden, for nature never puts on a more spectacular show than now. All the colors in our palette show themselves

in their most vibrant forms. Brilliant yellows, reds, and oranges serve as a backdrop for pinks, purples, and blues. In addition, brown becomes part of the vocabulary to show the true meaning of life

—from beginning to end. I hope the viewer feels more alive when viewing my images. And, I hope my images help one feel more enthusiastic about all nature has to offer.



Green serves as a healing backdrop for both soft and vibrant tones found in a natural setting.

Garden Portrait Newsletter Tips



Garden photographer and writer Melissa Mannon is author of Garden Portraits Newsletter. Please send questions and comments to melissa@mannon.org. www.melissamannonphotography.com

- When choosing colors — whether decorating your home, planning your garden, or putting your kids in complementary outfits for their next photo session — choose contrasting colors. Yellow and purple, red and green, and blue and orange offset each other to create color harmony.
- Mix different tones of color to create fresh textures .
- Don't be afraid of vivid color. Use accents of hot pink, bright orange, or sunny yellow to brighten your face or walls. A brilliant blue scarf can make the color come out in your cheeks and a painting with passionate red can make your living space more welcoming.
- When trying to create color harmonies, start with a color that really appeals to you —one that speaks to your soul. Add on complementary colors in many different shades.
- Don't be afraid to experiment with color and you may stumble upon a combination that speaks to you on a base level.