

2021 - Presidents Challenge

My goals in selecting this challenge...

- Make it relevant to all the different ways each of us work with fiber.
- It should be as easy or as hard as you want to make it.

When working with fiber, we all need to think about the colors we will use in what ever we make. I wanted the challenge to give everyone a way to possibly improve their use of color.

To describe a given color people often start by saying it is red, blue, or yellow, or some combination of them, but that only describes the hue. As many of you know, there are three aspects to color; hue, saturation, and the light/dark brightness, often referred to as **value**.

Over the past year my appreciation of color has grown with a better understanding of how we actually see color.

There is a popular saying, “Color gets all the credit, but value does all the work.” The part of our brain that recognizes patterns only works in black and white. If you want to see a pattern in your fiber art in addition to choosing the hues, you also need to think about choosing appropriate values.

With that said, here is my challenge to you...

**Find the importance of
Value
in you fiber art.**

Here is how you might get started in your exploration...

Pick a project that has a pattern; stripes, plaids, or what ever is appropriate for your fiber art.

Make a small sample with colors that have similar values.

Then make a small sample with colors that have very different values.

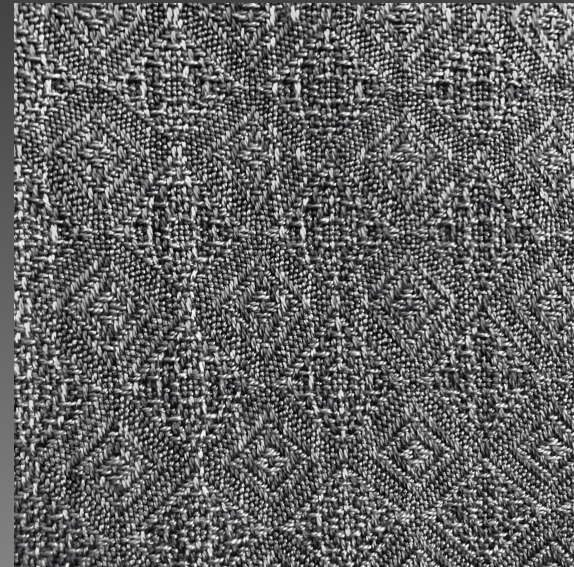
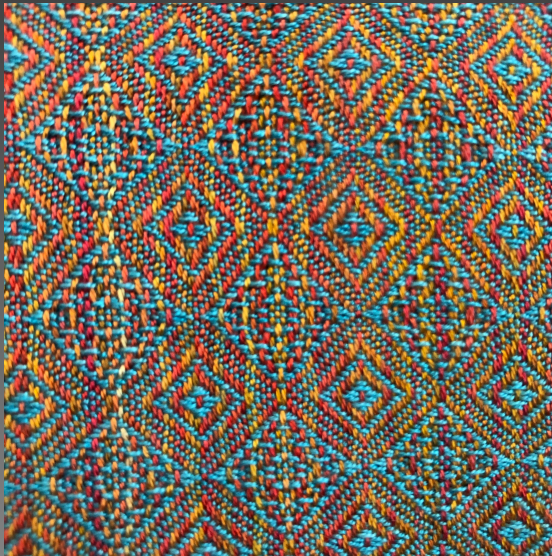
Take a black and white picture of each and see how the pattern is lost in the sample with similar values.

Over the year keep this in mind and next February bring in your work that shows off what you have learned about the importance of value.

Here is an example ...

This is a flat close up of a scarf that Jean and I made in the past...
In color, and in black and white.

The warp is a verigated orange, with red, and yellow. The weft is a robin egg blue.
In this case, the orange and blue have about the same value so the small pattern is hard to see in black and white.



When you are close to the scarf you can see the beautiful fancy twill.



But several feet away, the structure becomes faded. The question then becomes, what are you trying to accomplish?



Sometimes you may want a pattern to be bold, and other times you may want more subtlety. The trick is knowing how to get the one you want.

Over the coming year I will be exploring how the values of the fibers I use can make a big difference in my work.

You can make this as easy or as complicated as you like.

Where ever you are in your fiber journey, please join me in this challenge.