

COLOR MIXING

Working with value contrasts

Section 1

Mix a **neutral gray** from a combination of three primary (red, yellow and blue) pigment colors. Aim for a saturated gray that has no color bias. Begin by painting some area (like the shadow from the vase) with the most saturated mixture of this color (less water + more pigment = more saturated). Then using various amounts of water to “thin” and lighten the gray mixture, paint in other parts of section 1. Leave some part of this section unpainted white paper. Aim for at least five different gray values with one appearing nearly black.

Section 2

Using each of your primaries in their pure state (not mixed with each other), paint everything in this section with a **light value** of color (everything lighter than 50% gray in value). This section is a sample of a *high key palette* (all light values). Use more WATER, not white paint, to create lighter values.

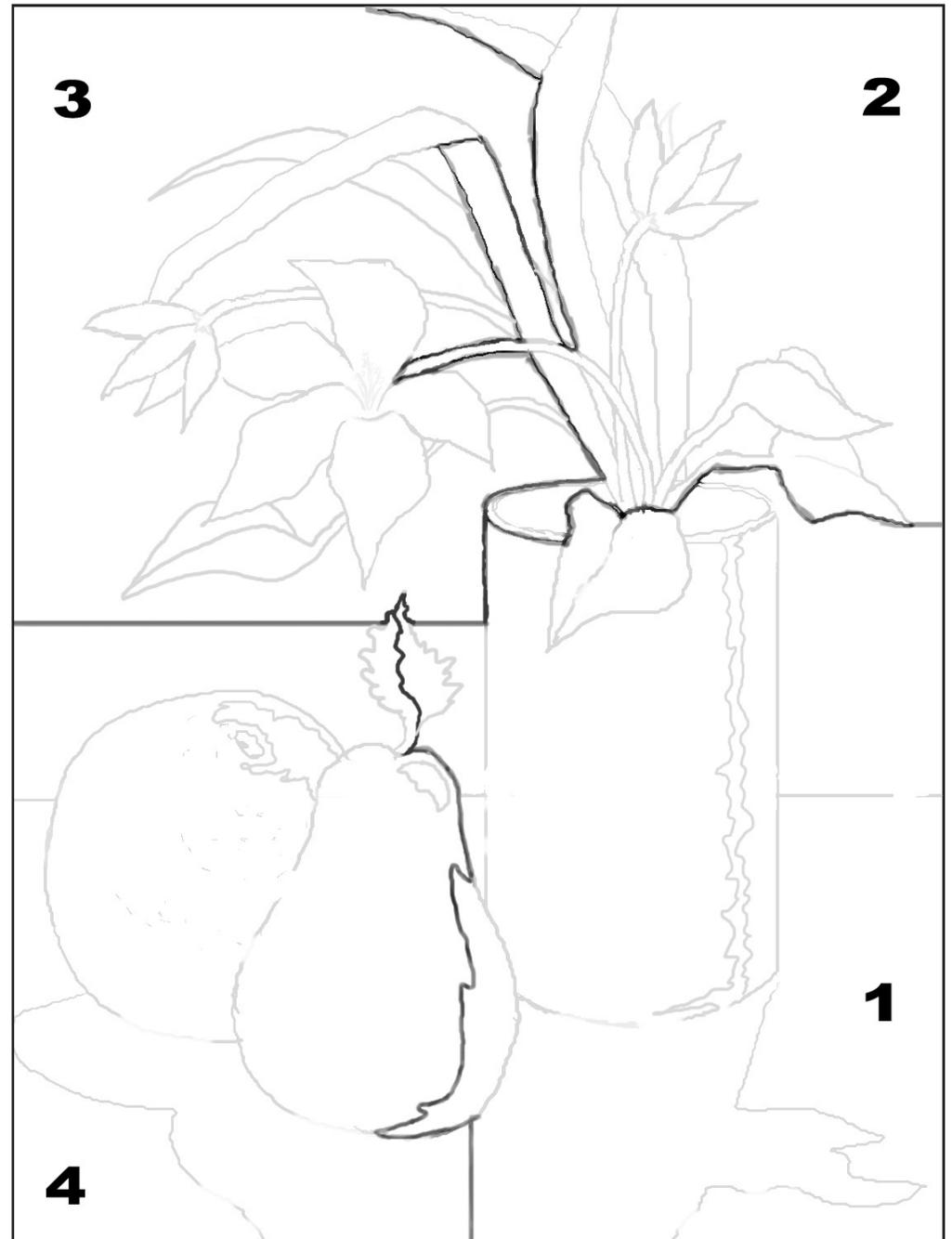
Section 3

Using your primaries, pure and mixed together to make additional hues, paint this section in **full color**, mixing as many hues/values as you wish or are able to using your three primary pigment colors. Keep your colors saturated (not too much water).

Section 4

Paint this section using your primaries mixed with each other, and saturated (less water, more pigment) so that everything in this section is a darker (50% or more) and duller (low-intensity) hue. This section is a sample of a *low-key palette* (all **dark values**).

See the next page for a sample of this exercise completed.



I used the following primary colors for this exercise:

- *organic vermilion (an orange-biased red)*
- *phthalo blue green shade (a green-biased blue)*
- *hansa yellow light (a green-biased yellow)*

This exercise may be repeated with ANY group of three primary colors.

