COLOUR CONFIDENCE WEEK FIVE

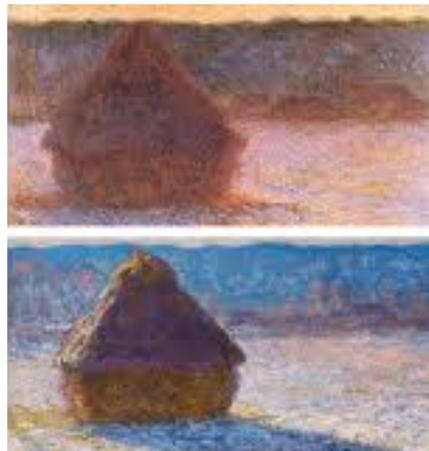## TEMPERATURE: The Warm/Cool Dance That Brings Paintings to Life

Colour Has Temperature—And It's Magic: Every colour can feel warm (like sunlight, fire, earth) or cool (like water, sky, shadow). Temperature isn't fixed—it's relative and contextual. The same green can feel warm next to a cool blue, or cool next to a warm yellow. Understanding temperature is like learning a secret language that creates space, mood, and atmosphere!

Art History

Temperature isn't about "correct"—it's about intention and feeling. This week we are looking at the atmospheres crafted specifically using colour temperature. Look back through the previous weeks to see where other artists have done the same.

Return of the Prodigal Son, Rembrandt, c.1665

Haystacks, Monet, 1890-91

Castle and Sun, Paul Klee, 1928

Green Sea Iona, Samuel John Peploe, 1935

Sun Icon, Marj Bond

Banner of the Coast (wambaw creek) Brian Rutenberg, 2022

Why Temperature is Powerful	
Creates Space and Depth	Warm colours advance Cool colours recede
Suggests the Light Source	Warm light (sunset, firelight, golden hour) = warm highlights, cool shadows Cool light (overcast, moonlight, shade) = cool highlights, warm shadows The light and shadow are complementary colours
Creates Emotional Atmosphere	Warm dominance = Cozy, energetic, inviting, passionate, nostalgic Cool dominance = Calm, melancholic, spacious, mysterious, contemplative Balanced = natural, dynamic, alive

The Temperature Toolkit

Add more Yellow	Create Warm Colours	Warm greens (lime, chartreuse), warm violets (burgundy), warm oranges (golden)
Add more Cyan	Create Cool Colours	Cool greens (mint, teal), cool violets (lavender), cool blues (sky blue)

Top Tip: Temperature is RELATIVE: A colour's temperature depends on what's around it. Purple feels warm next to blue but cold next to red. Context is everything!