

# COLOUR CONFIDENCE WEEK FOUR



## SATURATION: Control the Volume of Your Colour

Think of Saturation as Colour's Volume Control: Saturation is about intensity—how LOUD or quiet a colour is. Pure, vibrant hues straight from mixing your primaries give you maximum volume, full saturation. Whisper-soft, dusty, atmospheric colours give you low saturation. You control the dial.

### Art History

Shifts in saturation can help build depth and shift mood. This week we are again looking at work from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.



Mountain Landscape with Grazing Sheep, Thomas Gainsborough, 1783



Charing Cross Bridge, Andre Derain, 1906



Madame Vuillard Sewing, Edouard Vuillard, 1920



Still Life, Giorgio Morandi, 1956



Morena Valley, Mark English, 2014



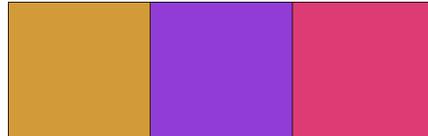
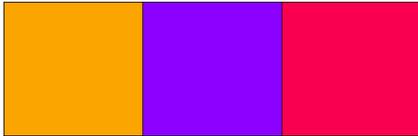
Red Moor, Barbara Rae, 1997

# Saturation = The purity or intensity of a colour

High Saturation = Pure, vibrant, full strength colour

Medium Saturation = Somewhat muted, toned-down colour

Low Saturation = Very muted, close to grey



**Top Tip :** Create Focal Points: Your eye goes to the most saturated colour first! Want something to be the star? Make it the most saturated thing in the painting. Everything else? Tone it down.

## Three ways to Lower Saturation

Add White = Creates tints	Lightens value Softens intensity Creates pastels, atmospheric colours and highlights
Add Black = Creates shades	Darkens values Creates subtle shifts in colour Use sparingly as can shift quickly
Add the Complement = Creates tones	Can maintain value Creates sophisticated shifts in colour Makes muted colours come alive