

# COLOUR CONFIDENCE WEEK TWO



## VALUE: The Secret Superpower Behind Every Great Painting

Here's the truth: colour gets all the glory, but value does the heavy lifting. Value is what creates form, depth, drama, and guides the viewer's eye. Master value, and your paintings will have power—regardless of your colour choices!

### Art History

We will look at artists who understood that value is power reaching back to the drama of Carravagio's deep shadows to the melancholy of Picasso's Blue Period to the precision of Chuck Close and Jeremy Miranda.



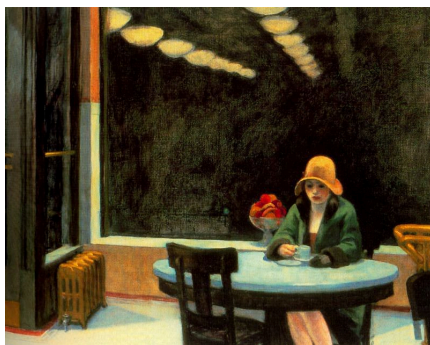
The Calling of Saint Matthew by  
Carravagio, 1600



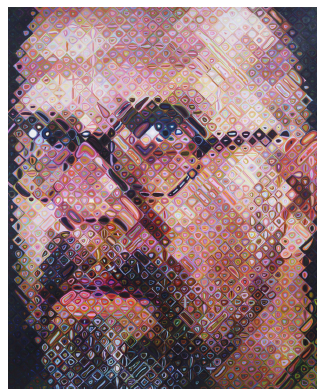
The Milkmaid by Johannes  
Vermeer, 1668



The Old Guitarist by Pablo Picasso,  
1904



Automat by Edward Hopper, 1927



Self Portrait by Chuck Close, 1997



Minus World 1 by Jeremy Miranda,  
2023

# Why Value Matters

What is Value? Simply: how light or dark something is. That's it! But this simple concept is the backbone of all visual art.

## How Value Helps

<b>Creates Form</b>	A sphere looks flat without value shifts from light to shadow
<b>Builds Depth</b>	Light values advance, dark values recede
<b>Establishes Mood</b>	High contrast = drama; subtle shifts = calm
<b>Guides the Eye</b>	The strongest value contrasts attract attention first
<b>Makes Colour Work</b>	Even the most beautiful colour fails without good value structure

**Top Tip :** Take a photo of your painting in black and white. If it reads how you want it to without colour, you've nailed the value structure.

## Last Word

Most paintings fail because of weak value structure, not bad colour choices. If your painting feels flat or unconvincing, check your values first. Are your lights light enough? Your darks dark enough? Is there a clear pattern of light and shadow?

### A 10 point Value Scale

