I know what I like

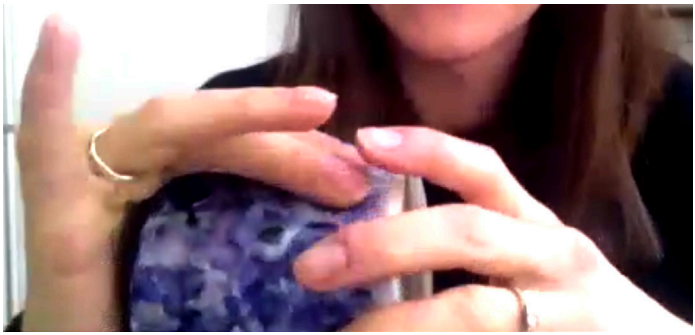
Lovely Mug Ugly Mug

This is my favourite mug

It's such a boring mug n terms of aesthetic. As in pattern. But I like the shape of it and it's a good size. I like the curved bottom. It's a good handle .

They're the kinds of things that I look for when I am having a cup of tea. Its just a very simple shape. That's what I like about it. But it's just a bit boring isn't it?

This is nice but it doesn't please me apart from the shape, I don't like that it's just a white china mug.



This one is pretty much similar

Other than the curved bottom , that's exactly the kind of size and shape I like, and a good handle. And I just love the story behind how she made the pattern. She loved to splatter glaze all over the place. So, I just remember her making this. She just flicked the glaze with the paintbrush. It went everywhere. And then there was the finished mug.

So, this is a really good mug, and also, because I've helped her make it. Like it's a good thickness all the way around, and the rim is rounded so it's a nice to put your lip to.

It's a good sturdy just a nice mug fits in my hand nicely. More of an advancement from this one but I still think the shape is probably nicer on this (white one)

Si
Pla

This one used to be my favourite

But it is a bit to tall, but just marginally. Too narrow- quite like this one, because the smallness of it, and again it fits in my hand.

I remember watching how they made them. When we were in Cape Town we went to visit a couple of crafts people. They've got their own signature of the person that made it. Just watching how they so precisely put all the dots on was so clever. There's quite a lot of texture on it like you can feel on the glaze

But then it cracked all the way down it. Now we just use it to measure out rice. It's quite a handy size. Because I don't want to get rid of it. So, I really like that one, but I can't use it anymore

These are the good ones

A nice handheld shape I can hold with my whole hand.

Not too tall.

This one (left) is good because I just like that rounded bottom. There is something quite pure about that.

Sometimes my preferences differ because of the story or how they are made .

I don't know whether to be honest, any of these are quite right. I'm always looking for other brands or buying them from other artists.

Being a potter

Obviously, it's tricky when I do what I do. That probably constitutes my reasoning for choosing what I've chosen over just picking a mug that we bought. Being a potter, you are always looking.

This one, for example, we got in Japan. I love the textured ridges on it and a nice sort of milky glaze over clay.

But it's too wide. I probably bought it as an idea to make it into something. But its not quite right. It's a bit too small. My fingers get trapped in there.(the handle).

My perfect mug

This one (left) is my favourite at the moment, and this one (right) that is not quite the right shape..If they were combined, I think that would be my perfect mug. Just a bit of interest, a bit of texture on the outside, and then the the nice shape.

I tried to start making some

But a bit smaller. I tried to get a bit more of the curve.

But this is not quite right. Again, I'm going for small - I don't like them too high, that's he other thing. I don't like drinking a lot of tea at one time.

And I like this one because I did the glaze inside. I like that

A cupboard of full of mugs we didn't like

When we first moved in , a standard gift is that people buy mugs. For ages we had a cupboard that was just full of mugs that people have given us that we didn't like.

They were all just like standard supermarket mugs. Two with Union Jacks on. Those kinds of things. That we did use for a while, when we were doing the building work here. An enamel one, that had some sort of naff little phrase. A big chunky mug. We have taken them to the charity shop.

At Mum's there aren't any to choose from

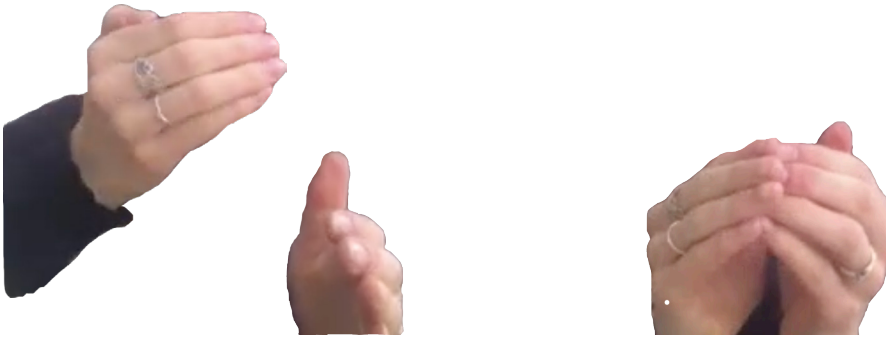
They are enormous and wide. She has these enormous mugs and where she gets them from. They are like big barrels By the time she's brought it from the kettle to you, it's already gone cold.

She's got the tiniest cupboard for them so they barely fit in. She drinks it very quickly, so it probably doesn't really matter to her.

Such a bad handle

This one is from Japan. This has got a galaxy glaze, that sort of dribbles down. You can feel the ridges of where (the glaze) . I like that one too, But that is such a bad handle . You just can't get any grip on it. It's so slidy. It's just not right.

There's a reason that handles are bit square That's a nightmare to hold when it's got tea in it you really can't get a good purchase on it.

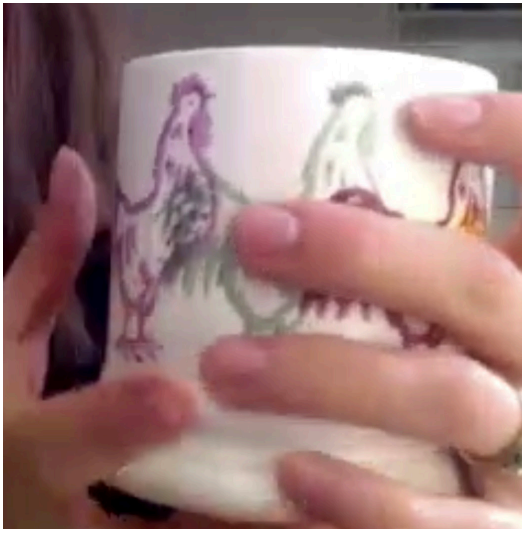


I don’t like them too high

A friend texted me the other day : “Is there anything you can do? I’ve chipped my favourite mug. I’ve chipped the top and I don’t know how to fix it so that I can drink from it “.

She sent me a picture and it goes up like this. Oh dreadful. about this tall. But she loved it. And I thought : Oh No. But I could see why because there was a like a curve in the middle, so I guess your hand fits around that bit.

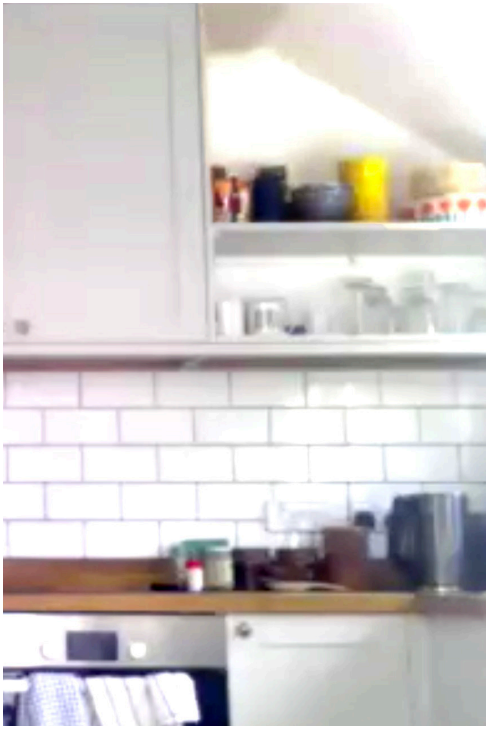
It was just too tall. I like a squat little mug



When I just need to sit on the sofa

If I do come home from somewhere, you know and I'm really cold or just want to sit on the sofa with a big cup of tea. When I do have a big amount that's quite a big volume . That's an afternoon mug . OK for a good amount of tea for a long sit, because more tea means having to sit on the sofa for longer. If I had (a smaller mug) I would be done in two seconds.

It's still a good shape - I can feel my hands around it. It's not too tall. It's still quite squat. The chickens remind me of my granddad. He used to keep chickens. This is Emma Bridgewater. When we bought our kitchen, they were giving them away.



I'd like to have it a lot brighter

I've come to learn that X likes to accessorise with color and then we have a muted palette. That's why I have things like a shelf of curated items that are all coloured.

I keep all the candles stumps for the colour

Colour

The colours I like

Definitely vibrant. But they have a depth to them. So more a block, not a flat colour, I think I'm sort of drawn to. Not that I attach them all to a flavour), but they are quite sensory colours. I'm just looking at the tulips we've got in the garden. I always pick nice bright, vivid zesty colours I suppose.

But then I quite like it when they're matched with more of an earthy tone. Here there's quite bold colours and then these are kind of like layered colours with a mix of tone.s

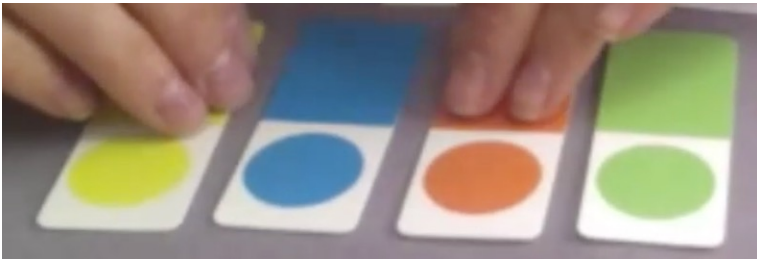
It depends on the context

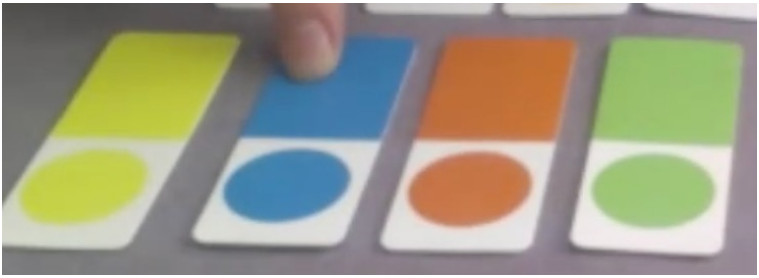
With clothes for me, if I look at my wardrobe it's often a block colour that I'm drawn to. There's s a tone of color that I like. I think, I really want to wear that. Satisfying colours I want to wear. Colour and pockets is my criteria for most clothes. I used to wear all those different coloured tights.

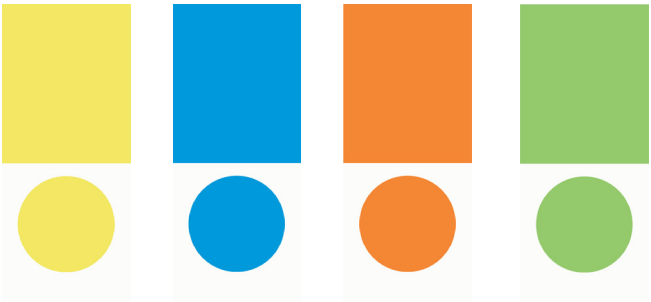
X said well it depends what it's for. What's the context? . If you said to me: 'would you like any of those colours on your wall? ' The answer would be no. if you if you said to me : 'Would I like a T shirt one of those colours ? '. The answer would be well, some of them, but not all of them. It depends what context?

Thirsty yellow

It's funny because when I was at school, there was a tree on my way my way to school, which I always used to say made me feel thirsty, and that was the colour of it. My friend always used to love it when we would get to the that road. She'd say : '' Don't look at that tree because it makes you thirsty'', and it was that kind of really limey (yellow) Such a good colour.





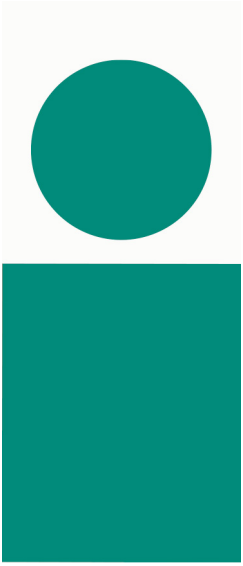


They're probably a key set of colours that I use

But not in another combination. It does depend on how they're sitting next to each other. You've got to have these two: they've got to be in between - the yellow and orange. (The green and the yellow) are too similar - so there's got to be a contrast. That (blue) is quite a muted colour but I like it for how punchy it is.I do like that limey colour, and I love greens.

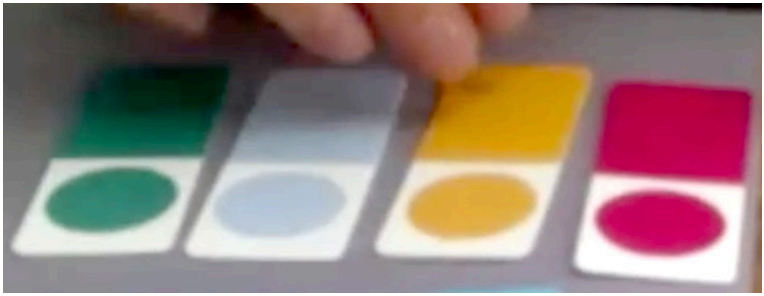
I think it's about getting a balance .That's why that works for me because you've got the balance of the slightly more muted tones in between the stronger colours

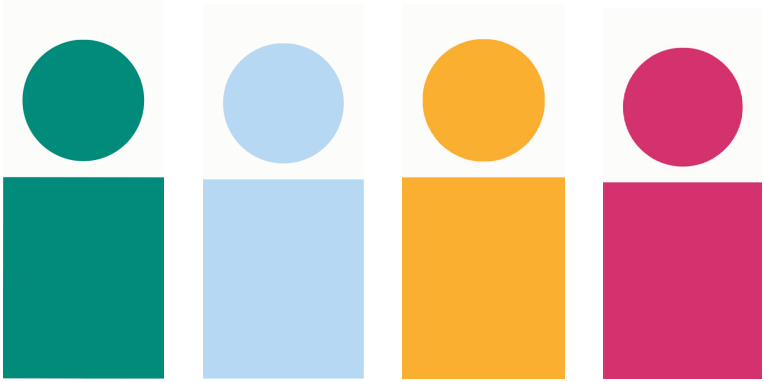
I do like having the grey in between them, I think I can then I can see the colours bit better on their own. But know that they work together, because they're in a group there.

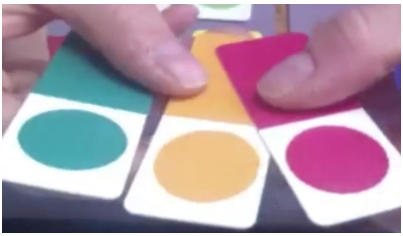


I like quite bold colours

These are the kind I love. That turquoise colour that is like a layered colour where there's obviously a mix of tones in there.





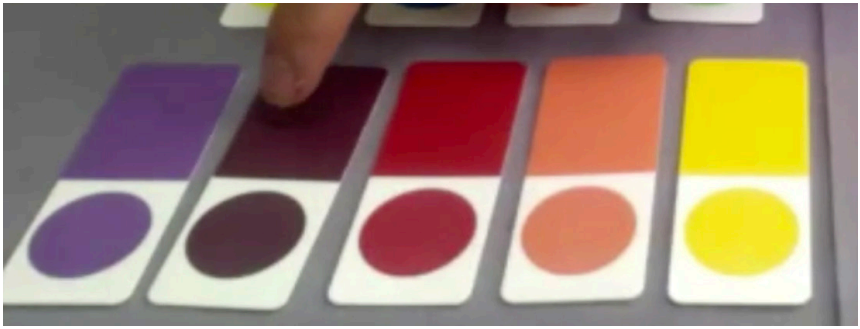


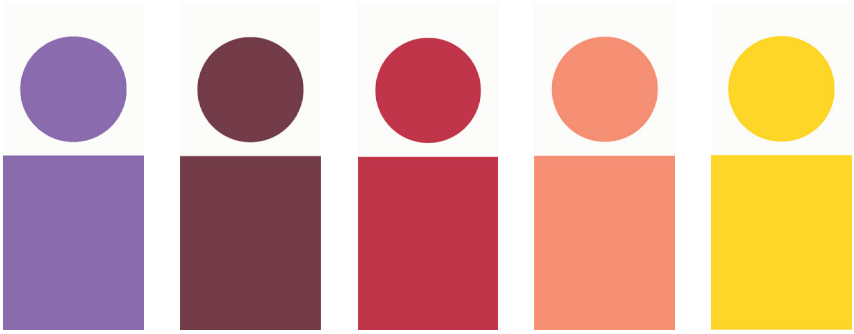
I am crocheting a cardigan, and its those colours

I love that turquoise colour. and how they marry together . They need the grey. Somehow, is it keeps them separate

That's just evolved out of me saying about this cardigan: just noticing that those colours went together, as I know them. Because in my crochet bag they're all lined up like that.

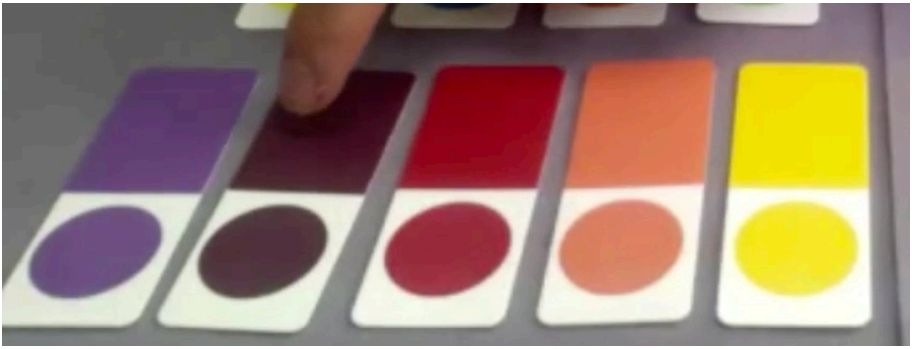
They marry together.

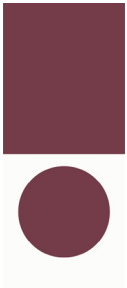


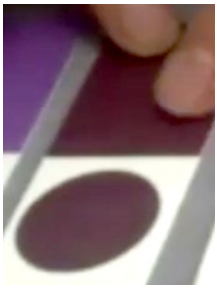


These are a softer gradient

The balance of the slightly more muted tones in between the stronger colours.. I like this guy and what he does for the team - he's a good one. Its quite chocolatey, but it's got a bit of red in it, purply – burgundy.





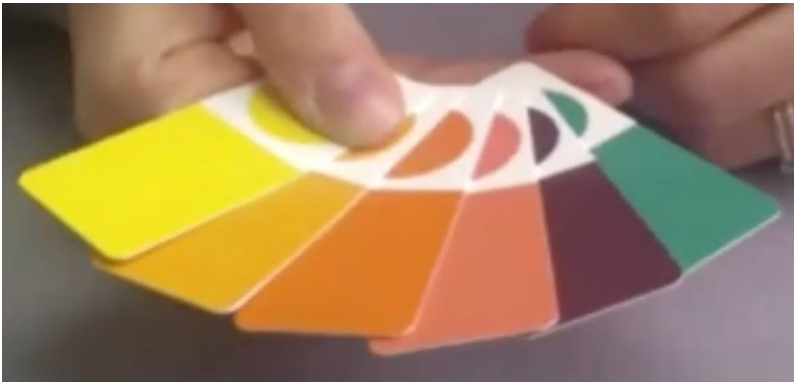


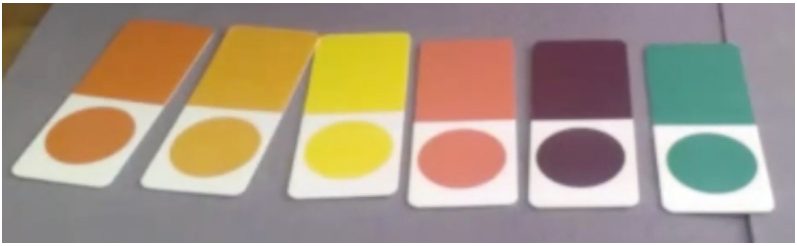
These are exactly the colours I have got in the garden

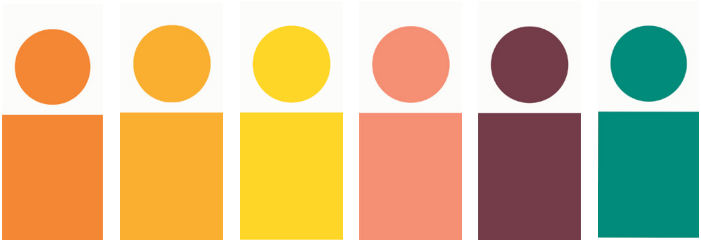
We've got a lovely plant called a heuchera, and a peony that colour, and tulips.

These are my favourite – the ballerina tulips, and also there's a berberis – that's a nice rich 'reddy' colour.

I think I'm most drawn to that one (dark purply brown) , but then I like it because it works within the set of colours. You've got the brightness around it, but that's why that gives it a bit more of a richness

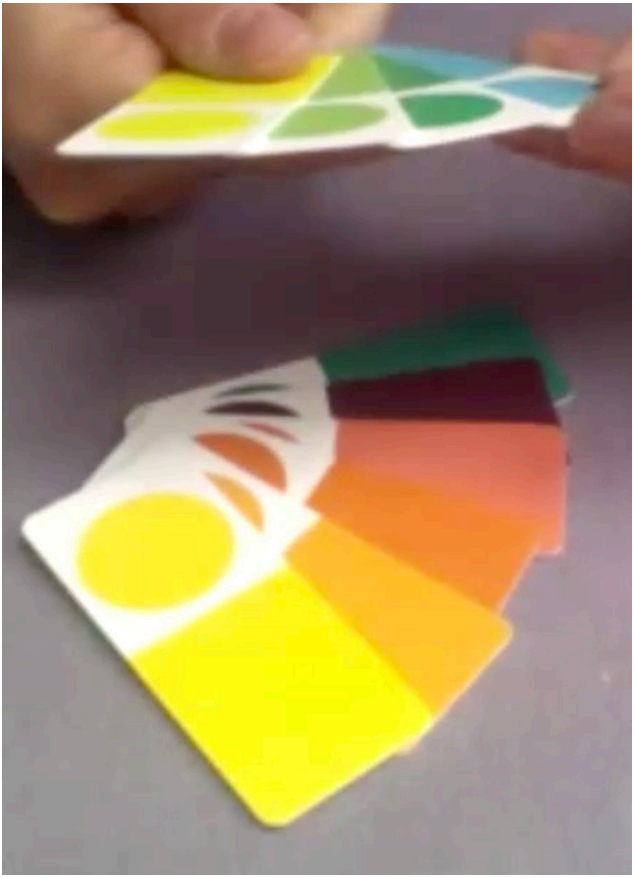






These look quite good together

I am more of an earthy girl with some rich tones in between- I am definitely drawn to more vibrant zesty colours, but they have to be balanced.



Those (middle) look quite good together actually.

Funny because it's not what I thought I would go for.

I thought I would go for loads of greens - I like those together now

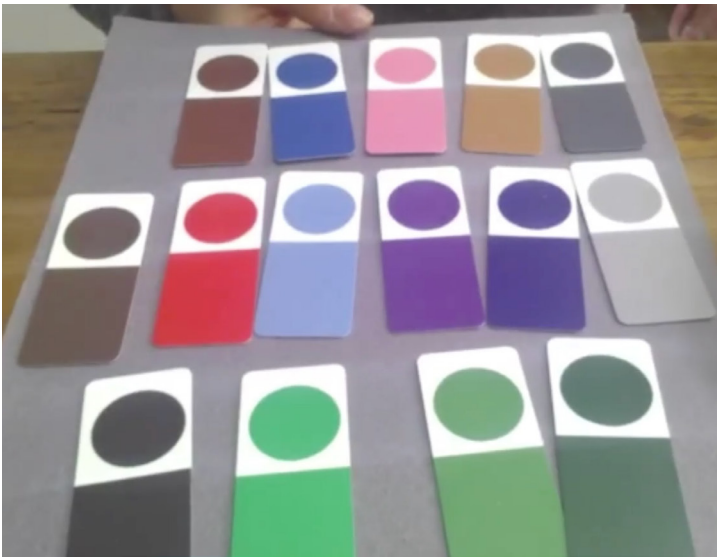
I think I quite instinctively group them into how they balance each other out and how they work together.

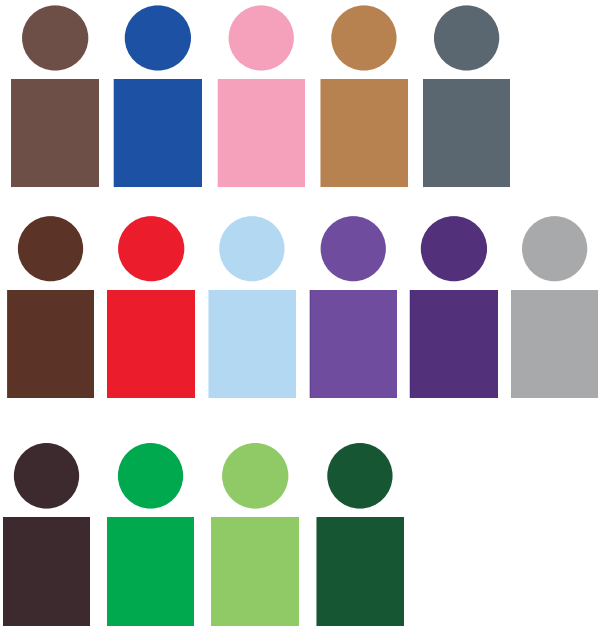
I've been thinking about colour a lot recently

Because that's how I used to work. I made these recently. I just love that colour, and I'm just (asking myself) why don't I do more stuff like that? – with these nice bold bright colours like I used to?

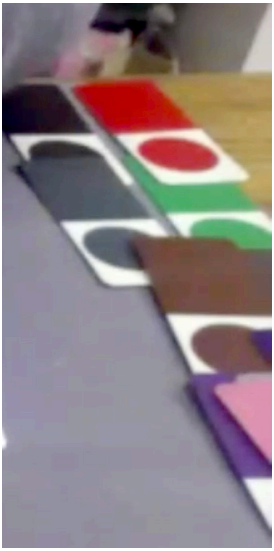
How I like to use colour I suppose, is more, pops of colour, especially in my work. Especially with the rubber stamps I was doing. I got all the colours that were possible in all the stamp in pads that you could buy. I just love playing around. I associate that with being playful I suppose.

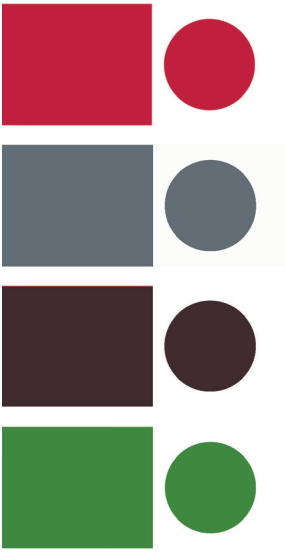
I have come to wondering whether I've lost that a bit and need to bring that back a bit more to what I do, because when I do (use those colours) – I think : I love that! That makes me happy.

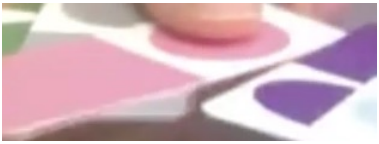


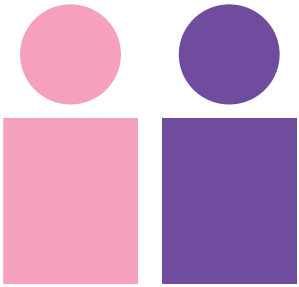


These are the colours I don’t like









Definite ‘No’s

Not red.

Grey is just not my thing

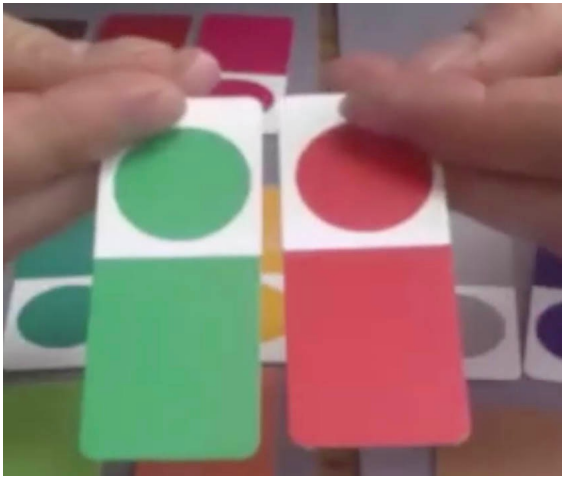
Not that pink, and I don’t like that purple

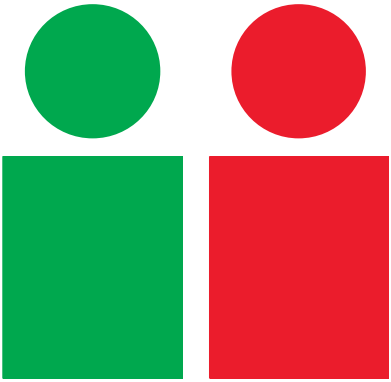
Definitely not that

That's probably the only one I'd be like, definitely not. There's something I just don't like (about) primary red. It's just not my kind of colour. It's just not a pleasing colour at all. I don't have any connection with that colour. I don't find it nice. I don't enjoy that color,.

Which is why it's really annoying me that those tulips have gone red.

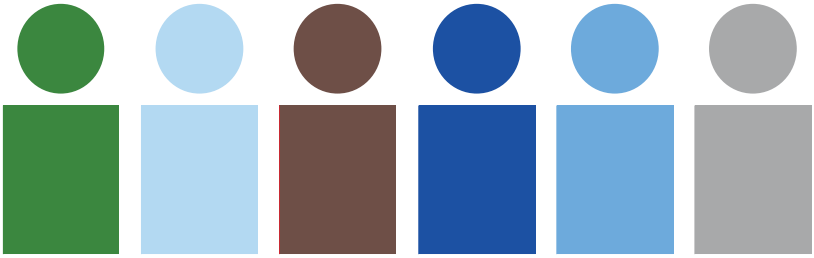
They haven't actually come out as planned, because they are supposed to all be yellow but somehow, like some of them will come out red.





I'd say they are really flat colours to me.

I don't like those so much. So they're definitely 'no's'

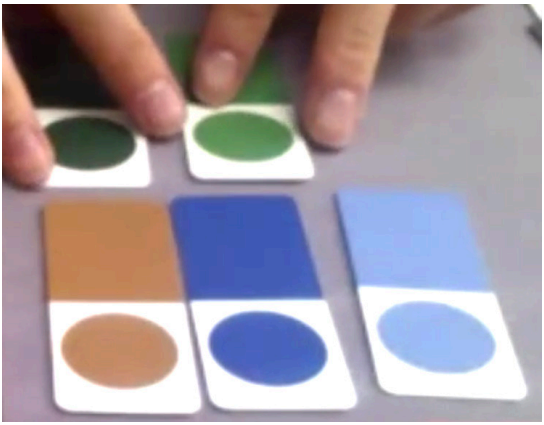


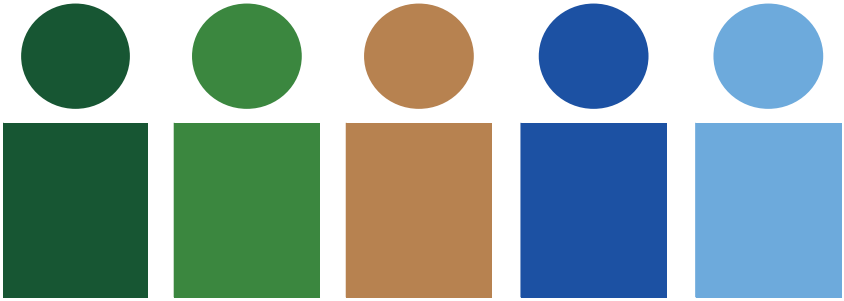
I can see how these go together in a way.

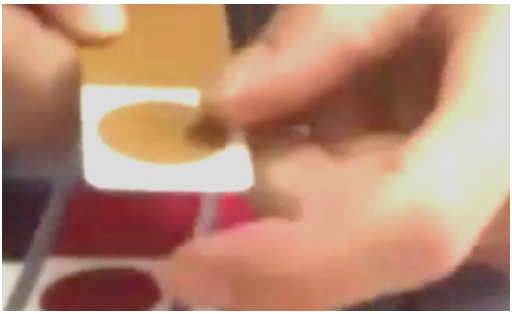
They're just different tones I suppose.

I'm more of a rich girl with some earthiness in amongst it.

But those ones just don't kind of fit into the mix for me, at the moment.







There’s something a bit more tonal about these

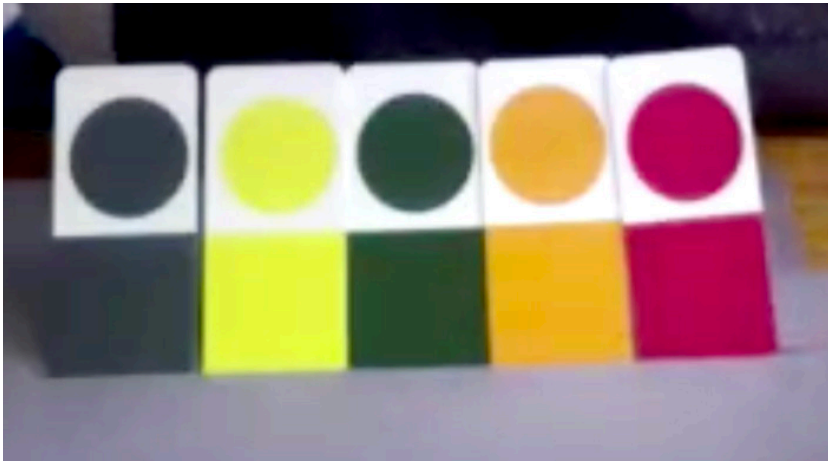
I did quite like that brown at first, because it’s quite earthy

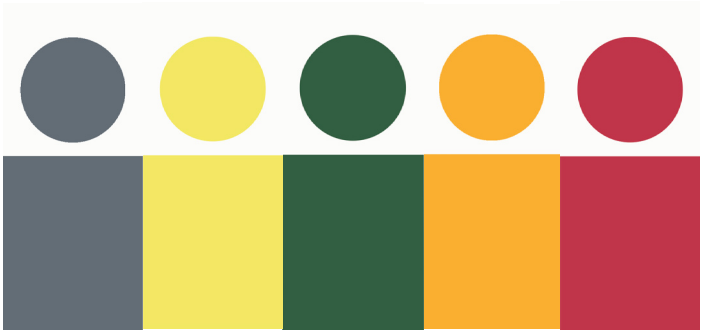
My grandad and the pea green lion

(My grandad) was a Leo and always wore a lion round his neck and he would always name his jumpers, his favourite being pea green which he's wearing in this photo

I've got this association with the story of colours. That's come from him. His creative background. He always liked all colours to be named, which they are, aren't they? if you're a painter, every colour has got a name. There's Alizarin Crimson and.. Where do those names come from? The glazes at work that we use have got all these names. Who comes up with these names? Froggy green and Panther Black, Tuxedo, and Cotton tail.

Then it gets your mind thinking : you visualize the colour as somewhere else. I've always just got that association with joyful colours and the story that comes with a colour. Where it comes from.





My choice their choice

When I look around our house. X actually hates colour. He really doesn't like colour so we do always have this bit of a battle where he wants everything to be quite muted and then he likes little accents of colour

But (when I asked him to pick from these) X said : "Well, I like them all". That surprised me because I thought he'd pick all the grey ones.

These are the ones he picked which I was really surprised at. And its funny because I chose those two and that one.

X said :"You probably chose all the bright ones".

Personal Space

A favourite space

If I was going to sit out in the garden I would sit here (*in the corner on the left*) with my back to the wall, with my legs along here.

All the flowers along there used to be all high up so when you sat down - you were really sheltered in this sort of little nook. The sun comes along, in the evening, especially... In the summertime it hits this wall and it's such a nice little warm spot sitting there. I just really like that.. Also there's a lovely Acer tree - that's what you can see when you're sitting there. And behind it, (not that can see when you're sitting down) - there's a church spire over there. So I just like that view its just sky and then the banana palm.

Normally at the end of the day, or if it's lunchtime, and I am here and I'm just taking 10 minutes. You know, once you've eaten, just sit out there for a minute. Calm - Just close my eyes for ten minutes and listen to the birds. A relax space

The sofa situation

I normally sit there. (*on the left*) because I have my legs along there. And X sits like this (*on the right*) - I always have my feet up. Thats mainly because my feet are always cold (and) they don't touch the ground! I'm always in like a sort of fetal position of some kind, even in bed. A small ball !

I do you feel quite special when I get to sit here (*on the right*) because it definitely changes - It just mixes it up a little bit, I suppose. If I ever sit here - and it's not very often- I sit there with legs down here (*on the footstool*) , but it's normally on a day when either X is not here, or he's cooking and therefore I can just sit there. So for some reason, that means that you get to sit there if you're not the one cooking!

Otherwise it's just a normal day and then we're just in our normal spots.

(*on the right*) I feel like i'm relaxing a bit more, like I've been given permission to sort of relax even more than I would do. That (*on the left*) just seems like a normal day over there now. But that (*on the right*) is the coveted spot! And if I sit there X goes:" hang on a minute...?."

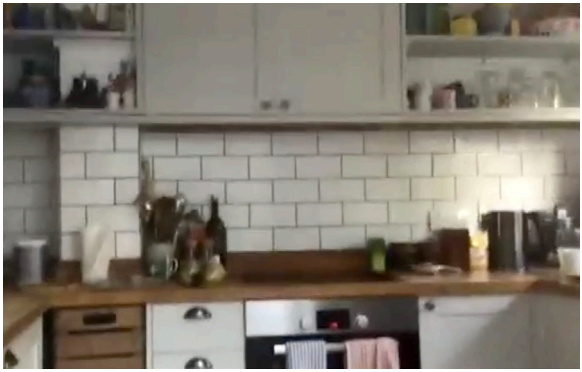
The serious chair

This chair I sit on at lunchtime. It's not the chair I sit on in the evening,. Or if we're talking about something serious - I will sit on that! I think, because of the shape of it, it's quite official. It's not a reclining chair. Then I have my feet on the ground.

The nicest thing about what we have done here, is that people say: 'Oh it's got such a nice feeling here' - That's the best compliment you could ever have because you think, well, yes you've done that righ then - that's exactly what we wanted.

When we moved in - it was very dark in there and now - where we've opened up this - what was a window here.. It's made so much difference to how we live and how this then appears connected to the kitchen.

My other favourite places to stand, which was one of the best things we ever did, was what used to be the door into the kitchen: we blocked it up and made the hatch. I love standing there. .. If we ever have people come for dinner they stand there whilst we are cooking, or making the drinks, or whatever . ..



(But) It's tough, because you know, I haven't got a proper workspace really: this is it. It's difficult to stay focused on it - when it's really just sort of the kitchen table or if its got anything on it. If I had lunch, I'd sit here at the end of the table so that I was looking out at the garden.

I started sitting this way now at the table when I'm working because the other way means I am just looking at the kitchen and that does distract me. Because you're either looking at mess, or just looking at nice things. It's just more busy-ness going on in the background. Then when I sit here I'm just looking at a blank wall - and that is what I need right now in my life because I have got too much going on in my head!

I think I'm just - easily distracted. I need to feel a little bit more .. I need to sit down and just focus at the moment, because otherwise I just don't get anywhere. For some reason, turning my back on everything - It's trying to get me to focus a little bit more, but I still manage to find something else to do - and look out that way, through the window!

I've got this book of silly inventions - and one of them is a like a sock you put over your head like a balaclava that goes to the laptop - So you're like in a tunnel, so you literally can't look anywhere else...!

Trying to Move

We had to tidy up the house again so we could put it up for sale. You just start squirreling things away -- and then I just can't be bothered to get it all out. You've only got to get a few things out and it just feels a bit chaotic -- exactly how your brain feels.

So it's weird that we're talking about space actually in that respect, because when we did put it (all) away it's one of those weird feelings... You're like 'wow' - when it hasn't got anything in it, -- when it's just -- the things you should have in a space, and you know it could be this neat and tidy? But it doesn't feel lived in , because you've sort of just cleaned up, - for home viewings.

It's such a fine balance --the minute you start getting stuff out. All that stuff everywhere and I can't cope with what needs to be done first or you know - it shouldn't be there; it should be on a work table where I can get it all out properly - not all over the floor.

Hence why we're trying to move, just to get a little bit more space, because if I had the right space to put that (stuff) - I probably would be able to focus on it a bit more.

Space is definitely important

Even actually having the little shed up the end of the garden, - I don't use it as much as I should and that's partly because it's got too many things in there in such a small space.

We've tidied it all up for the viewings and now I don't want to go in there and touch anything anymore!- it's all looks so neat and tidy now and if I get anything out, you know...

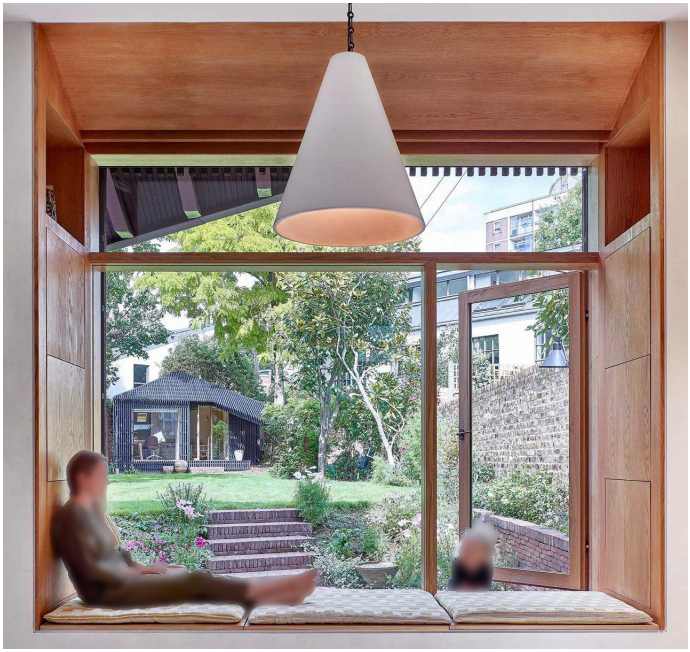
You need more space for doing ...

If you had the right space - what would it be like?

Nice, bright, big tall windows with lots of light. There's a lovely space at the Garden Museum. - That is absolutely the dream for a workspace or just for living. The workspace which is just one big wall of windows that look out into the courtyard (where) there's all the lovely planting. Nice natural light from above, and then everything's hidden away behind some big floor to ceiling - cupboard doors that fold out and everything's in there: all the storage. Just one long bench right across the front and it's just so nice.

A courtyard is something we talk about a lot. If we set up a studio it would be a courtyard and each quarter of the courtyard would be something, and it would all focus in on this central space. It feels like a big hug doesn't it ? ...That was the vision. It's just a dedicated workspace isn't it , that you can be creative in, and pick something up and go away from, and dont have to pack it away .

If you're -- creating a nice space for yourself inside but the outside is just as inviting. You know, then you've got the whole environment around you know, then its a nice comforting place.



A window seat

I always say if we ever built our own house or something or wherever we end up - I'd love to have a window seat. I've got this thing about window seats. Like a nook - where you sit..

Lots of cushions, just cosy. That's probably the one thing I dont have here. I don't really have a reading nook - I think that's what I would see that as, for reading. I only read in bed really, I dont read on the sofa. That's what I'd like a little cosy reading nook .

We found a place we like

It's the width of it.

The few that we've seen - just don't really give you the space that I think we were imagining. If we're going to move from here what do we want? They are all like - on top of each other, -- it's a room and a room, and a room.. (stacked).

Then we saw this bungalow. (It's) the width of the plot, and the garden. You go out and you can .. exactly as I just said before about - (ouside being inviting) - with this big wall of glass and you've got this garden. There's so much we could do with the garden and it's got a garage down the side, so we can turn that into a studio. There's real potential (to get) that feeling - that you're not sort of squashed in anymore.

There's something about the stairs - I don't like going in and just seeing the stairs go up.. It's just a different feeling about this that you're traveling differently - There's a flow - you come in and you go around a corner and then ahead of you is this corridor, and it goes out into what could be this big open room with light...we never thought that was the sort of thing we like - but its exciting us far more.