Exercise: Broken or tertiary colours

My aim in this task is to make a scale between an orange-red and a green-blue by maintaining consistent tonal values throughout the colour bar. I’ve added white to the mixture each time to increase the opacity; making it easier to visualise the difference between the values. Once I reached the centre of the sequence I added more white to create a broken/tertiary colour. Hues such as these comprise the majority of what we see every day. For instance, when one scans the horizon; the blue-grey colour we see is in fact a tertiary colour. This is the point at which the sky meets the earth.

As part of this exercise I have also experimented with other sequences. I’ve selected orange to violet as it is challenging to create a violet mix from scratch. As before, with every value change I increased the opacity by adding white pigment. The lightest tone in this colour bar is the light peach – making this the final broken colour. The middle mix has lost its colour in order to transform into a tertiary hue.

I created several sequences in order to examine how different colours lose their chroma, intensity and tone to become tertiary and broken colours. The final scale is particularly bold at times; I believe this is because I used an acrylic slow drying medium to extend the drying time of the pigments. It has generated a thin layer of gloss over the top, which results in some semi-transparent values.

Bibliography