

Know Your Yellows

Many yellows are available to artists. There are 30 or more manufacturers offering over 450 actual yellows of both single pigments and blends. Of these hundreds of yellow formulas you only really need four: one lemon yellow, one yellow light or pale, one yellow medium and one yellow deep. You can expand to a total of 8 by attempting to find, in each of the four, the most transparent manufacturer and the most opaque manufacturer of these hues. Even though there are over 450 individual yellows, my short list for the eight yellows can be found in just three pigments: **PY3**, **PY35** and **PY37**. **PY35** has green in it, as does **PY3**. That's why I use **PY37** instead of **PY35**, because **PY37** is good for mixing orange. **PY3** and **PY35** are good for mixing greens and are interchangeable in the lighter yellows. Each manufacturer has its own characteristics quality, hue and degrees of permanency, in addition to color. Some formulas and pigments are excellent, but some are just plain awful. I am only listing single reliable lightfast pigments (listed in green below) in this book, as I only recommend and use single pigments in your paintings. You can find pigment reliability by reading the numbers and letters on the tubes of paint, plus, you will see if it contains a single pigment or a blend of pigments. **I do not recommend PY numbers listed in red.** PY numbers listed in black you don't really need, but you can try them out.

Single yellow pigments easily available from to-days manufacturers are. Listed as follows: **PY1**, **PY3**, PY6, PY14, PY17, PY31, **PY35**, **PY37**, **PY40**, **PY42**, **PY43**, **PY53**, PY55, PY65, PY73, **PY74**, PY83, **PY95**, **PY97**, **PY108**, **PY110**, PY117, PY119, PY120, PY128, PY129, PY138, PY139, **PY150**, PY151, PY153, **PY154**, PY157, P7170, PY175, PY181, **PY184**, and **PY216**.

The color yellow appears to advance. It has the highest reflectivity of any color.

When looking for yellow, most artists think of Cadmium Yellow, a bright and opaque color. Cadmium Yellow has replaced toxic chrome (lead) yellows. It is more expensive than Chrome Yellow. Claude Monet used Cadmium Yellow because of its higher chroma and its greater purity of color.

Painters today can choose cadmium yellows as well as many modern and more transparent Hansa Yellows. Hansa Yellows retain their intensity in