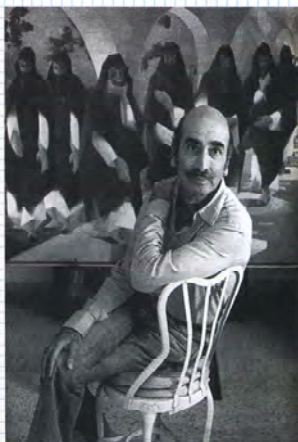


Jehangir Sabavala's *my eight indispensable hues*



Jehangir Sabavala. Courtesy the artist and Aicon Gallery, New York.

Born in 1922, the modernist painter Jehangir Sabavala graduated from Mumbai's prestigious JJ School of Art in 1944 before heading to Europe to study in London and Paris. Sabavala showed in the Venice Biennale in 1954, and four decades later was the subject of a documentary film, *Colours of Absence* (1994) by Arun Khopkar. Still at work in his Mumbai studio, Sabavala offered ArtAsiaPacific mediations on eight colors always found on his palette.



1 ORANGE

Mystery is an integral part of my art. As a young painter I had an exuberant palette. I dared to oppose an orange against a shocking pink, sometimes succeeding in a display of fireworks.

2 BROWN

I often use my notes—of the time of day or the season—as the key to my palette. I apply them to the figure, landscape or a fantasy of my making.

3 GREEN

An expansive palette of colors is important. I use greens that range from nearly blue to almost brown.

4 RUSSET

I exclude primary colors from my palette, caught as I am in the magic web of half-tone and broken color, which leaves room for continuous exploration. Russets rule the day.

5 GOLD

Sometimes I use as many as 30 tones in the same picture to achieve the desired effect, analyzing color at a particular time of day or season.

6 RED

However, I dislike being confined and labeled as a "painter of broken tones"—as if I were incapable of resurrecting the fire of my youth.

7 YELLOW

Every so often, and according to the depiction in hand, I revert to a rich palette of yellows, but never primary.

8 BLUE

But as time passed and my personality matured, my natural proclivity metamorphosed into broken tones of blue and gray.

