
FIELD. MUSEUM
Wild Color

Delve into the color spectrum like never before as you make your way through immersive rooms, each representing a color of the rainbow. Color-saturated spaces awaken the senses with vibrant specimens, photo-worthy displays, and shifting soundscapes. Marvel at the beauty and power of color in the natural world.

Exhibition Details

Size: 5,000 ft^2 (465 m^2)

Ceiling Height: 12 ft (3.66 m)

Languages: All text in English and Spanish; language may be converted by host venues

Science Advisor: Dr. Deborah Bekken, Director of the Gantz Family Collections Center

Features:

- 36 cases with 250+ Zoology, Botany, and Geology specimens
- 5 photo murals, 14 atmospheric murals, 2 ambient scent stations
- 3 videos, 8 soundscapes, 1 crowdsourced photo projection
- Social media photo opps

FIE LD.

The Big Idea

Escape the everyday and explore the natural world through the wonder of color.

Anywhere you look in nature, color holds meaning. It evokes emotion, signals alarm, creates disguise and illusion. In this special exhibition, you'll learn how to decode the hidden messages that different colors can send. Then, explore some of nature's mysteries that are hidden in plain sight: creatures that change color, plants and animals that give off an eerie glow, and shades of color that the human eye can't detect.

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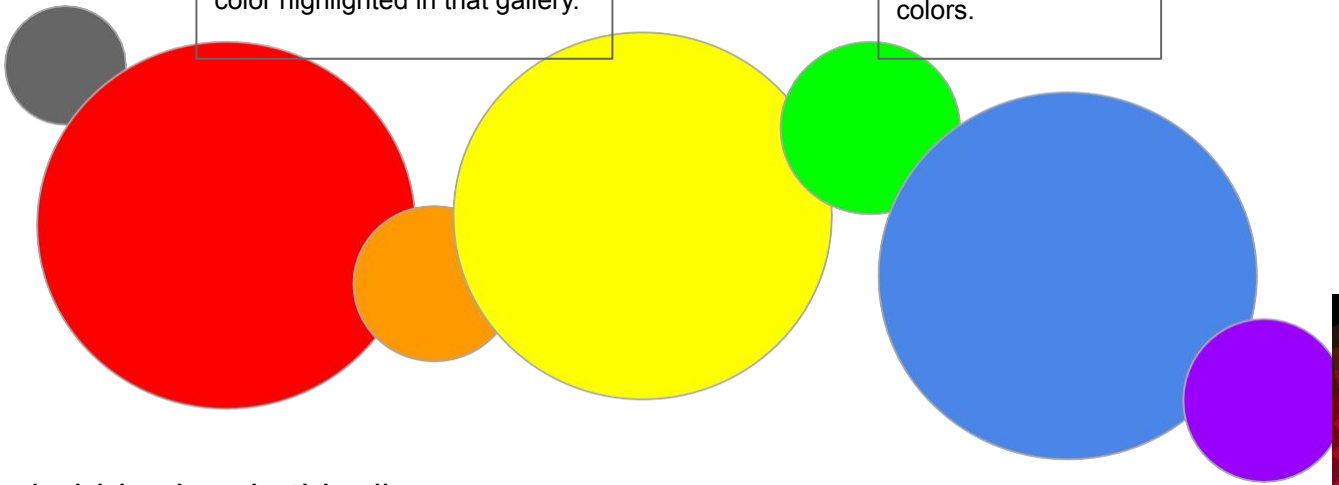
Experience Bubble Plan

The three primary-color galleries (red, yellow, and blue) are large. Each will feature a central experience that stays consistent in format, but carries different content, featuring the color highlighted in that gallery.

The three secondary-color galleries (orange, green, purple) are smaller, and serve as transition spaces between the primary colors.

The finale brings all the colors into play and launches visitors out into the world with questions, ideas, and conversation.



The bubble sizes in this diagram represent the relative weight of sections in the experience.

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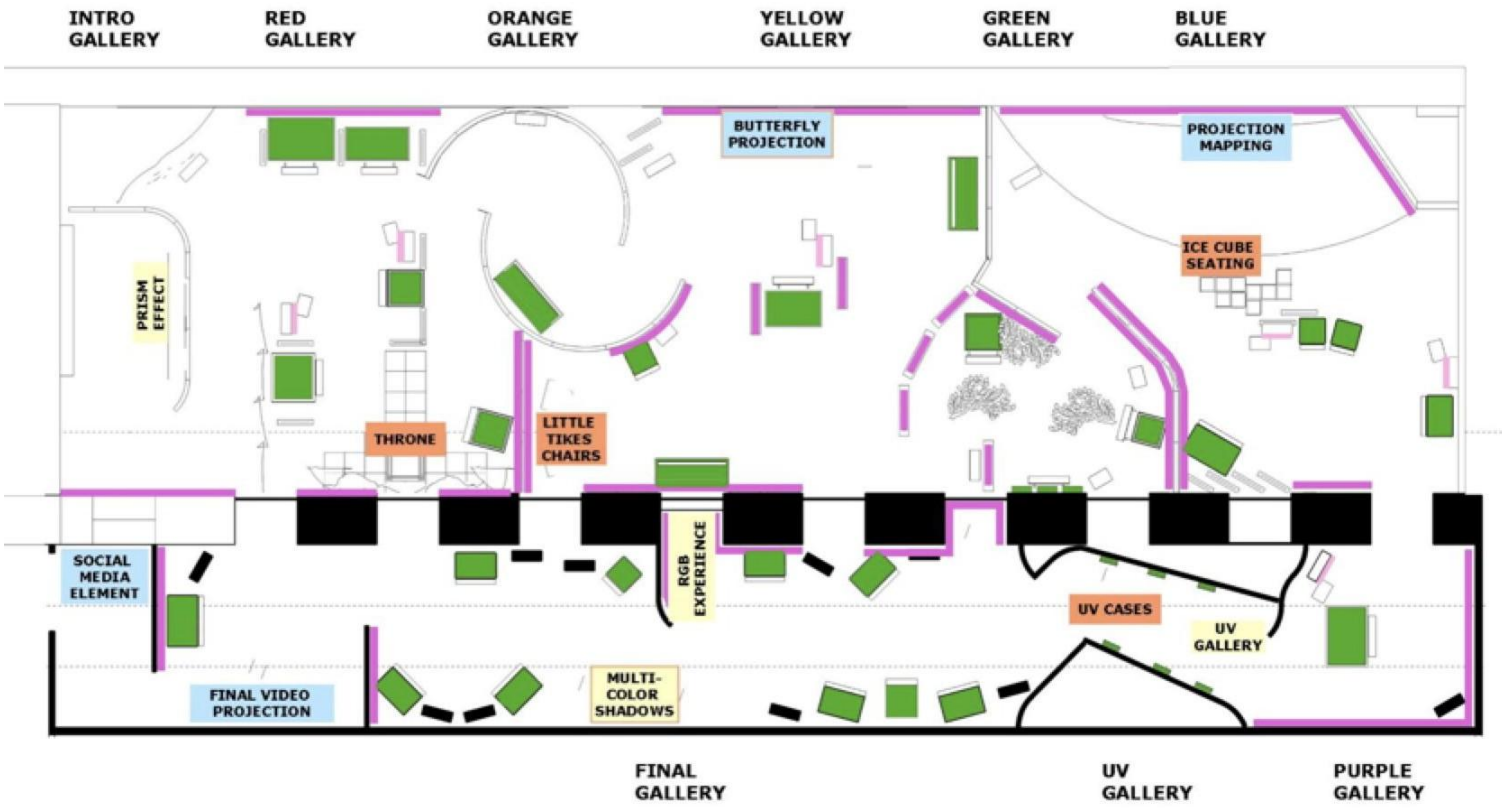
Field Museum Floor Plan



Exhibition Walkthrough


WILD
COLOR
RED-EARED SLIDER
ORANGE ROUGHY
YELLOW-THROATED MARTEN
GREEN LACEWING
BLUE TORCH CACTUS
PURPLE-CROWNED FAIRYWREN

Section 1: Red and Orange


RED
It lends rubies and roses their alluring charm, coral snakes and fire ants their warning alarm.
Whether mountain, or forest, or desert, or sea, it's the hue nature uses to say, "Notice me."
ROJO
Engalana los rubíes y las rosas, alerta de corallillos y hormigas rojas.
En la montaña, bosque, desierto o mar, natura nos dice, "me tienes que mirar".
ORANGE
RED CAN ATTRACT

Begin your journey through the color spectrum among the rich, luxurious hues of rubies and garnets. See how nature uses vivid red in the warning colors of king snakes and velvet ants, but also the attractive shades of fruits and flowers. A cornucopia of bright orange shells and birds follows.

Object Groupings in Red

- Red as warning
- Pigments from food
- Red hair and fur
- Red to attract
- Mixed red





Single Object Grouping in Orange

- Mixed Orange

Section 2: Yellow and Green


YELLOW
Some lemony beam of light, some lazy butterfly, the chirp of a morning warbler unzipping the light of day.
Sunflowers, daisies, clumsy bumblebees, the summer-honeyed laughter of children at play.
AMARILLO
Un rayo color lima, una lenta mariposa, el chipe amarillo con mañanero cantar.
Girasoles y margaritas, abejorros, la dulce risa de los niños al jugar.
MAMMALS AND MELANIN


YELLOW
TO SURVIVE


FLUTTERING YELLOW
Butterflies have some of the most striking colors in nature. Their dazzling wings can help attract a mate, warn predators, or blend into tropical environments. These butterflies get their different shades of yellow and brown from melanin, the same pigment that gives us our skin color.
AMARILLO EN MOVIMIENTO
Las mariposas tienen algunos de los colores más vibrantes de la naturaleza. Sus alas deslumbrantes pueden atraer a la pareja, prevenir a los depredadores o integrarse en hábitats tropicales. Los colores amarillos y marrón de estas mariposas vienen de la melanina, el mismo pigmento que genera nuestro color de piel.
1 Lemon emigrants
Catopsilia pomona
Asia and Australia
Mariposa catopsilia
Catopsilia pomona
Asia y Australia
2 Madagascan moon moths (comet moths)
Argema mittrei
Madagascar
Living for a week at most, Madagascan moon moths are in a race against time to reproduce. These nocturnal moths hide from predators during the day with their butter yellow wings, and use the cover of night to look out a mate.
Mariposas cometa
Argema mittrei
Madagascar
Como las mariposas cometa no viven más de una semana tienen que reproducirse pronto. Este lepidóptero nocturno usa sus alas amarillo claro para esconderse de los depredadores durante el día. Por la noche, sale a buscar pareja.
3 Common gull
Cepora nerissa
India
Did you know that butterflies look different on the front and back? For these common gull butterflies, each side sends a different message—the bright yellow dorsal (back) side helps attract mates, while the dull white ventral (front) side tells predators they aren't worth their time.
Mariposa copera común
Cepora nerissa
India
¿Sabías que la parte ventral y la dorsal de las mariposas son diferentes? Cada parte de estas mariposas mandan una señal diferente: el dorso amarillo fuerte atrae parejas, el vientre blanco mate comunica a los depredadores que no pierdan el tiempo.
4 Yellow gull
Cepora iudgata
Indonesia
Mariposa copera amarilla
Cepora iudgata
Indonesia
5 Lattice brown
Kirinia roxelana
Southeast Europe
Mariposa roxelana
Kirinia roxelana
Sureste de Europa
6 Corsican swallowtail
Papilio hospiton
France
Macaón de Córcega
Papilio hospiton
Francia
7 Iaxa hairstreak
Satyrium ilicis
France
Querquera serrana
Satyrium ilicis
Francia
8 Chocolate albatross
Appias lyncida
Indonesia
Mariposa appias
Appias lyncida
Indonesia
9 Butter-colored butterfly family
Pieridae
Asia, Africa, and North America
Familia de mariposas blancas o amarillas (pieridae)
Pieridae
Asia, África, y América del Norte
Butterfly Eggs
Mural by Artist-in-Residence Peggy Macnamara.
Watercolor painting, 2020.
Huevecillos de mariposa
Mural de la artista en residencia Peggy Macnamara.
Acuarela, 2020.


LEAFY GREEN
GREEN
The soft and vibrant
glowing in a lustrous
leaf uncurling,
Earth's eternal emerald
weave, nature's
flag unfurling.
VERDE
El brillo suave y vibrante
del follaje creciente.
La urdimbre
esmeralda constante
que la naturaleza
iza, siempre.


GREEN CAMOUFLAGE
LEAFY GREEN

Among yellow dandelions, bees, field mice, and butterflies, go ahead and “try on” butterfly wings to see how you look. This sunny space gives way to a forest of green leaves and the creatures that camouflage themselves among them.

Object Groupings in Yellow

- Butterflies
- Melanin in fur
- Bees, their mimics, flowers
- Mixed yellow



Object Groupings in Green

- Mixed green
- Camouflage
- Leaves

Section 3: Blue and Purple


BLUE
Jays and marlins stroke
the sky
our marbled planet
swirls—
air and ocean intertwined
a liquid, breathing world.
AZUL
Charas y marlines acarician
el cielo
del planeta jaspeado que gira:
aire y mar entrelazados
un mundo líquido, aéreo.


BLUE
TRUE BLUE?
BREATHTAKING BLUE


BLAUE GLASKUGEL
SEA SLUG


MWANZA
FLAT-HEADED
ROCK AGAMA


PURPLE
Encased in stone an
amethyst waits
a hidden and crystalline
cluster of grapes.
The tint of mystery and of
royal might
blending both ends of the
spectrum of light.
Between evening's blue and
the first blush of morning
it marks each day of the color
wheel's turning.
VIOLETA
Espera en la roca atrapada
la amatista,
vid cristalina y oculta a la vista.
Tinte de poder divino y terrenal,
combina el lumínico arco
espectral.
Entre azul nocturno y
rojizo amanecer
ve la rueda de color volver.

A centerpiece of the exhibition is the blue multimedia space, where the deep blue seas and skies surround you. Investigate how insects, fish, and reptiles create blue with microscopic light-bending textures, then marvel at surprisingly purple animals and plants.

Object Groupings in Blue

- Marine life
- Structural color
- True blue?
- Blue as display

Single Object Grouping in Purple

- Mixed purple

Section 4: Ultraviolet


STARTLING BLACK AND WHITE

1 Opal
Nevada

2 Fluorite
England

3 Calcite
Mexico

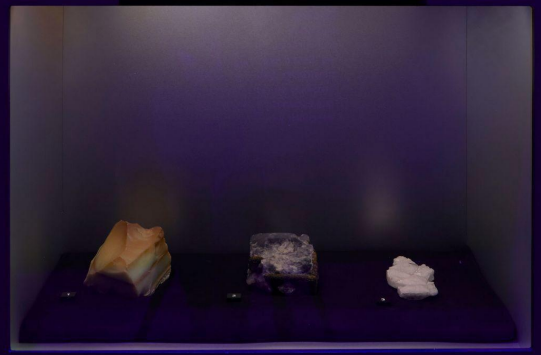
Different minerals absorb UV light and emit it back at different wavelengths, visible to humans as a variety of colors. It is mostly the impurities that create this fluorescent effect. Some minerals, such as calcite (3) can re-release the energy so that it will glow even after the UV light is turned off—a phenomenon called phosphorescence.

Ópalo
Nevada

Fluorita
Inglaterra

Calcita
México

Los diferentes minerales absorben la luz ultravioleta y la emiten de vuelta con diferentes longitudes de onda que son visibles como una diversidad de colores para el ojo humano. Normalmente es el efecto fluorescente es causado por las impurezas. Algunos minerales, como la calcita (3), pueden volver a emitir energía después de que la luz ultravioleta está apagada. Este brillo es un fenómeno llamado fosforescencia.



Press and hold for UV light

Para ultravioleta mantener presionado

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Para ultravioleta mantener presionado

Barred Owl
Strix varia
Minnesota

Like many birds, Barred Owls can detect UV light, even at night. This may aid in hunting at night, or seeing the wings of other Barred Owls in the forest. Scientists are continuing to discover "hidden" markings on bird species only visible under UV light.

Tecolote manchado
Strix varia
Minnesota

Al igual que muchas aves, estos tecolotes pueden detectar la luz ultravioleta, incluso en la noche, o ver las alas de otros tecolotes en el bosque. La gente de ciencias sigue descubriendo marcas "escondidas" sólo visibles bajo la luz ultravioleta.

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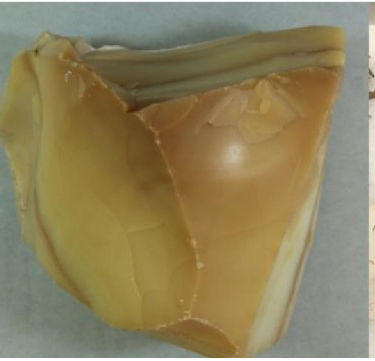
Press and hold for UV light

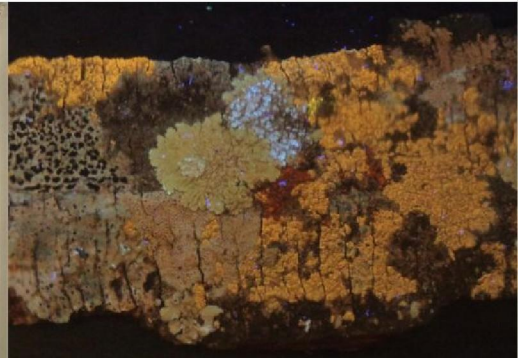
Para ultravioleta mantener presionado

Beyond the range of human sight, there’s a violet hue of greater energy: ultraviolet. Explore and compare the dramatic color shifts of animals, plants, and minerals under UV lights.

Fluorescent Under UV

- Minerals
- Scorpion
- Lichens
- Platypus
- Owl
- Fossil shells





Section 5: Black and White


BLACK OUT
BRIGHT WHITE
STARTLING BLACK AND WHITE
Being black and white is a great way to make a statement. Contrasting stripes and spots can help animals identify members of their own species, warn enemies to stay away, or even make their outlines harder for predators to see.
ASOMBROSO BLANCO Y NEGRO
Blanco y negro juntos causan una gran impresión. Las rayas o manchas contrastantes sirven como identificación de la propia especie, advierten a los enemigos o camuflaje contra los depredadores.

BLACK OUT

Most of the colors we see are reflections of light, but black is the absence of light. True black is hard to find—even "black" paint only absorbs about 95% of visible light. But some deep-sea creatures—like the anglerfish to your right— have evolved ultra-black scales, making them nearly invisible to their prey.

NEGRO TOTAL

La mayoría de los colores que vemos son reflejos de luz, pero el negro es la ausencia de luz. Es difícil encontrar negro verdadero, incluso la pintura "negra" sólo absorbe cerca del 95% de la luz visible. Pero algunas criaturas abisales, como el pez rape a tu derecha, han desarrollado escamas super negras para ser casi invisibles para sus presas.


BRIGHT WHITE
When something appears white, it is reflecting all visible light and absorbing none. Some animals take advantage of this—their white skin or fur helps them keep cool. Other animals evolved white for camouflage in snowy tundras or rocky caves.
BLANCO BRILLANTE
Cuando algo parece blanco está reflejando toda la luz visible sin absorberla. Algunos animales usan esto como ventaja, su pelaje blanco les ayuda a mantenerse frescos. Otros usan el blanco como camuflaje en las nevadas tundras o en las cuevas rocosas.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Experience the extremes of dark and light—from birds with feathers so black they absorb nearly all light, to the reflective white underside of a silver fern.

Black and White Objects

- Black and white
- Black
- White

Section 6: Wildly Colorful


WILDLY COLORFUL
For the male peacock jumping spider, just one color is not enough as he attracts his mate with bold hues and dramatic dance moves. Wildly colorful creatures may also use their multiple hues to blend into a colorful environment or even to confuse predators. And sometimes an abundance of color is simply a beautiful mystery.
COLORIDO DESENFRENADO
Un color no es suficiente para la araña pavo real macho, pues atrae a su pareja con tonalidades fuertes y bailes dramáticos. Las criaturas con muchos colores pueden usarlos para pasar desapercibidas en ambientes coloridos o confundir a sus depredadores. Pero a veces la abundancia de color es sólo un hermoso misterio.

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SHIMMERING IRIDESCENCE
NATURE'S DYES
For thousands of years, people have ground up minerals, crushed animal parts, or soaked plants to extract dyes and make their world more colorful. These sources are just a few of the thousands from which we can derive color from nature.
TINTES NATURALES


CHANGING COLOR
Color in nature is not fixed; it often changes with the seasons to help animals and plants survive. As they make the transition from summer to winter, new conditions may require different camouflage or slowing metabolism may trigger changes in pigmentation.
COLOR CAMBIANTE
Los colores en la naturaleza no son fijos. A menudo cambian con las estaciones ayudando a la supervivencia de animales y plantas. Con el paso de verano a invierno, las nuevas condiciones pueden requerir un camuflaje diferente o la desaceleración del metabolismo genera transformaciones en la pigmentación.


RAINBOW OF COLORS
Some monkey-flowers (Mimulus) show a huge diversity of color all in one species. Although color is often a great clue for identifying animals, plants, and minerals, a big difference in color doesn't have to mean it's something completely different. Here, similar species and minerals can be found in a rainbow of colors.
ARCOIRIS DE COLORES
Algunos mímulos tienen una enorme diversidad de colores en una sola especie. Aunque el colorido es una de las claves para identificar animales, plantas y minerales, no siempre indica algo totalmente diferente. Aquí puedes ver especies y minerales similares en un arcoiris de color.

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of nature's wild color.
de los colores de la naturaleza.

Social Media Projection

colorwall.vercel.app

-Images crowd-sourced from social media scroll and project onto wall

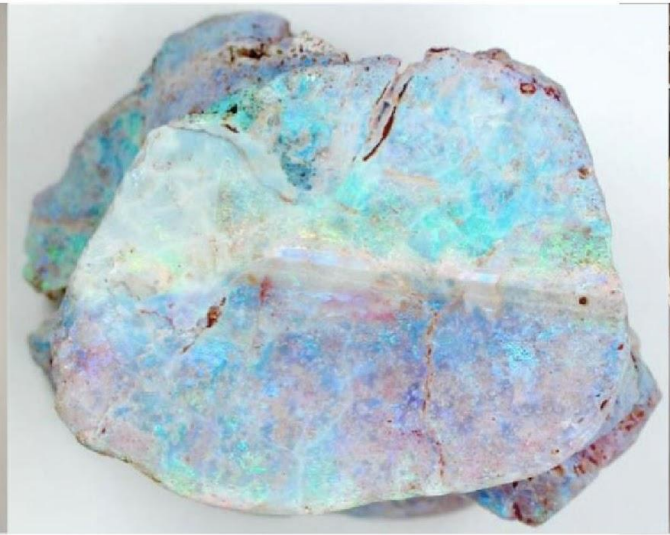
-69 images currently featured

FIE LD.

The finale of specimens and media brings together the entire rainbow to answer some big questions: Why is nature so colorful at times? How can plants and animals change color? How do we make colors from nature? And how can we connect to color in nature?

Wildly Colorful

- Natural dyes
- Iridescence
- Color mutation
- Color changing


Field Museum – Traveling Exhibitions

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