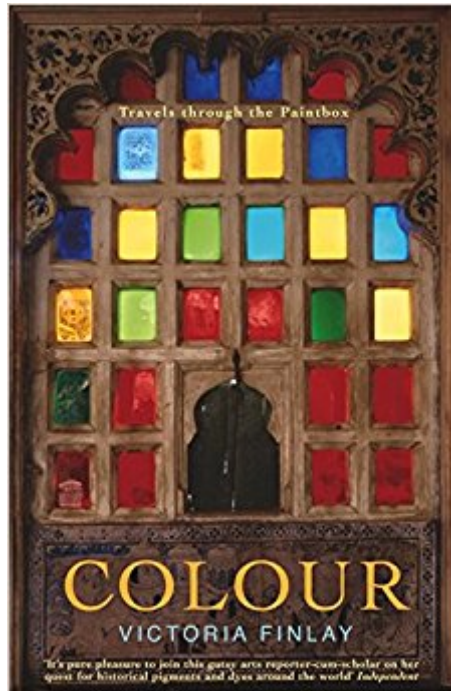


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# Colour: Travels Through The Paintbox



## Synopsis

Part travelogue, part narrative history, *Colour* unlocks the history of the colours of the rainbow, and reveals how paints came to be invented, discovered, traded and used. This remarkable and beautifully written book remembers a time when red paint was really the colour of blood, when orange was the poison pigment, blue as expensive as gold, and yellow made from the urine of cows force-fed with mangoes. It looks at how green was carried by yaks along the silk road, and how an entire nation was founded on the colour purple. Exciting, richly informative, and always surprising, 'Colour' lifts the lid on the historical palette and unearths an astonishing wealth of stories about the quest for colours, and our efforts to understand them.

## Book Information

Paperback: 512 pages

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Best Sellers Rank: #111,696 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Writing #49 in Books > Travel > Pictorial #153 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Occult & Paranormal > Ancient & Controversial Knowledge

## Customer Reviews

[Victoria Finlay's] curiosity is inexhaustible, her reading wide, and her writing style a delight Sunday Telegraph It's pure pleasure to join this gutsy arts reporter-cum-scholar on her quest for historical pigments and dyes around the world Independent A highly companionable guide, adventurous and romantic Independent on Sunday A treasure trove of human history and obsession...the breadth of research and insight is dazzling. The Glasgow Herald This is a rare and wonderful book - a model of erudition and charm, the writing elegant and precise, and with at least one new and fascinating revelation on every single page. I could not be more enthusiastic. Simon Winchester, author of THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN Packed with stories, anecdotes and adventures. A full rainbow ... as vivid as the colours themselves Express You get your money's worth and change to spare ... Both picaresque and picturesque, it's a rich read. Evening Standard It's hard to criticise her spirit of

cultural exploration and easy to share her intelligent enthusiasm ...Packed with pertinent trivia ... informative and fun South China Morning Post An utterly unique and fascinating read Publishers Weekly Full of forgotten facts and beguiling anecdotes ... it would be hard to confront a painting ever again without seeing in it a kind of coded map of the world Telegraph An irresistible cornucopia ...Her travels are Marco Polish; her research vast but lightly worn. The whole book is an infectious delight. RTE Guide Packed with facts, fables and anecdotes ... Finlay's detailed and brilliantly researched account makes for a fascinating read Australian Interior Trends Victoria Finlay has unlocked the history of colour in this trawl through some little-known history Courier Mail ( Australia) A welcome reminder of the epic stories beneath the surface of everyday life Telegraph

Victoria Finlay studied social anthropology at St Andrews University, specialising in Asian culture. She worked as a journalist in Hong Kong for eleven years, five of which were spent as arts editor for the South China Morning Post. She has recently moved back to England and is busy researching her second book - a biography of precious stones.

A marvelous mix of history, culture, chemistry, and the practical, social, and artistic issues of the use of colour. I had no particular interest in the topic based on the title, but, after some strong recommendations, picked up this work and was captivated. It's quite a lengthy tome, but is easy to read a chapter at a time whenever the mood is right. Each chapter focuses on one colour (or black, brown or white), and delves into where pigments and dyes come from, how they are made, the chemical and biological hazards associated with various sources and methods, the related cultural history, the impact of a colour on historical events, etc., etc., etc. This book is really loaded with historical, cultural, and scientific insights that will capture the mind regardless of your interest in the subject of colour itself. Highly recommended.

This book was one I just happened to pick up at a book store by chance and turned out to be a great find. I found the history really facinating. It gives me a whole new look at the world of art and how artists chose colors and why. Another one that I passed on to friends.

Very useful for the colour unit of my interior decoration course. Writing is very lively which makes it very readable. I want to get the companion book.

Loved this book - history, geography, art, sociology - fun facts galore and very readable. It's about

so much more than color.

This is such a great book I bought it twice. The stories and facts included in its pages are well worth the read. Any person interested in color, history, culture, or travel would enjoy the book!

This is a truly wonderful book for anyone interested in painting, art history, or just dabbling around with colors, JWPlonk

This is one of the most interesting books I have. It investigates the history and provenance of the colours we take for granted every day. Such a well researched and yes, interesting book.

I am so happy to finally have this book in my personal library! Finlay is an amazing writer and a brave traveller.

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