



What's on your desk,  
Ptolemy  
Mann?

**Ptolemy Mann is a textile artist, designer and architectural colour consultant. She has curated the exhibition Significant Colour for the Aram Gallery, which explores the impact of colour and its richness as a subject matter for designers in different disciplines. Mann is on a mission to promote a better understanding of the importance of colour, and how it can be used to improve our environments and our lives. For Mann colour is not just about choosing between red, blue or green but how the shade and saturation of a colour in an environment can elicit a significantly different response.**

**1 Vasarely**

I just found this fantastic book, now out of print, about the artist Vasarely. I stumbled across it in a second hand art bookshop behind Tate Modern. Exquisite reproductions and a wonderful reference for colour.

**2 'Significant Colour' at Aram**

This is a draft of the floorplan for a show about colour I am co-curating at the Aram Gallery which is open from 8th May-27th June. It's a multidisciplinary exhibition featuring 10 designers and artists across the disciplines of fine art, design, craft and architecture. All objects and artworks featured have colour as their most significant feature. It's been a great experience to work on it.

**3 Sophie Smallhorn**

This is a beautiful silk screened announcement for the launch of Sophie's new website. She is one of the artists in 'Significant Colour'. The simplicity and vibrancy of it keeps me looking at it.

**4 Chromophobia**

The artist David Batchelor wrote this book in 2000 and it brilliantly describes our obsession with white and our fear of colour. Essential reading for anyone in the colour business.

**5 Color Cube**

A friend brought this for me years ago from the States. It's a colour puzzle where you construct the squares first then put the whole thing together to form a three dimensional colour chart. It's strangely useful

and has sat on my desk for as long as I can remember.

**6 Christopher Farr**

I'm designing a series of flat woven rugs and a range of upholstery fabrics for Christopher Farr at the moment. I have masses of little tufts of wool floating around my desk for colour reference.

**7 Dulux**

A constant colour reference tool for me; I often specify coloured paint for interior projects and Dulux Trade offers by far the widest range of colours available. Dulux have also sponsored the colour show at Aram.

**8 Obi Fabric**

This was brought to me from Japan by a colleague and is a section of fabric from the obi of a kimono.

I've got a thing about gold at the moment which is unusual for me. There is something odd but dynamic about the combination of gold, brown, orange and blue.

**9 Lurex**

I'm doing some woven panels for a client in India at the moment and have decided to use Lurex in the weft (the horizontal threads of the cloth). It gives the art pieces an amazing sheen of gold across their surface that only occurs under certain light. I often end up trailing yarn all over the studio and my desk.

**10 Chanel lipstick**

I never leave the studio without putting it on. This one is a dark hot pink colour called 'Tobago'. Essential!