An Alchemist, A Frustrated Poet, Some Charlatans and Contemporary Color Theory
Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727)

• English physicist, mathematician, astronomer, natural philosopher, theologian, Master of the Mint, alchemist

• Authored *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (1687) and *Opticks* (1704)
Johann Wolfgang Goethe (1749-1832)

• German polymath with interests in science, philosophy, poetry (Faust), prose and drama

• Published his Zur Farbenlehre (Theory of Colors) in 1810 which directly influenced the work of the Pre-Raphaelites, J.M.W. Turner and Wassily Kandinsky and many others
early 20th Century Artists influenced by spiritualism (theosophy in particular)

Jospeh Beuys  T. S. Eliot
Edith Maryon  Walter Gropius
Robert Delaunay  Johannes Itten
Piet Mondrian  Constantin Brancusi
Pablo Picasso  Paul Gaugin
Paul Klee  W. B. Yeats
Wassily Kandinsky  Jackson Pollack
Marsden Hartley  Mark Rothko
Georgia O’Keefe
Arthur Dove
Kasmir Malevich
Franz Marc
L. Frank Baum
Amedeo Modigliani

Too many more to list, especially if we start thinking about the artists that the people on this list went on to influence!
Johannes Itten, 1888-1967
at the Bauhaus, Weimar

1921

1961
Walter Gropius, 1883-1969
founder of the Bauhaus
Josef Albers (1888-1976)

German born, American artist and educator

“In visual perception a color is almost never seen as it really is - as it physically is. This fact makes color the most relative medium in art.”
“The eye is the most refined of our senses, the one which communicates most directly with our mind, our consciousness.”

Robert Delaunay

Color provokes a psychic vibration. Color hides a power still unknown but real, which acts on every part of the human body.

Wassily Kandinsky
Faber Birren, 1900-1988

The History of Colour in Painting, 1981 and more than twenty “other” books about color.
Using light for healing has been around throughout the ages. Living in buildings that are well lit makes you feel good. Bathing in sunlight for limited periods has been time tested to help the skin and promote general wellness because shining light on the skin works good to accelerate healing and the heat from light promotes an increase in circulation.

Using color is also age-old. Certain colors were worn for specific reasons, purple was always a royal color because it was hard to find for dyes in clothing. Painting the walls of your home certain colors also affects one’s mood. Red is energizing, while green is calming.

The use of colored light, however, is a much newer science. There are techniques where you can shine certain colors on a specific part of the body to heal certain conditions. Shinning different colors of light into the eyes has been found to be useful for emotional release. One of the latest is using a point of colored light for acupuncture stimulation.
WHY might this thinking persist?

- Romantic notions
- It’s Fashionable
- It’s easier
- What’s the big deal?
- Preoccupation
- Money
- Nostalgic art educations