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## HOW COLOR CHANGED THE WORLD

**Speaker:** Mary Virginia Orna

*Professor of Chemistry, Emerita  
College of New Rochelle*

**Monday, March 25, 2024**

**12:30 p.m.**

**Cornelia Hall, Room 108**

Color has been an exciting and enjoyable part of human life ever since the color-sensitive eye evolved over a million years ago. However, the junction between color and chemistry, and color and history, is of more recent origin. This talk traces the history of color usage as a chemical endeavor from the earliest records to the present day focusing on four major areas: fashion, pharmaceuticals, food, and fun. It is a trajectory peppered with stories to help us understand the mystery of color as a universal experience and phenomenon; its chemical history, as you shall see, even changed the course of history in the 20th century. This talk is based on her popular book, "The Chemical History of Color" (Springer, 2013).



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