

EMOTION ALCHEMY

A companion to the synesthetic mixing studio

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The premise: if an emotion could be approached as a mixture instead of a label, what might become easier to notice? This guide accompanies a private browser instrument that translates eight editable dials into colour, geometry, movement and optional sound. It is an expressive artwork—not a measurement device, diagnostic tool, treatment, or real perfume formula.

Try the instrument: <https://emotionalalchemy.sahiltayal.online/>

Privacy: The studio runs locally; it does not send your slider positions, written notes, or exports to Sahilverse. A saved blend stays in your browser storage, and a share link includes dial settings and title but excludes your note.

01 / Emotional palettes are invented languages

Some feelings arrive together. Joy can coexist with melancholy; courage can coexist with tension. The studio does not average them into a single score. Each dial independently influences the artwork. This may help a visitor describe complexity, but the result cannot tell us whether the description is true.

There is no scientifically established universal table converting joy into a specific hue, calm into an orbit speed, or courage into a frequency. All such associations in the studio are explicitly authored choices. Associations may vary across people, cultures and situations.

The eight inputs

Dimension	Artistic rule / what to observe
Joy	Adds warmth and lightness to the palette.
Calm	Slows orbiting movement; rounds contours.
Curiosity	Increases petal and orbit complexity.
Tenderness	Warms and softens the inner glow.
Courage	Strengthens the visual stroke and sound amplitude.
Melancholy	Shifts hue toward indigo and darker undertones.

Dimension	Artistic rule / what to observe
Wonder	Increases scattered satellite points.
Tension	Adds sharper wavelets and restless rhythmic contrast.

02 / Listening to a formula

A useful reading has at least three layers: **foreground** (the strongest input), **atmosphere** (the surrounding colour and motion), and **counterpoint** (a second high dimension that resists a simple label). The live interpretation names dominant inputs without assigning the visitor a personality or mental state.

REFLECT: Does the canvas feel congruent with your story? If not, what did it get wrong?

When a generated colour feels inadequate, do not “correct” your feeling to fit the screen. Reinterpret the rule or change the input. The mismatch can be as creatively useful as agreement.

03 / The perfume-accord metaphor

Perfumers often speak of **top notes** (early impression), **heart notes** (central identity) and **base notes** (lingering character). The studio borrows these as roles in a narrative: Curiosity/Joy/Wonder appear in the top grouping; Tenderness/Courage/Tension form the heart; Calm/Melancholy form the base. The highest values within each group determine its label.

These choices do not claim that a molecule, fragrance family or note creates a particular emotional experience. Real perfume behaviour depends on material properties, formulation, dose, context and personal perception; this guide supplies no safe manufacturing formula and no dermatological guidance.

REFLECT: Which aspect of your experience felt immediate? Which part lasted longer? Would another visitor reverse your top and base?

04 / Guided experiment: one variable

Question: How sensitive is the artwork to a single dimension?

Set all eight dials to 50. Disable sound if you prefer. Then set Tension to 0, 25, 50, 75 and 100, holding every other value fixed. Observe contour sharpness and motion. Repeat with Calm, then Wonder.

Record: the dial, two visual changes you can describe, and one change you expected that did not occur. Reversing an input after a few moments helps distinguish stable features from the movement cycle.

REFLECT: When a system expresses emotion through a visual grammar, how much does it teach us about the feeling—and how much about the grammar?

05 / Guided experiment: simultaneous opposites

Question: Is emotional mixture always a contradiction?

Set Joy to 85 and Melancholy to 85. Move Calm between 15 and 85 without changing the pair. Give the composition a title. A title such as “Happy Sadness” may be clumsy but can also name a real ambiguity. Now lower both original dials to 20 and inspect the distinct resulting artwork.

Record: a situation where warmth and loss, excitement and fear, or affection and anger seemed to coexist. You may leave this blank. Do not use a high dial as proof that the feeling is clinically significant.

REFLECT: What changes when you treat “both” as an acceptable answer?

06 / Guided experiment: before and after

Question: Can a comparison help make a private narrative explicit without turning it into a score?

Create a blend around a low-stakes situation (for example, before reading a poem aloud). Name it and select **Pin current as A**. Change the sliders to describe a different moment. Compare the largest input shifts between A and B. Export the JSON if you want a private record.

Interpretation: A dial increasing is neither improvement nor decline. What matters is what you decide it means in its context. The chart shows input differences only.

REFLECT: Which shift would be invisible to someone observing only your behaviour?

07 / The mechanism, explained

The browser maps 0–100 inputs to a procedural Canvas illustration. Curved rings and radial wavelets respond to the dials; bounded satellite points orbit with deterministic spacing. Audio is optional and is synthesized in-browser from two oscillators with low gain. It is off until explicitly enabled. Sound parameters follow an artistic mapping, not psychoacoustic therapy.

The page provides a motion pause, a still intensity, a simplified presentation, and a textual rendering of dominant visual elements. Reduced-motion preferences stop continuous drawing. Exports: Canvas PNG for the artwork, JSON for the editable state, and a browser print layout for the blend card.

Because the drawing is procedural, the rendering can vary slightly across displays, pixel ratios and browser engines. A JSON file preserves the numeric artistic recipe rather than an exact pixel sequence.

08 / Reflective worksheet

01 A feeling I rarely allow to coexist with joy:

02 A context that changes what a colour means to me:

03 One way this instrument oversimplifies my experience:

04 A better name for the blend than any single emotion:

05 What I would like to keep private about this reflection:

09 / Boundaries, consent and care

Emotion Alchemy is not a substitute for a supportive conversation, medical care, therapy, or a psychological assessment. It does not estimate emotional health, identify disorders, predict behaviour, prescribe coping methods, or make real fragrances. Visitors choose whether to write a note, save a blend or share values. Sharing a link is voluntary; even without a note, a chosen emotional profile might feel personal.

If an experiment feels uncomfortable, pause, switch to still mode, or close the page. No reflection is required. Do not infer someone else's emotions from their artwork without asking what they intended.

10 / Further reading: directions rather than endorsements

Lisa Feldman Barrett, *How Emotions Are Made* (2017) — one influential account of emotion construction; interpretations of emotion science remain debated.

James A. Russell, “A Circumplex Model of Affect,” *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 39(6), 1980, pp. 1161–1178 — a dimensional approach to affect, distinct from this artwork’s eight invented dials.

Charles Spence, “Crossmodal Correspondences: A Tutorial Review,” *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics* 73, 2011, pp. 971–995 — a research overview on associations between sensory dimensions; not proof of universal emotion–colour mappings.

Rachel Herz, *The Scent of Desire* (2007) — an accessible exploration of smell, memory and individual experience; not a fragrance formulation manual.

A closing proposition

A useful metaphor need not be literally true. It should make a question easier to ask while keeping its own limits visible. Mix generously; interpret modestly.

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