

Seeing Shapes and Colors

with Ria Witteman
Head of Educational Programming

The Kreeger Museum, Washington DC

This is an illustrated guide to The Kreeger Museum's Seeing Shapes and Colors curriculum. You can access the complete Educator's Guide [here](#) and a simple set of instructions is available [here](#).



THE KREEGER MUSEUM

Materials

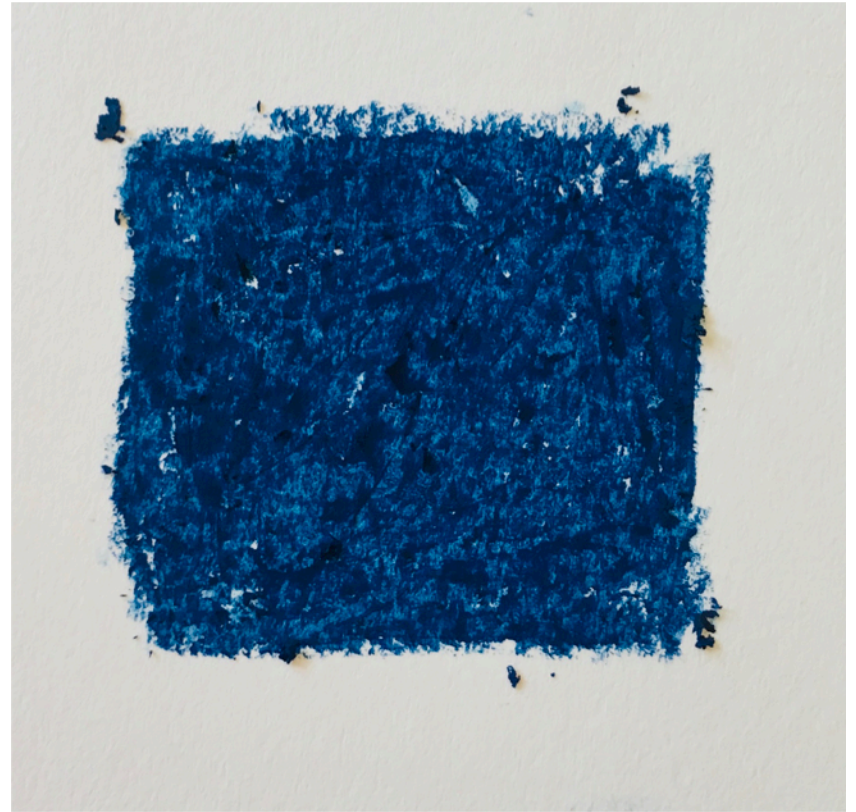
Gather whatever colorful materials you have at hand.

You can use markers, oil pastels, crayons, colored pencils, or paint of all kinds.

You will also need white paper.

How to Start

Start with making a square in the center of your paper. Here, I am using **oil pastels** and white paper.

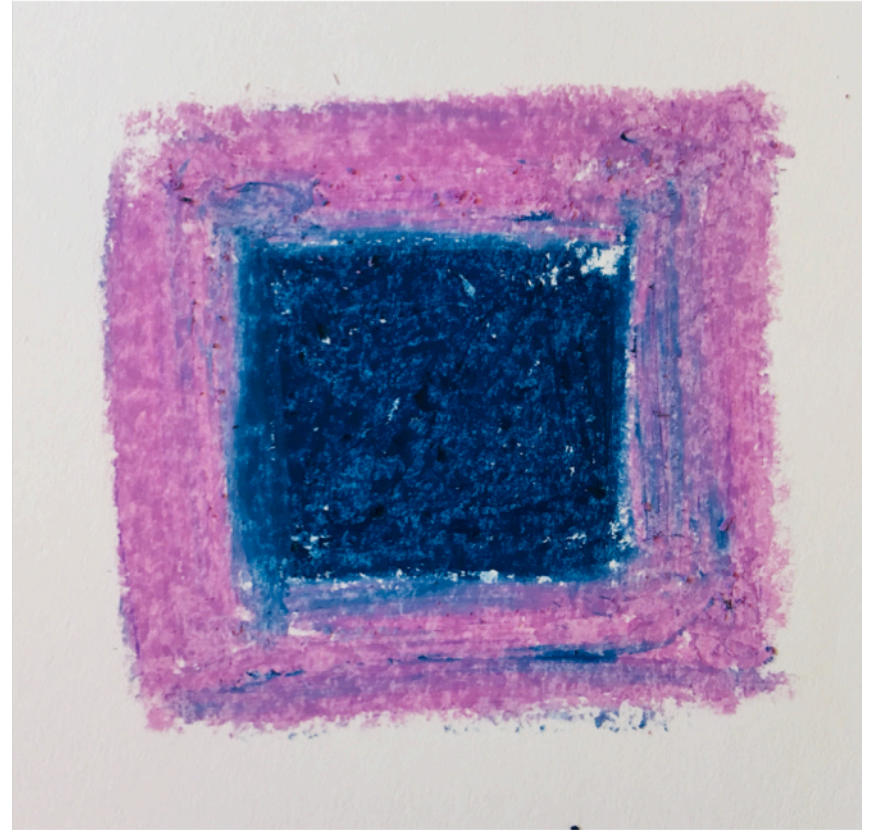


Make sure to fill in your color so you can not see the paper underneath.

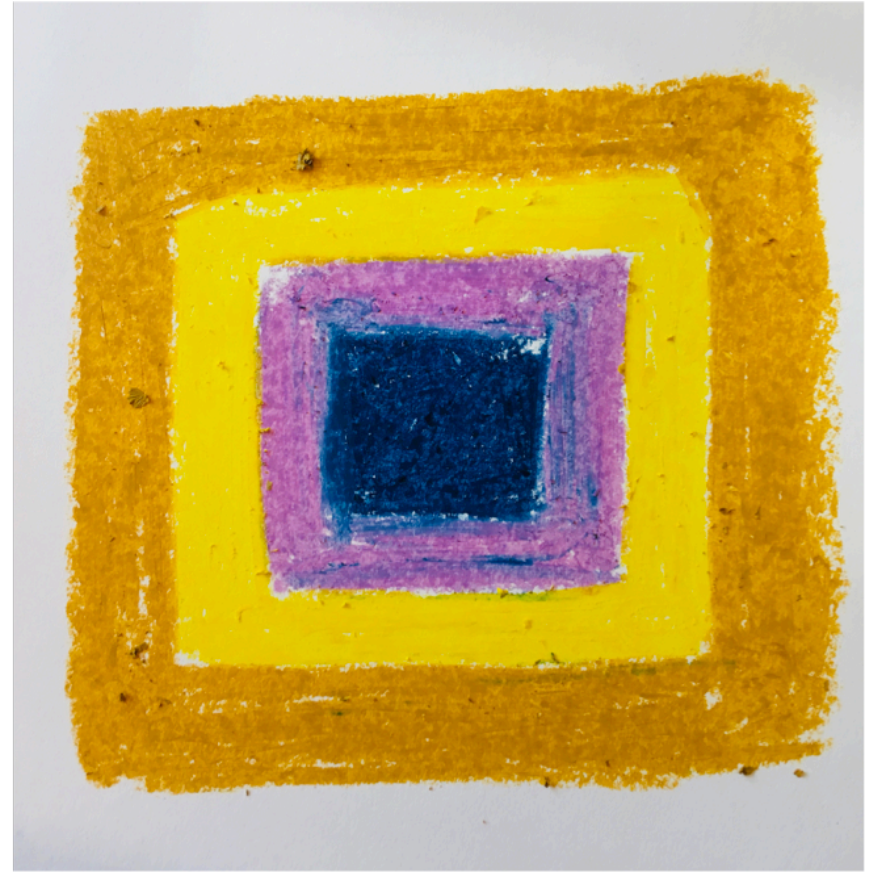
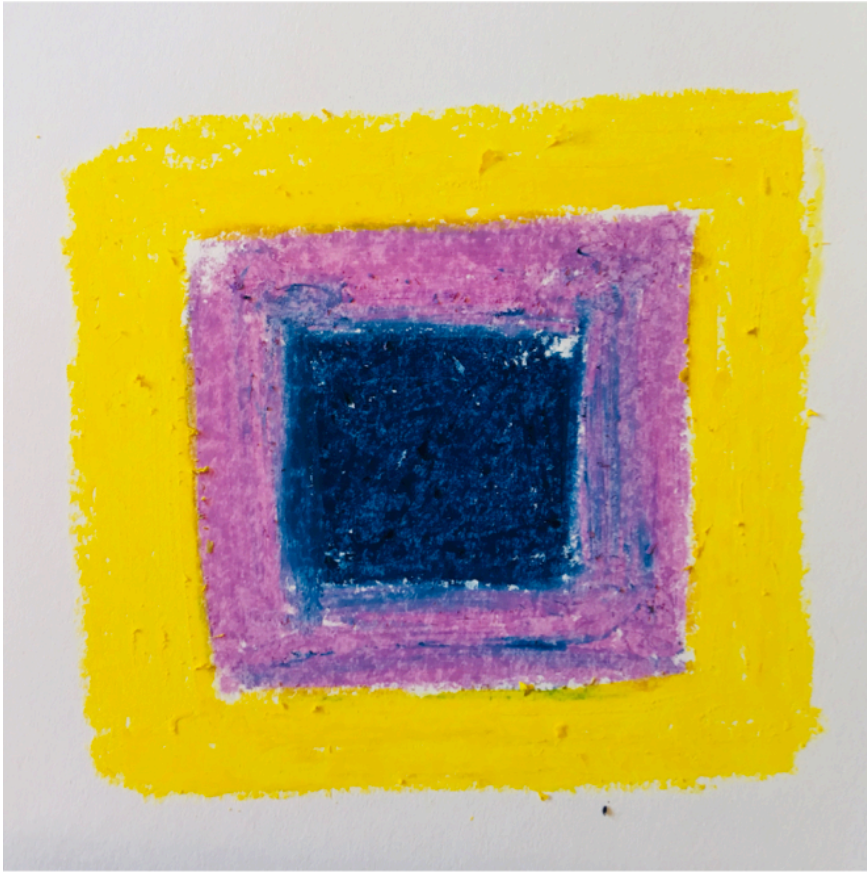
Make yours more like the top, not like the bottom.



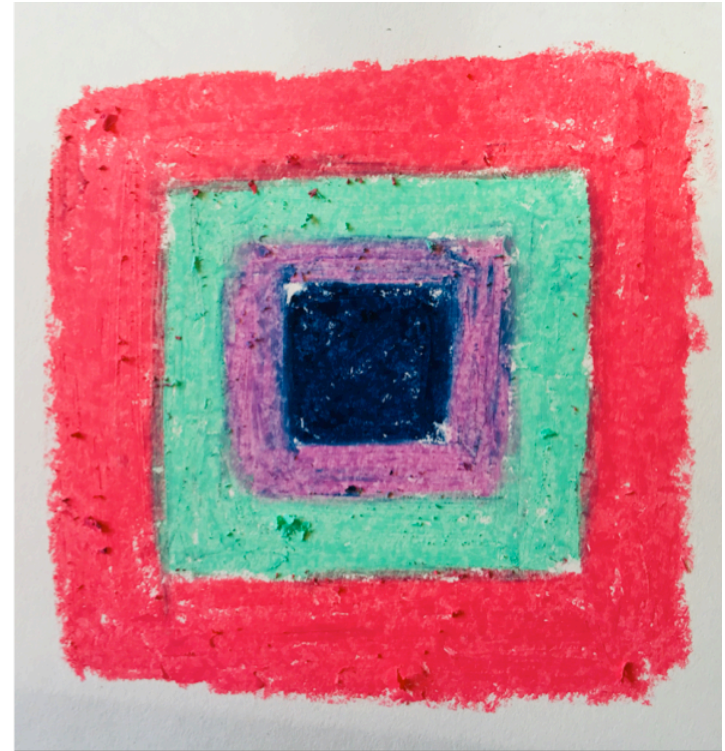
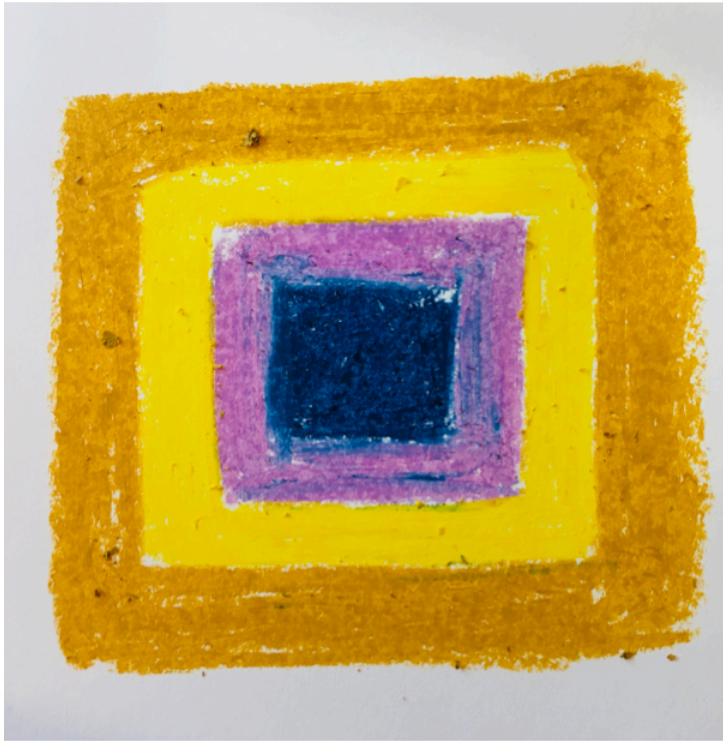
Then pick a new color.
Make another square
around the first square.



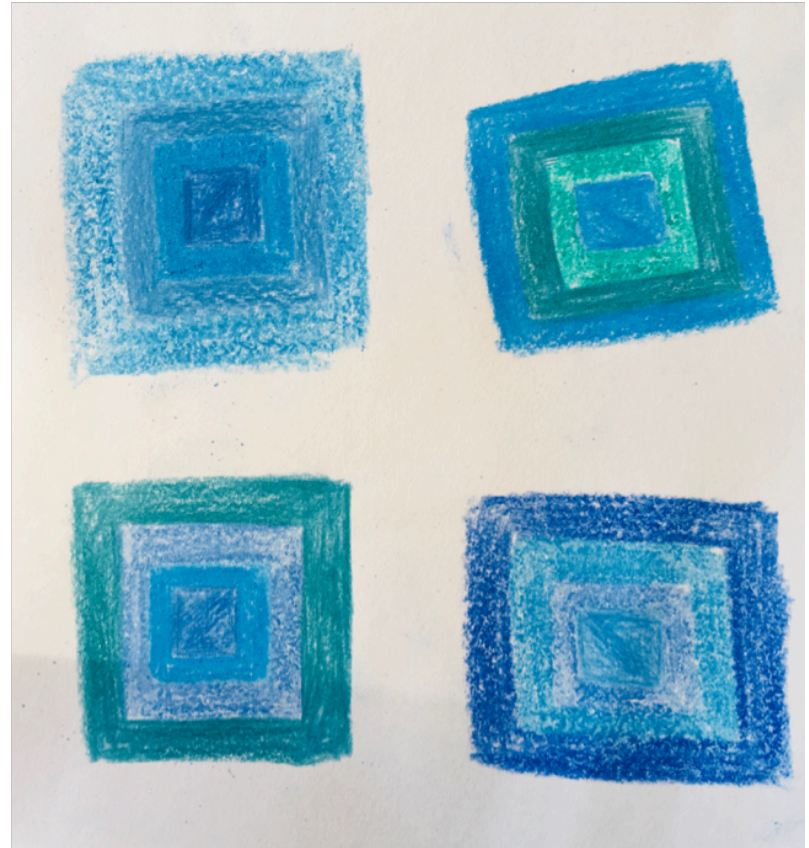
Repeat the last step until you have four squares of four colors.



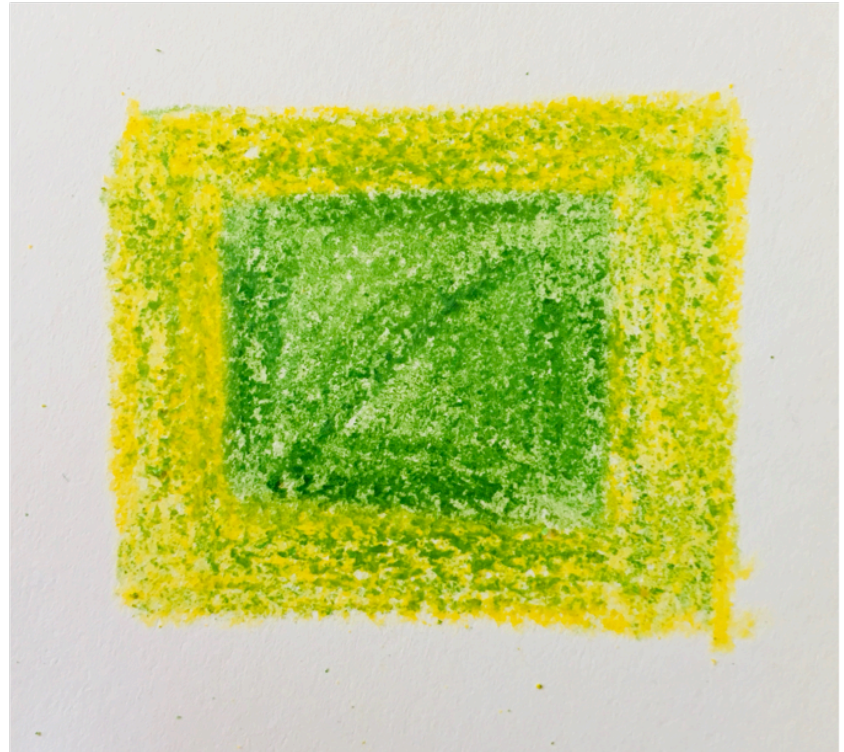
Think: Why did you pick the colors you did? How do they look next to each other? How would it look if you picked different colors? These have the same middle two colors but very different outer colors. Which do you prefer?



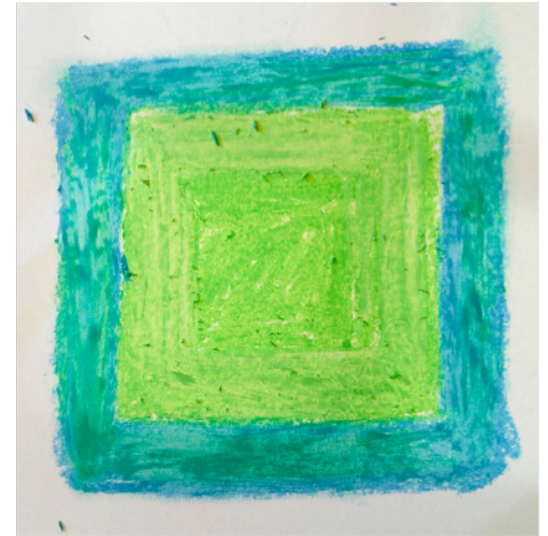
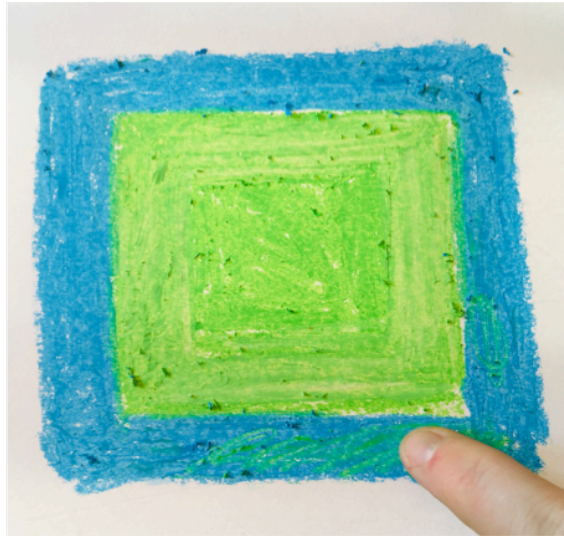
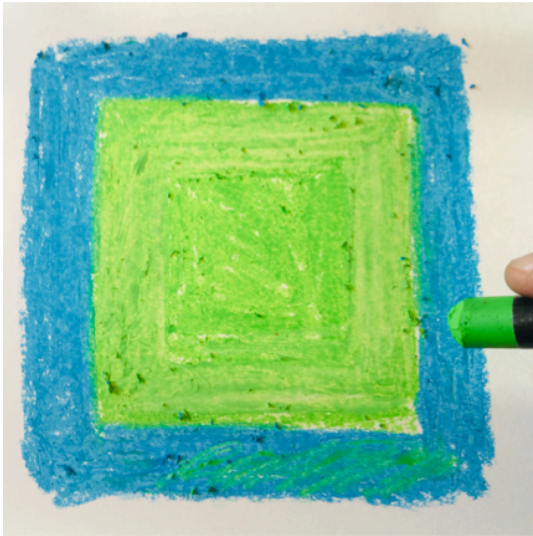
You can experiment using similar colors
(my all blue squares are **monochromatic**).



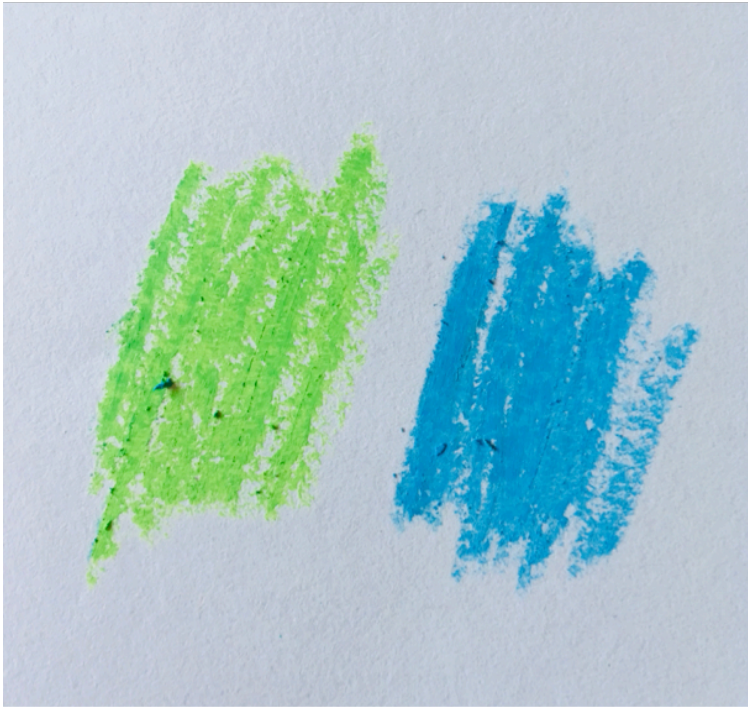
The squares I have made before are all unblended colors. We can combine two colors by layering one on top of the other. First, I made a green square in colored pencil and then I made yellow square around it and colored green on top of the yellow.



If you are using oil pastels, there are two ways you can blend the colors. The first way is rubbing with your finger. Blending colors makes new colors!



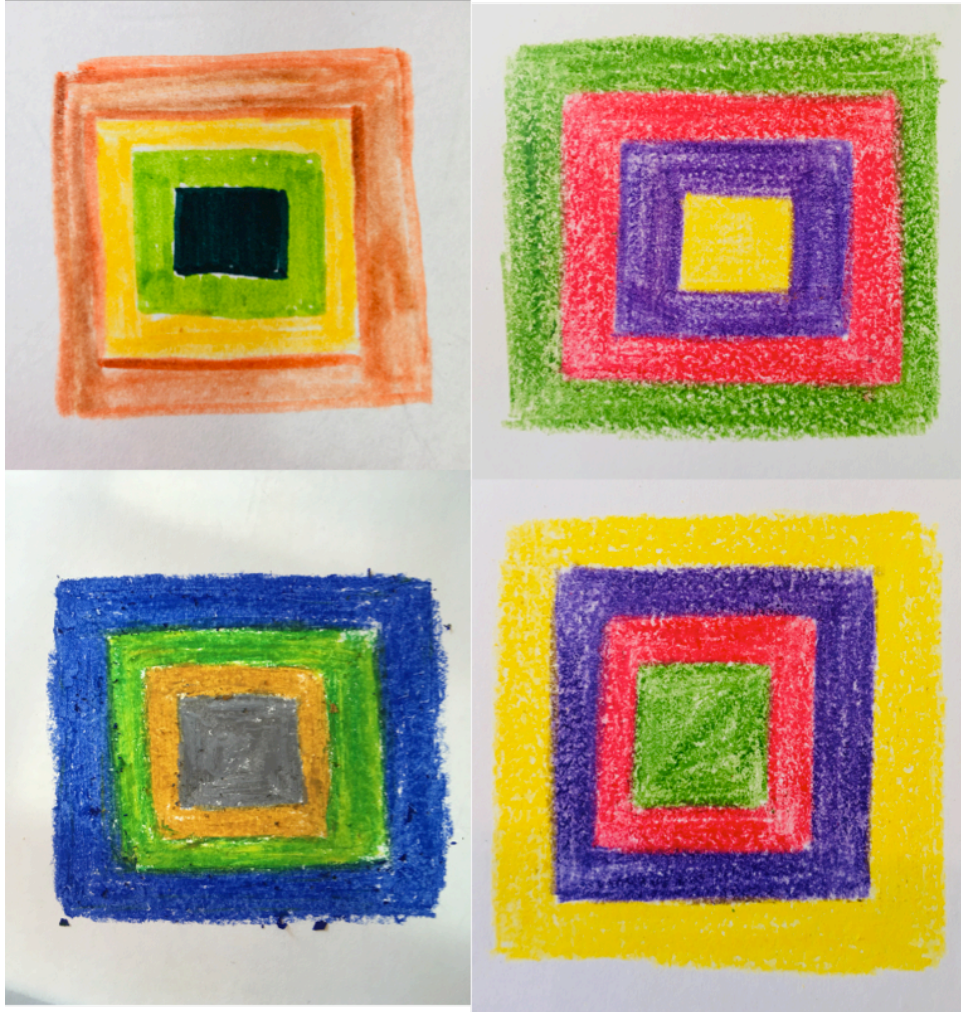
The second way you can blend colors is with a white oil pastel.



If your white oil pastel gets dirty, clean it off on extra paper.

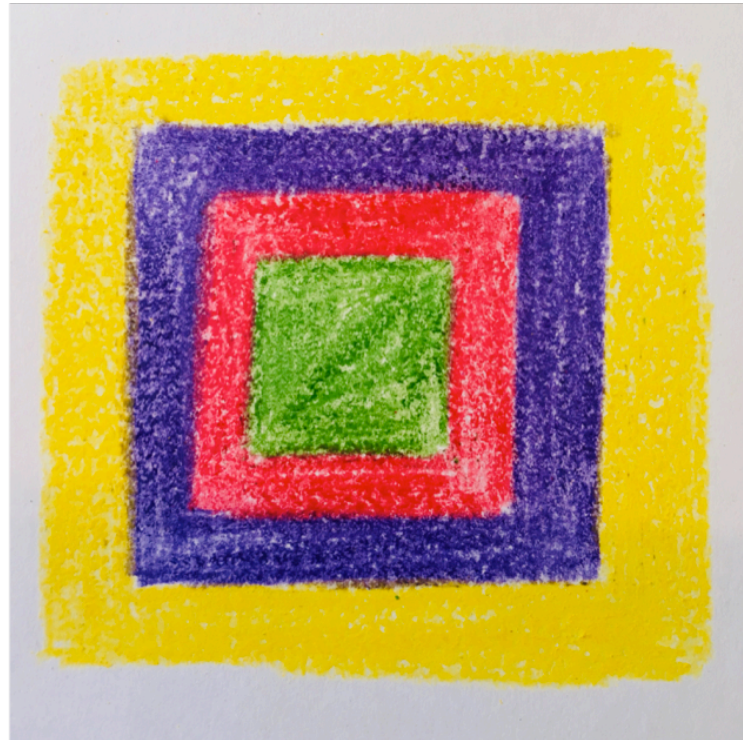
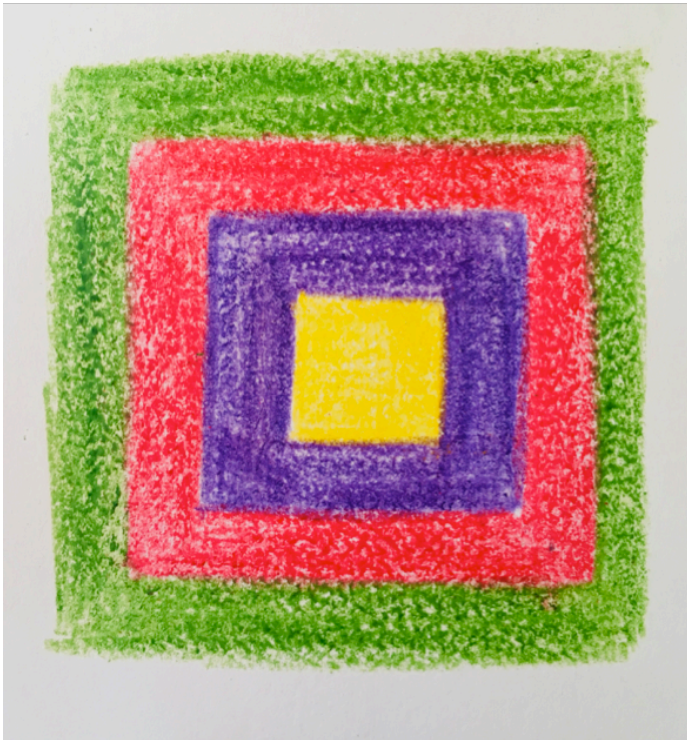


You can make as many as you want!



Seeing Shapes and Colors

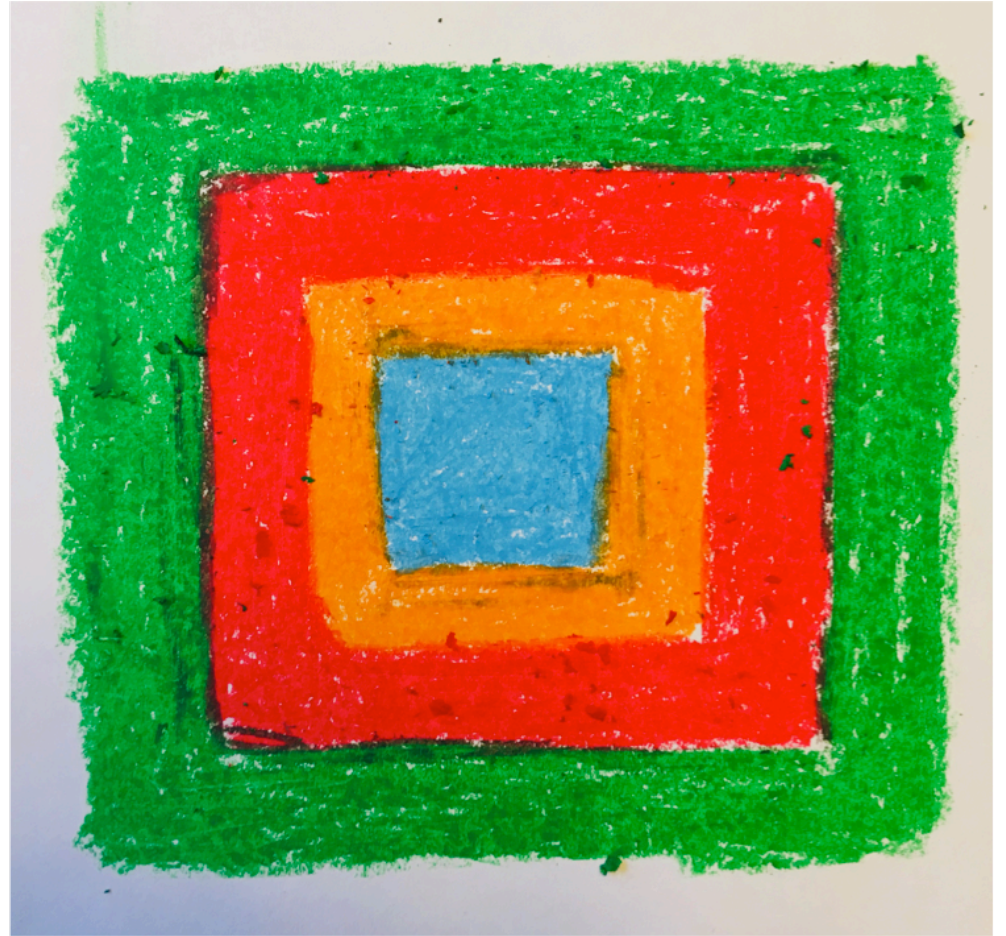
See how the order of the colors changes how the squares look.
These two have the exact same colors, but in the opposite order.



You can pick whatever colors you want, but you can also use something in your environment to inspire you. This is a painting by my grandma and the squares using some of the same colors. Can you find where I got my colors from?



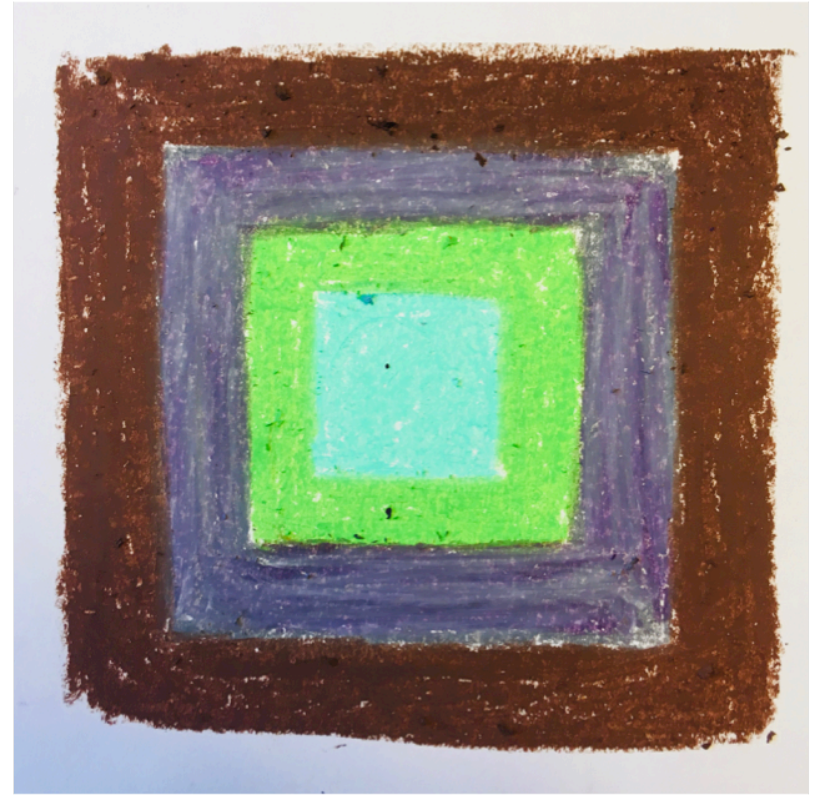
Seeing Shapes and Colors



Vincent Van Gogh, *Bowl with Zinnias*, 1886, oil on canvas

You can explore The Kreeger Museum's [website](#) for artwork to use as your inspiration.

Seeing Shapes and Colors



Claude Monet, *Cliffs at Les Petites-Dalles*, 1884, oil on canvas

Seeing Shapes and Colors