Seeing Shapes and Colors

*Homage to the Square*

Josef Albers created more than a thousand paintings in his “Homage to the Square” series over a 25 year period. Albers painted the same format of concentric squares, but experimented with endless variations to see how the colors interacted with one another.

**Activity:**
Have children use any colored materials you have at home (think: markers, crayons, chalk, colored paper) to create a set of four concentric squares of different colors.

**Suggested Discussion Questions:**
- Why did you pick the colors you did?
- How do the colors relate to each other?
- How do all of the colors work as a whole image?

*Now have them try creating another version with a different set of colors. Ask:*
- How do the colors compare with the first version?
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*Color Field Stripes*

Gene Davis used bands of color in his paintings to explore the interactions between colors.

**Activity:**

Have children arrange strips of colored paper or multi-colored tape on a large white piece of paper in any order. Encourage them to experiment with different color combinations.

**Suggested Discussion Questions:**

- Step back and have a look as you go. How do you decide when the image is done?
- How do different colors interact with one another? Are there some colors that get “louder” and others that get “quieter,” when placed side by side?

Gene Davis, *Untitled*, 1969