

# 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:**

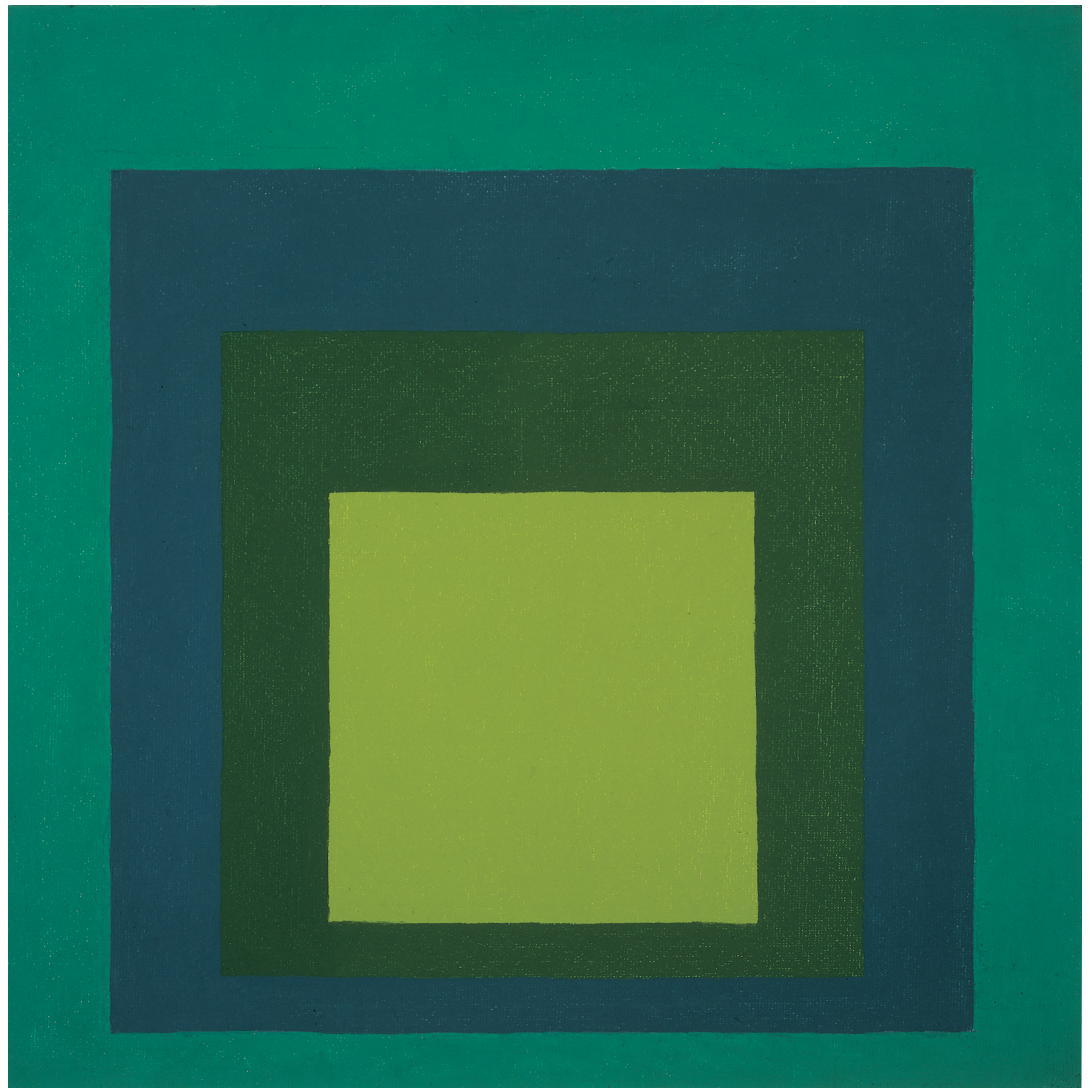
Have children use any colored materials you have at home (think: markers, crayons, chalk, colored paper) to create a set of four concentric squares of different colors.

### **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?



Josef Albers, *Homage to the Square: Wet and Dry*, 1960



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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



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