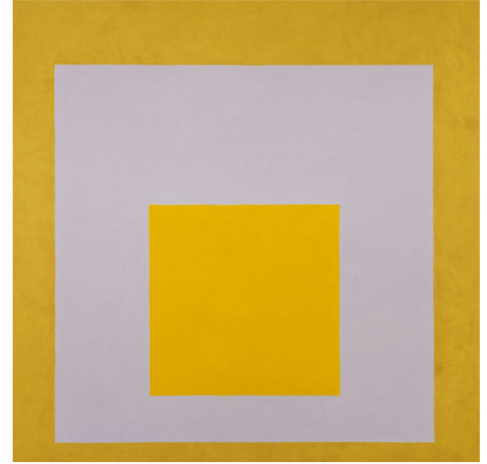


# Josef Albers

**Josef Albers** often painted rectangles: long rectangles, short rectangles, rectangles within rectangles—in many different color combinations. He discovered that he could change the mood of a painting by changing the colors he used. Some paintings felt loud, others felt quiet. Some felt happy, others felt sad. Albers also noticed that colors looked different depending on which color they were next to.

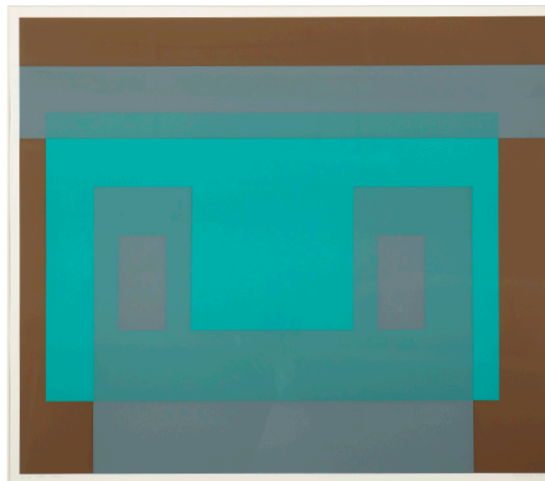
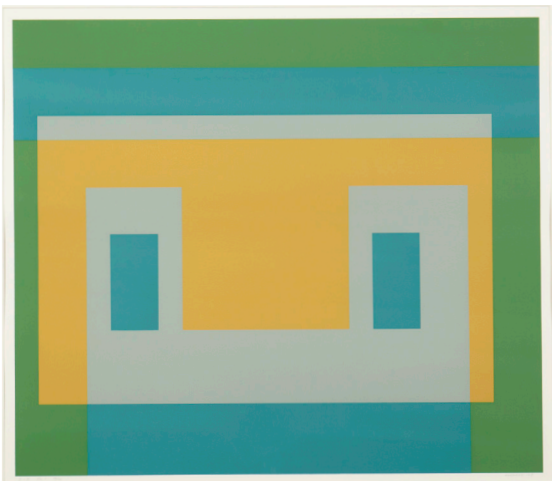


Josef Albers (American, born Germany, 1888–1976), *Homage to the Square: Early Rise*, 1961. Acrylic on pressed wood panel. Gift of Harold Jay Kramer (1999–255). © The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

## Look Closely

Look at these two works of art by Josef Albers.

- How are they similar?
- How are they different?
- How does the first one make you feel?
- How does the second one make you feel?



Left: Josef Albers (American, born Germany, 1888–1976), *Variant One*, 1969. Screenprint. Gift of Hobart D. Betts III, Class of 1956 (x1977-131.1). © The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Right: Josef Albers (American, born Germany, 1888–1976), *Variant Three*, 1969. Screenprint. Gift of Hobart D. Betts III, Class of 1956 (x1977-131.3). © The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

## ***Make Connections***

Albers said he was inspired by the colors and shapes he saw around him every day, especially the shapes of buildings.

What shapes and colors do you see every day?

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Choose one object that you see every day.

What simple shape would you use to represent that object?

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What colors would you use?

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## ***Try This***

Think about a feeling that you want to express. Color the squares in the template below with the colors that you think best express that feeling.

