

# Ad Reinhardt

**Ad Reinhardt** was a painter who explored new ways of making art. He experimented with different materials and techniques and was interested in how the viewer's eyes perceived or experienced color.



Ad Reinhardt (American, 1913–1967), *Untitled*, 1960. Oil on canvas. Museum purchase, Fowler McCormick, Class of 1921, Fund (y1987-47)

## Glance briefly at this painting.

What do you see? \_\_\_\_\_

How many colors do you see? \_\_\_\_\_

How many squares do you see? \_\_\_\_\_

**Now spend some time looking more closely at the painting.**

How many colors do you see? \_\_\_\_\_

How many squares do you see? \_\_\_\_\_

At first glance, this painting might appear to be one big black square, but it is actually made up of nine smaller squares that are different shades of black. Reinhardt made the different shades by mixing colors into the black paint.

**How would you describe this painting?**

shiny and glossy       matte and dull

**Can you see any brushstrokes?**

In addition to mixing the black paint with colors, Reinhardt added turpentine to the oil paint and then let the mixture sit for a long time. The pigment, or color, settled on the bottom, and the oil, the shiny part, rose to the top. Reinhardt poured off the oil and turpentine and used the thick pigment at the bottom for his paintings. This is why his paintings aren't shiny. It is also the reason you can't see his brushstrokes.