



IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT SQUARES

A lesson about the basics of his famous series
Joseph Albers: Homage to the Square
Karen La Du – MFA, Ed.

Joseph Albers: 1888-1976

- German American artist who was also a professor at The Bauhaus.
- His work was based on his fascination with the interactions of colors.
- There are hundreds of paintings & drawings in this series from 1950 to about 1975.
- His question: can the appearance of three dimensions, be created using only color relations?

Homage to the Square (La Tehuana)

1951

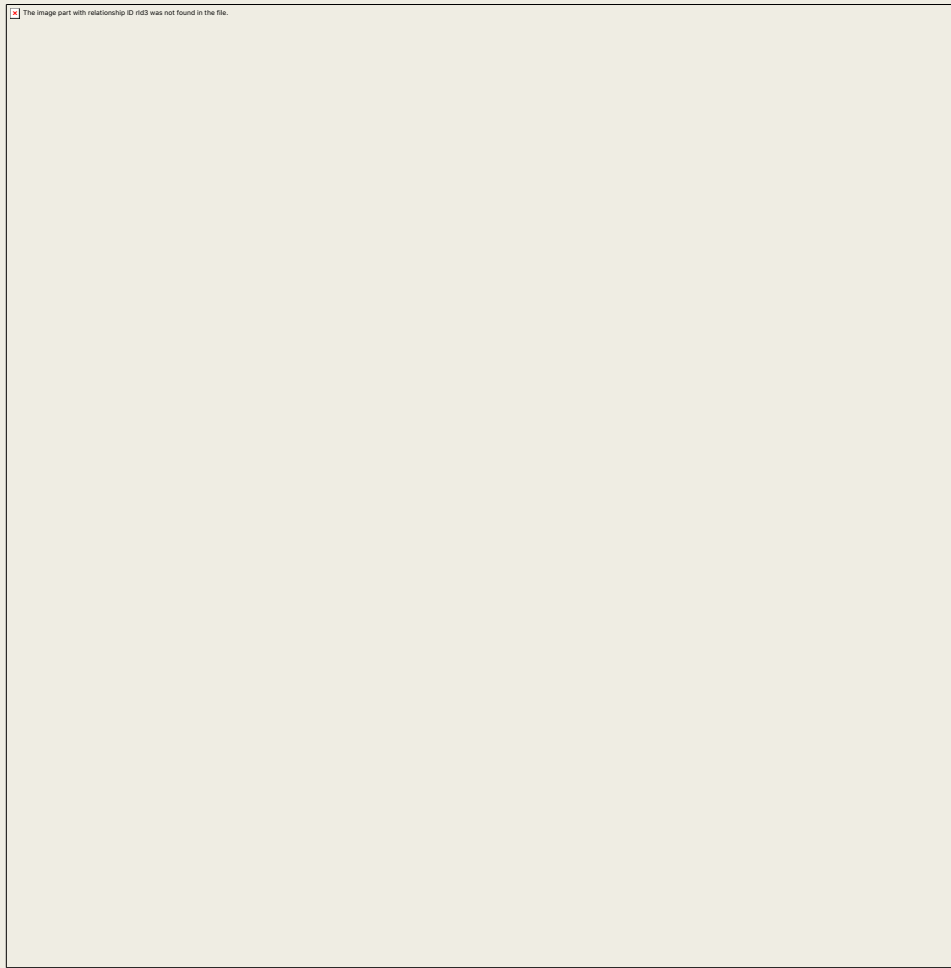
Joseph Albers

Oil on fiberboard

30 ³/₄" x 30 ³/₄"

The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth (Fort Worth, Texas)

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Materials:

- Colored paper
- Rulers
- Scissors or mat knife
- Glue sticks
- Paint chip samples from the paint store

Process:

- Engage students in a discussion of color relationships.
- Encourage experimentation with different color combinations using color chips.
- Talk about the myriad possibilities of how 3 squares could be arranged.
- Provide instructions on how to accurately measure to draw a square.
- Set size limitations for the work.
- Let students get to work cutting out 3 different sized squares.
- Provide glue sticks to adhere the squares to each other.
- Provide a background or frame to complete the piece.

Vocabulary

- Square
- Illusion
- Proportion
- Color theory
- The Bauhaus
- Hard edge painting
- Non representational art

National Core Arts Standards