

COLOR INTERACTIONS

In the artistic projects you have worked on so far, you used color to add to the overall effect. Most of the time when we make choices about which color to use when creating a picture, we use our instinct: “I think this will look good here.”

The question is: Can we increase our skill at applying color so that our artwork looks far more engaging and professional?

The answer is: Yes we can.

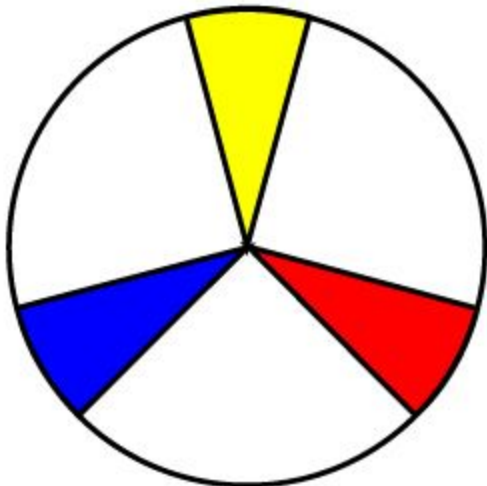
Let's start with the basics:

PRIMARY COLORS

Red

Blue

Yellow



primary

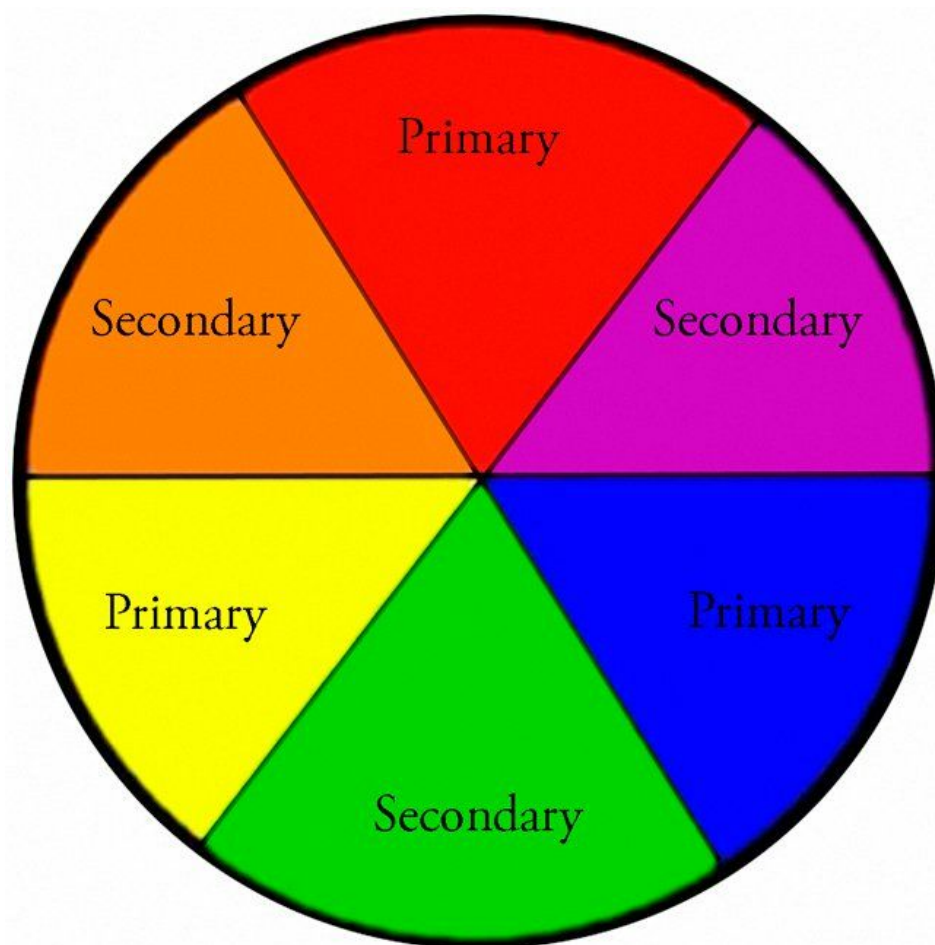
We derive the other colors from mixing of primary colors.

If we mix **blue** with **red** we get **violet** (purple).

If we mix **red** with **yellow** we get **orange**.

If we mix **yellow** with **blue** we get **green**.

Violet, Orange, and Green are what we call the SECONDARY COLORS



Now, if we were to mix a PRIMARY with a SECONDARY color NEXT to it we will get a TERTIARY color.

TERTIARY COLORS:

Blue-Green

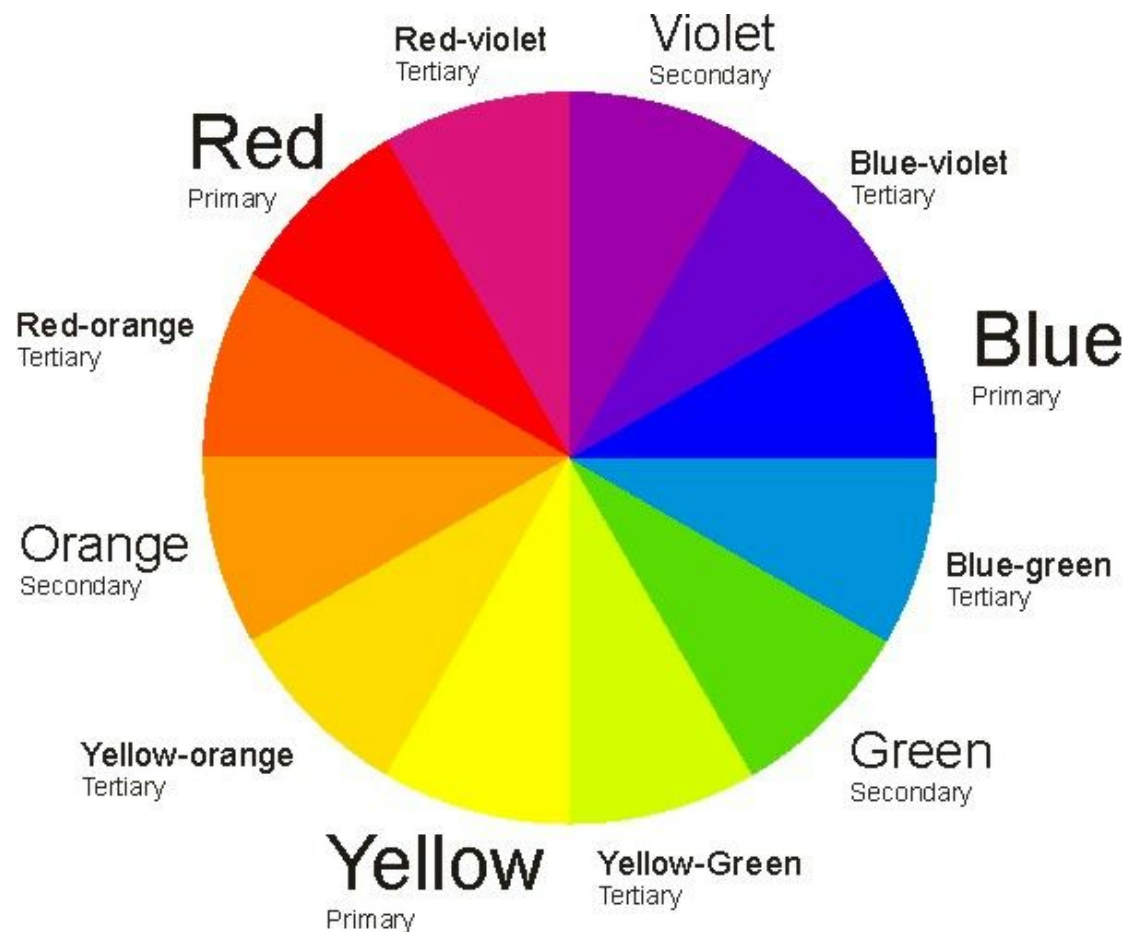
Blue-Violet

Red-Violet

Red-Orange

Yellow-Green

Yellow-Orange



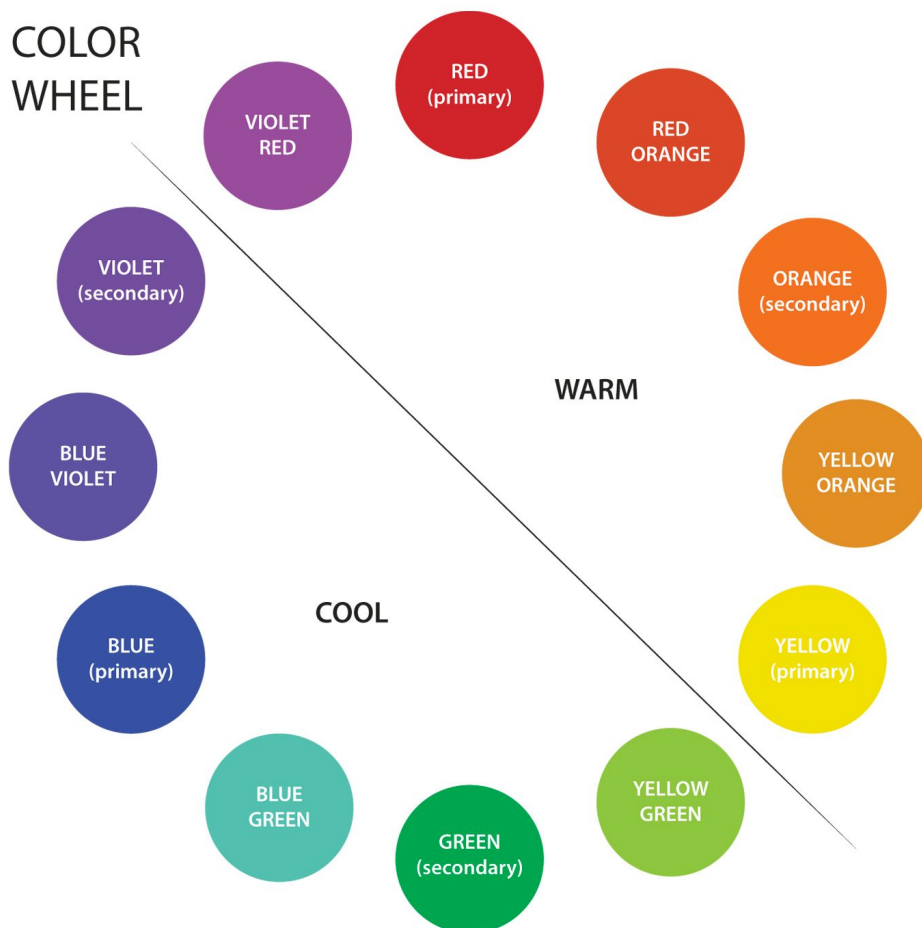
But what do we get if we mix a Primary with a Secondary that are not next to each other, like Blue and Orange, or Yellow with Violet, or Red with Green?

The answer: Brown, Brown, and more Brown.

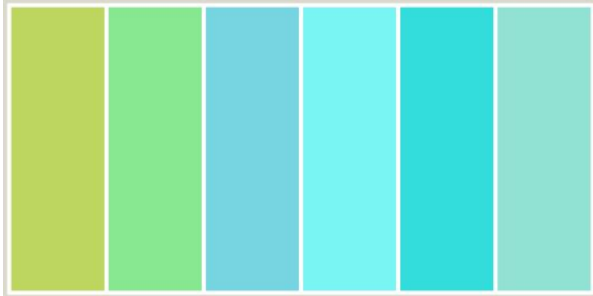
Okay, so in addition to mixing colors we can also place colors next to each other and that we also create a visual effect.

This leads us to start thinking about COLOR RELATIONSHIPS

Now, we are going to step back and look at our whole color wheel and divide it into two parts: WARM COLORS and COOL COLORS



If we place a COOL color next to a WARM color is going to have a different effect than a COOL color next to a COOL color or two WARM colors together.

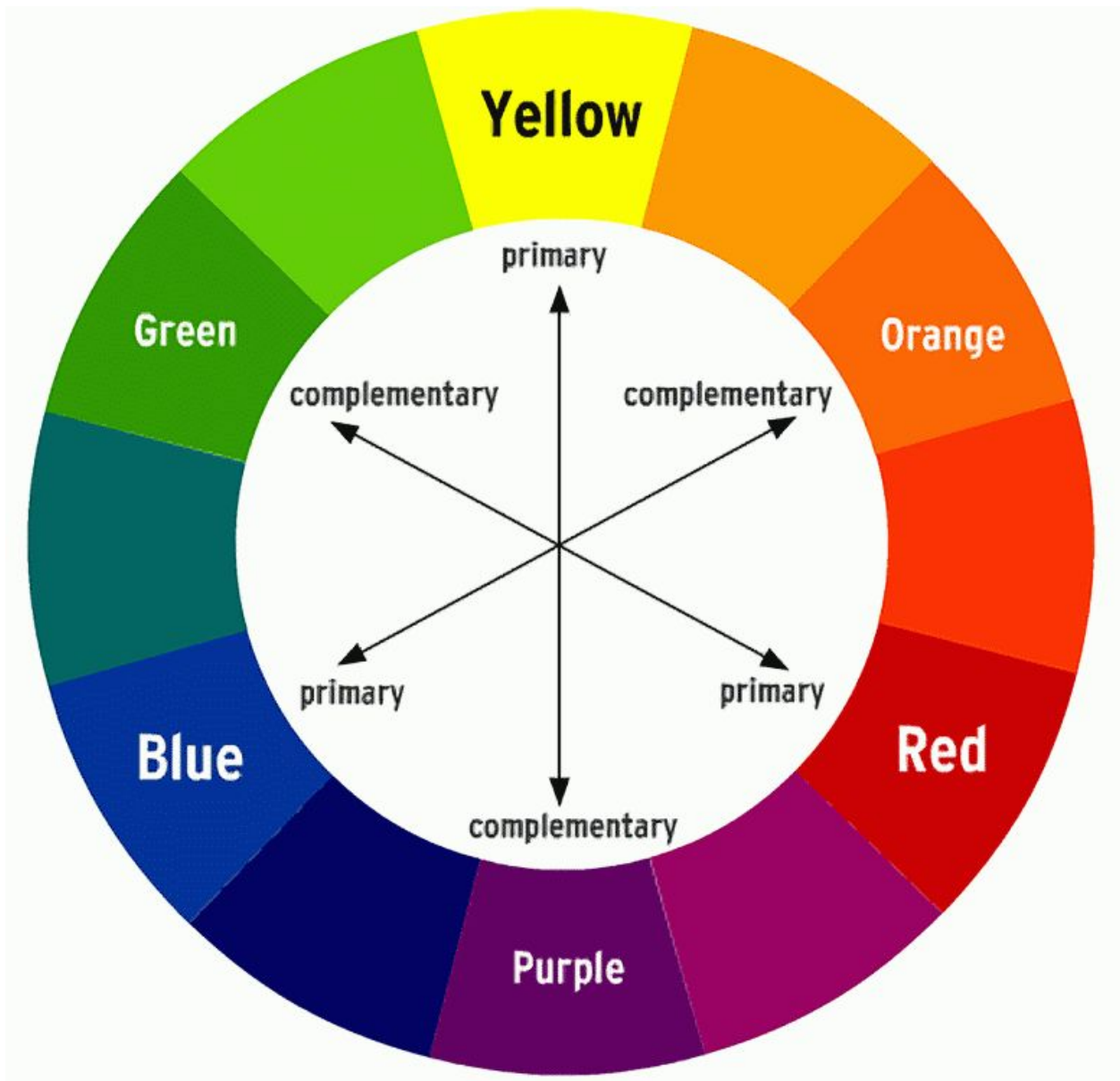






The bird is clearly COOL and the background is WARM. Boy, does that bird seem to pop out! But, this effect is not just because of it being a WARM against a COOL, it's also because these two colors: BLUE and ORANGE are **COMPLEMENTARY**

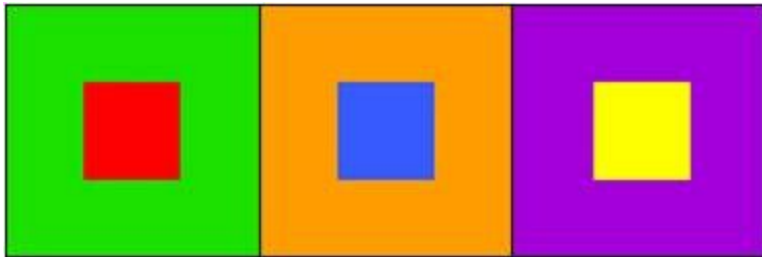
COMPLEMENTARY COLORS are colors found directly opposite each other on the color wheel.



RED and GREEN
BLUE and ORANGE
YELLOW and VIOLET (purple)

When we decide to make a picture featuring complementary colors, we are working with a COLOR SCHEME

A complementary color scheme can make for very striking and beautiful effects.







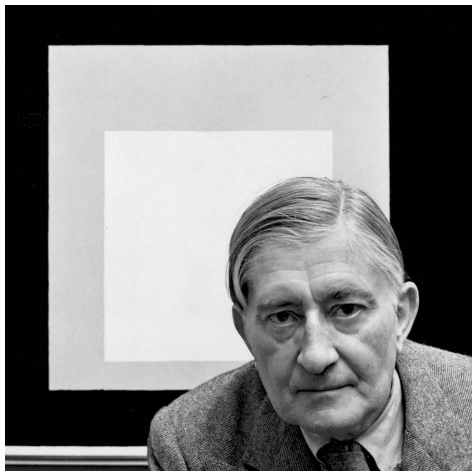


Now, notice in this image below the two little squares. You may not believe this, but those two little squares are exactly the same color. Our eyes see them as different because the colors that they are against have an effect on how they are perceived.

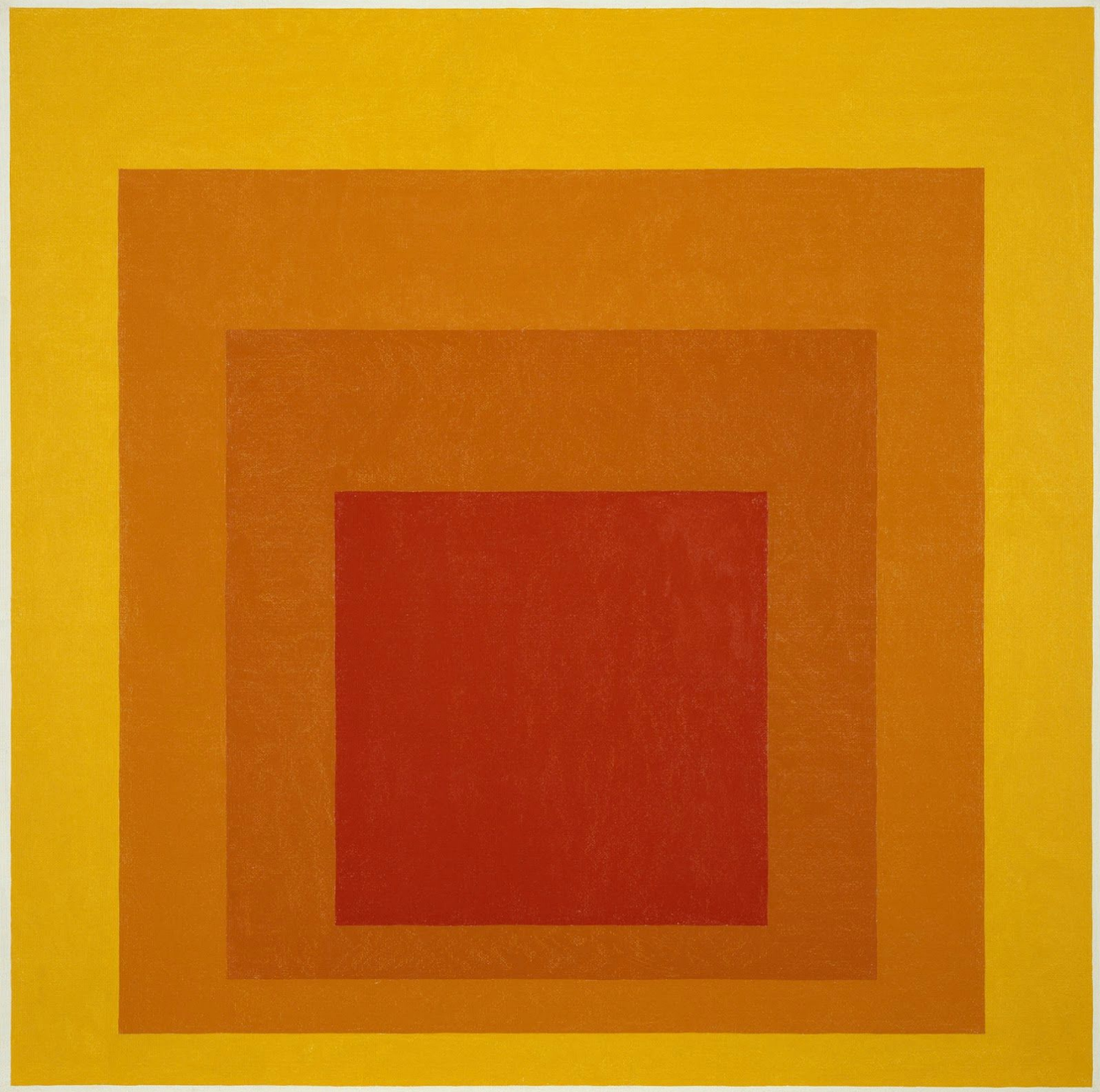


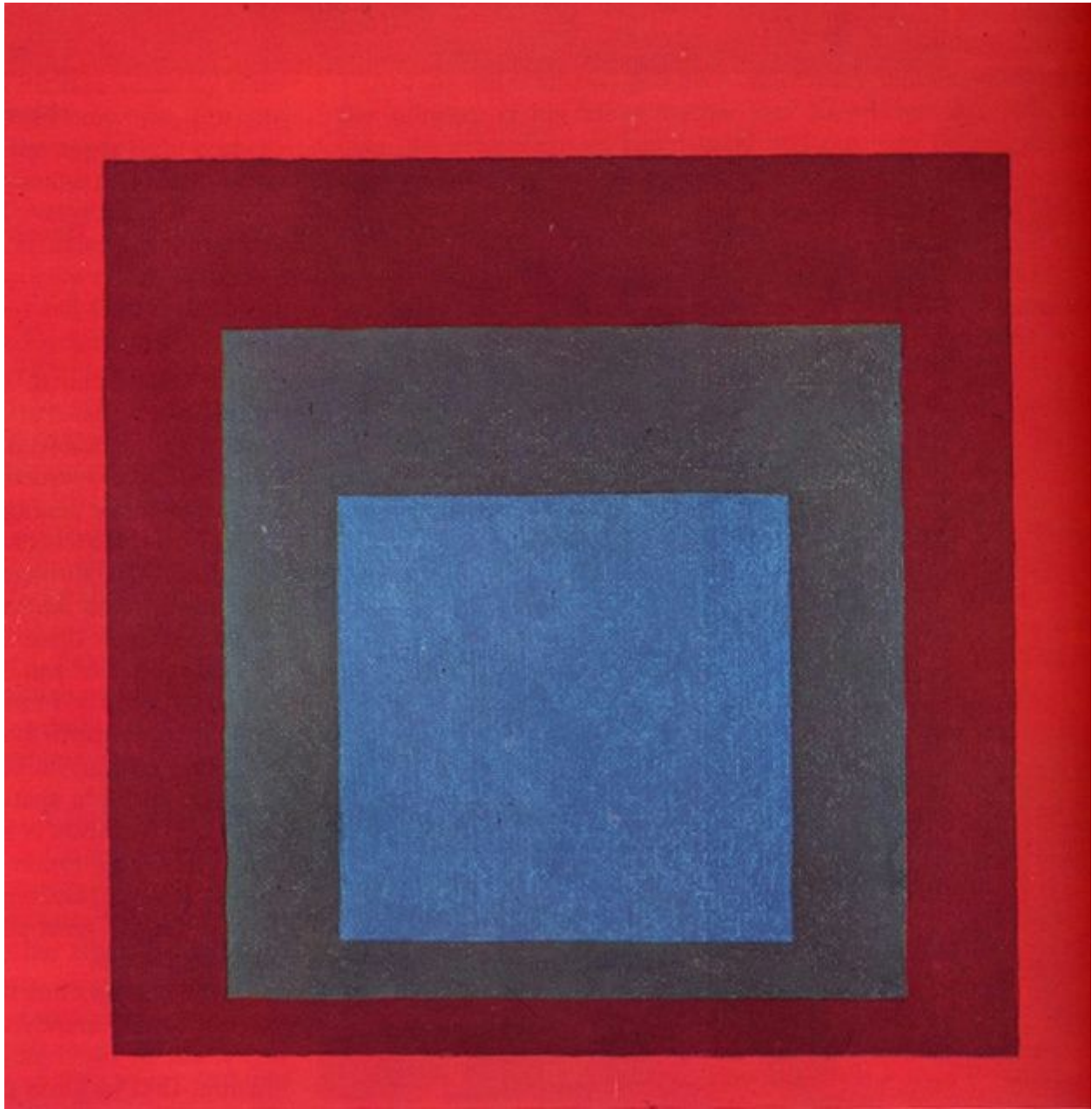
This image was originally created by an artist named Josef Albers.

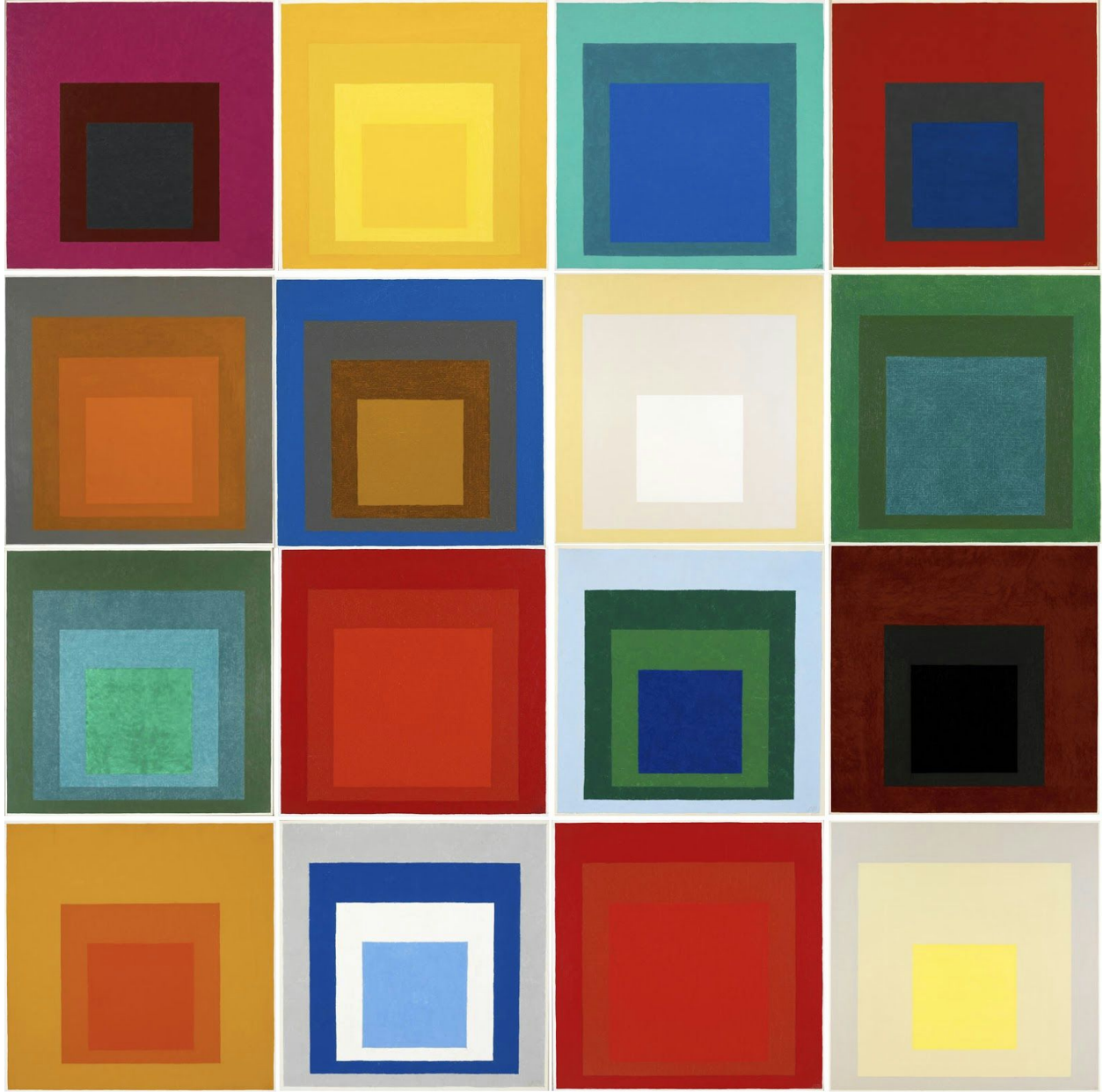
Josef Albers (March 19, 1888 – March 25, 1976) was a German-born American artist and educator whose work, both in Europe and in the United States, formed the basis of some of the most influential and far-reaching art education programs of the twentieth century.



Here are some examples of Josef Albers' art:







This series he called: ***Homage to the Square***

Homage means great respect and honor, or something done to honor a person or thing.

Here's our project:

We are going to pay homage to Josef Alber's Homage to the Square.

We'll call our project: Homage to Homage to the Square.

We will make a total of 5 of them.

It's easy: In Photoshop make a square within a square within a square within a square (that's 4). Each is a different color and arranged in whatever order you like. Remember to place each color square on its own individual layer.

#1 each color square will be from the WARM colors.

#2 each color square will be from the COOL colors.

#3 two of the color squares will be red and two will be green.

#4 two of the color squares will be blue and two will be orange.

#5 two of the squares will be yellow and two will be violet (purple).