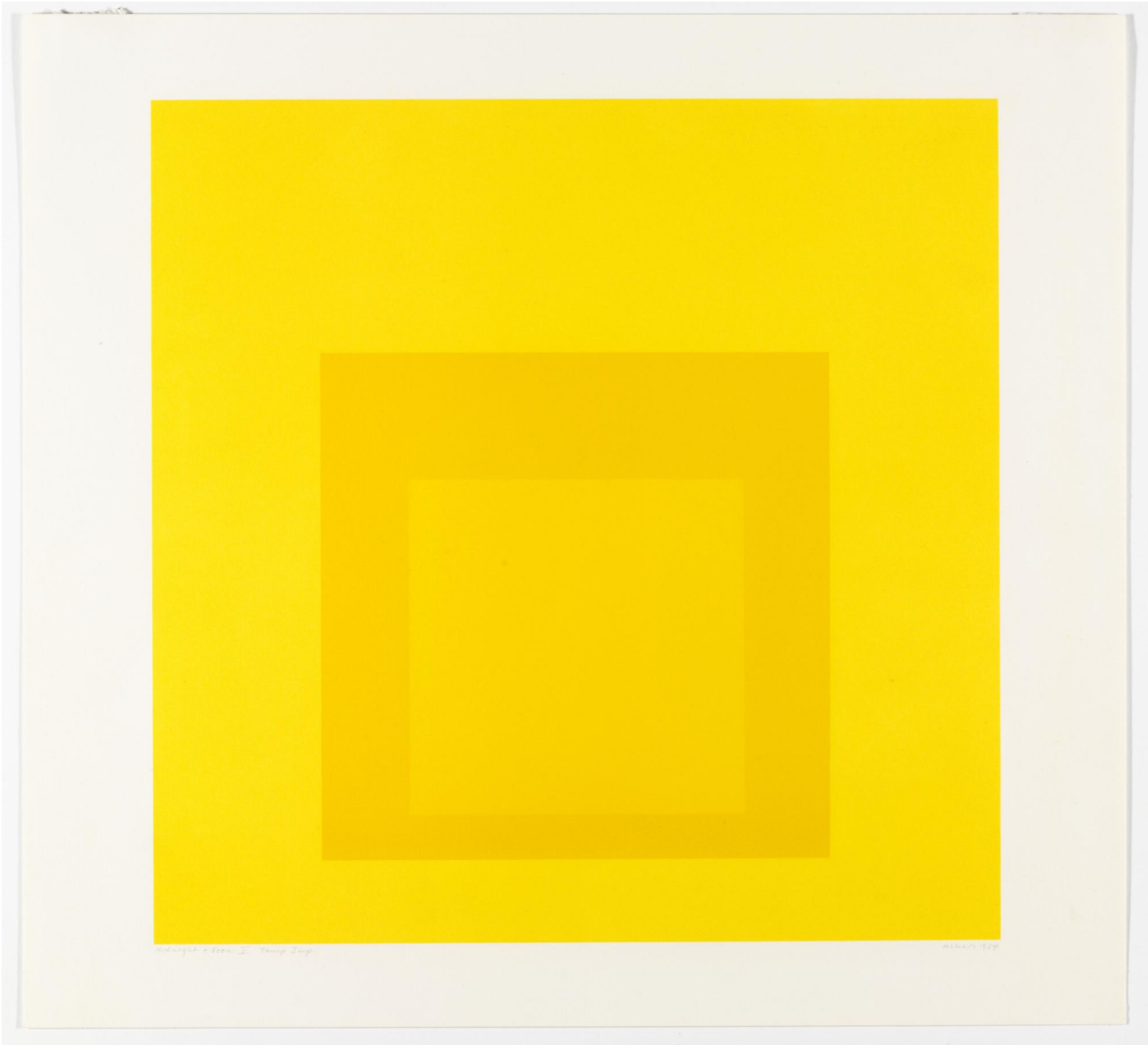
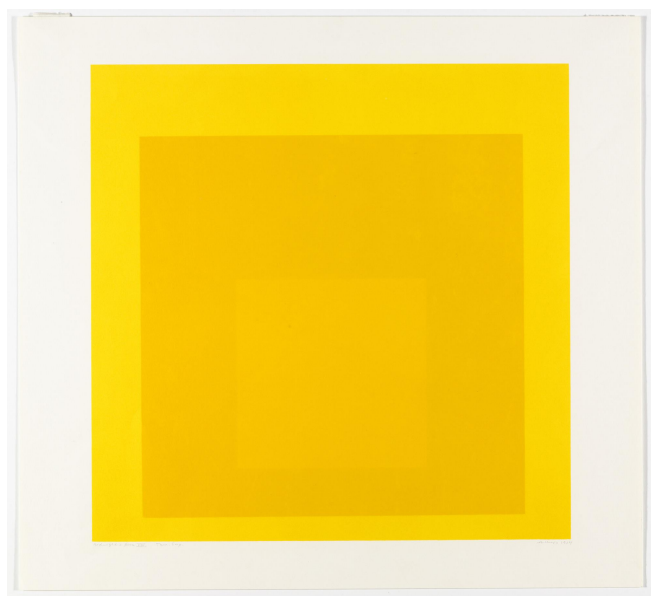
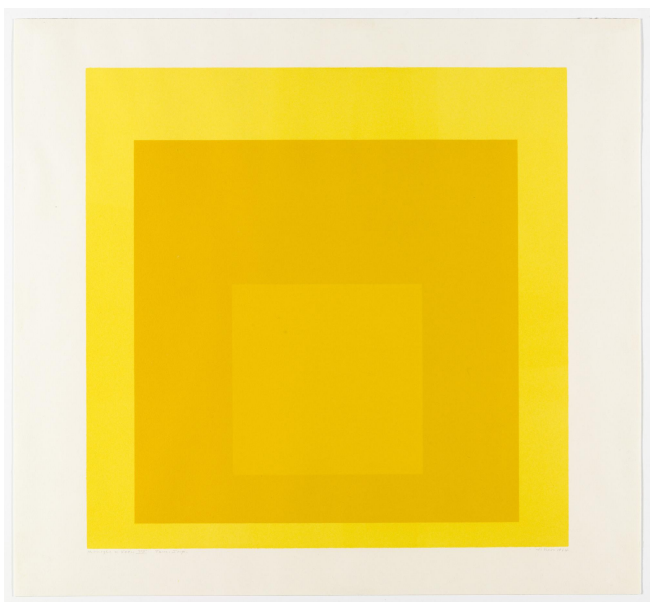
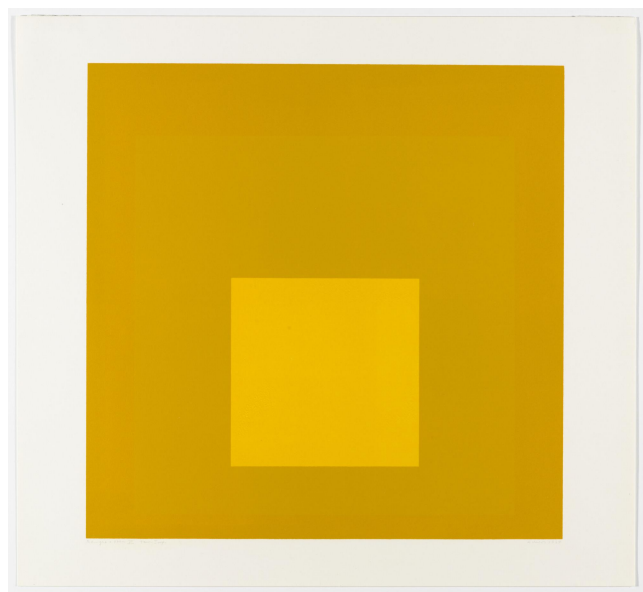
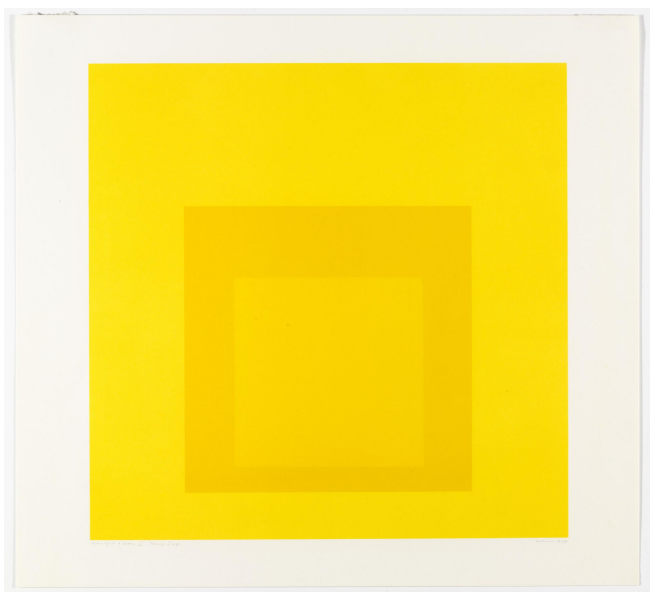


# Learn with MoMA





## Step 1 Look closely

1. What shapes and colors do you see?
2. How did the artist arrange the colors and shapes?
3. Compare the four images on page 2. How do the shades of yellow look different in each arrangement?

## Step 2 Learn more

These are [screenprints](#) by the artist Josef Albers from the series *Midnight and Noon*. He spent more than twenty years making hundreds of variations on the basic arrangements or compositions of three or four squares set inside each other. He wrote of these works, "Choice of the colours used, as well as their order, is aimed at an interaction—influencing and changing each other forth and back."

Albers was an artist and teacher whose aim was to help students be more aware of what they see. He said his goal as a teacher was "to open [his students'] eyes." He crafted exercises that helped students explore the optical effects created by superimposing colored squares on one another.

See other examples from the series: [albersfoundation.org/art/josef-albers/paintings/homages-to-the-square/](https://albersfoundation.org/art/josef-albers/paintings/homages-to-the-square/)

## Step 3 Activity: Color combinations

Materials: construction paper (at least three different colors) and scissors

1. Cut each color of construction paper so that you have:

one large square (6 inches)  
one medium square (4 inches)  
one small square (2 inches)

2. Arrange three different colored squares on top of each other, largest to smallest. How do the colors look next to each other?
3. Create another arrangement using the same colors in a different order. How does it look different from the first arrangement?
4. Write down your observations of your arrangements: Does one combination make the smallest square appear larger? Smaller? Brighter? Darker?

## Step 4 Share!

Share your color combinations and observations with a friend, classmate, or family member. Or you can email a photo of them to us at MoMA:

[schoolprograms@moma.org](mailto:schoolprograms@moma.org).



Volkswagen of America is proud to be MoMA's lead partner of learning and engagement.

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Image: Josef Albers. *Midnight + Noon V* from *Midnight and Noon*. 1964. One from a portfolio of eight lithographs. 15 3/4 x 15 3/4" (40 x 40 cm); sheet: 18 7/8 x 20 9/16" (48 x 52.2 cm). Publisher. Tamarind Lithography Workshop, Inc., Los Angeles. Edition 20, plus 9 Tamarind impressions. Gift of Kleiner, Bell & Co., © 2022 The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. *Midnight + Noon VI* from *Midnight and Noon*. 1964. One from a portfolio of eight lithographs. 15 3/4 x 15 3/4" (40 x 40 cm); sheet: 18 7/8 x 20 1/2" (48 x 52 cm). Publisher. Tamarind Lithography Workshop, Inc., Los Angeles. Edition 20, plus 9 Tamarind impressions. Gift of Kleiner, Bell & Co. 1318.1967.6. © 2022 The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York;

*Midnight + Noon VII* from *Midnight and Noon*. 1964. Tamarind Lithography Workshop, Inc., Los Angeles. Printer. Tamarind Lithography Workshop, Inc., Los Angeles. Impressions. Gift of Kleiner, Bell & Co. © 2022 The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. *Midnight + Noon VIII* from *Midnight and Noon*. 1964. One from a portfolio of eight lithographs. 15 3/4 x 15 3/4" (40 x 40 cm); sheet: 18 7/8 x 20 9/16" (48 x 52.2 cm). Publisher. Tamarind Lithography Workshop, Inc., Los Angeles. Printer. Tamarind Lithography Workshop, Inc., Los Angeles. Edition 20, plus 9 Tamarind impressions. Gift of Kleiner, Bell & Co. © 2022 The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York