

Color Theory (and Practice) Week 4

Mary Fran Miklitsch

“Instead of trying to reproduce exactly what I see before me, I make more arbitrary use of color to express myself more forcefully ... To express the love of two lovers by the marriage of two complementary colors ... To express the thought of a brow by the radiance of a light tone against a dark background. To express hope by some star. Someone’s passion by the radiance of the setting sun.”

— Vincent van Gogh

Itten's Seven Types of Contrast

1. Contrast of Hue
2. Light-Dark Contrast
3. Cold-Warm Contrast
4. Complementary Contrast
- 5. Simultaneous Contrast**
- 6. Contrast of Saturation**
7. Contrast of Extension

Simultaneous Contrast



Rhythm, Robert Delaunay. 1912.



South Wind, Clear Sky also known as *Red Fuji*, Katsushika Hokusai. c 1830-32.



Gardanne, Paul Cézanne. 1885-86.

Contrast of Saturation

When adjacent areas of color are saturated vs. dull
(and why violet doesn't reach as far as red
on Munsell's Color Tree)



Saturated and light value



Saturated and dark value



Unsaturated and light value



Unsaturated and dark value

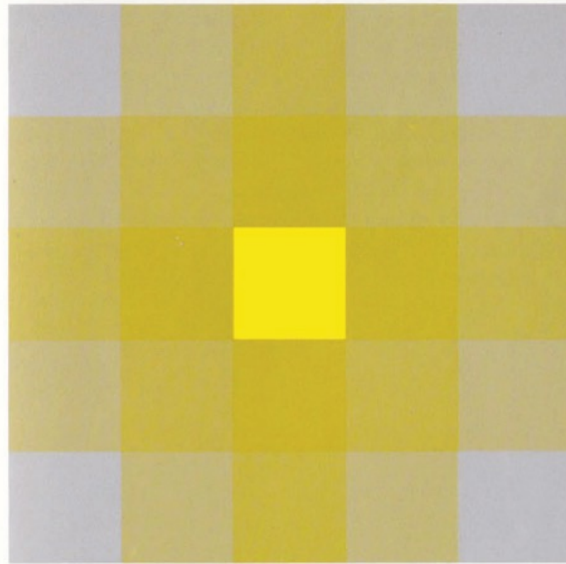
Examine in Photoshop

Saturated colors

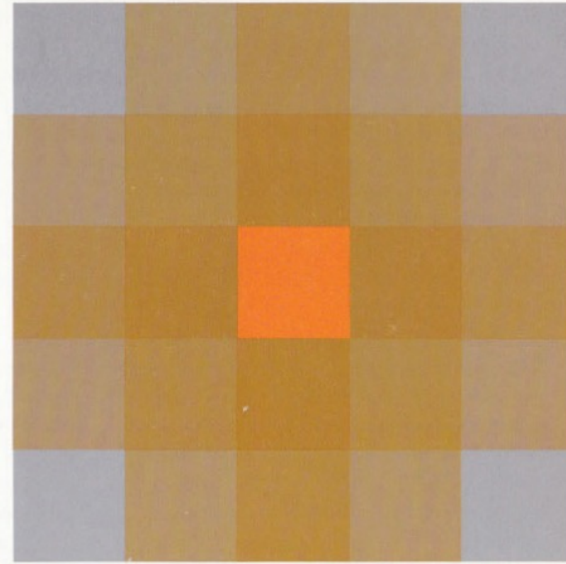
Desaturated
bright colors

Desaturated
dark colors

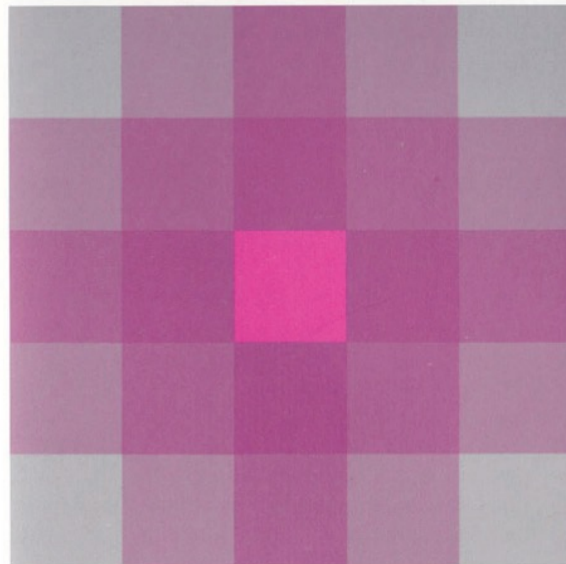




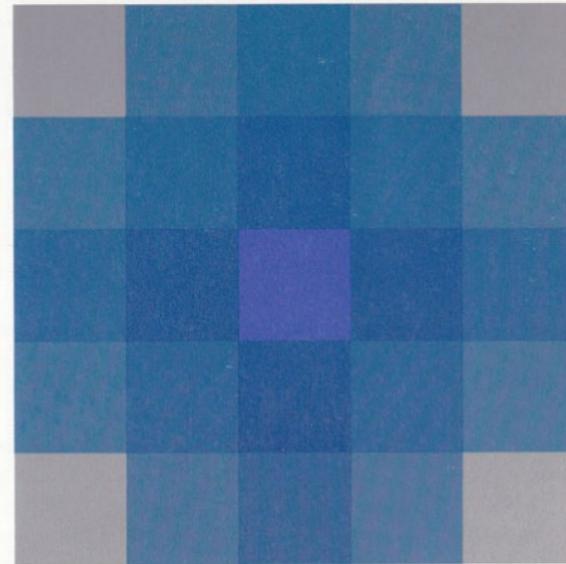
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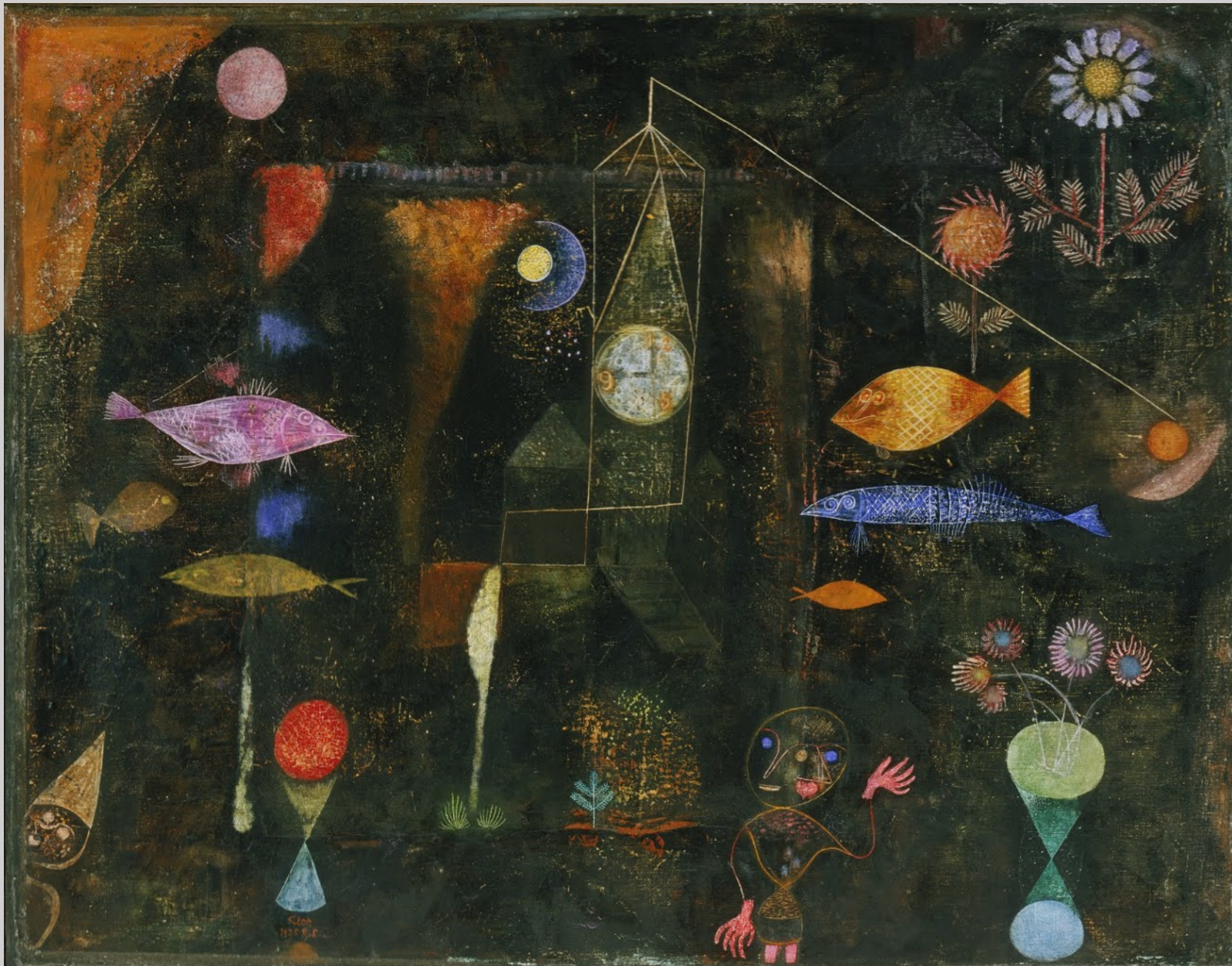


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Johannes Itten.



The Newborn Christ, Georges de La Tour. 1640.



Fish Magic, Paul Klee. 1925.



A Wall, Nassau, Winslow Homer. 1898.

Color in the “real” (virtual) world: Adobe Color’s Color Wheel and Accessibility Tools

The screenshot displays the Adobe Color website's Accessibility Tools section. The browser's address bar shows the URL `color.adobe.com/create/color-contrast-analyzer`. The interface includes a navigation bar with 'CREATE', 'EXPLORE', 'TRENDS', and 'LIBRARIES'. The main content area is titled 'Accessibility Tools' and features a 'Tools' dropdown set to 'Contrast Checker' and 'WCAG 2.1 Level' set to 'AA'. The 'Text Color' is set to `#FFFFFF` and the 'Background Color' is set to `#FF6B09`. The resulting 'Contrast Ratio' is $2.85 : 1$, which is marked as a failure. A 'Preview' section shows three examples: 'Regular Text' with a failure for 17pt and below, 'Large Text' with a failure for 18pt and above / 14pt bold and above, and 'Graphic Components' with a failure for icons and actionable graphics. A 'Recommendations' sidebar on the right offers three contrast suggestions: 5.0:1 (black text on orange background), 5.0:1 (white text on dark orange background), and 6.0:1 (black text on orange background). A 'Save to Libraries' button is located at the bottom right of the sidebar.

Adobe Color

CREATE EXPLORE TRENDS LIBRARIES

Color Wheel Extract Theme Extract Gradient Accessibility Tools **New**

Tools

Contrast Checker ? WCAG 2.1 Level AA ? Import Colors

Text Color `#FFFFFF` Background Color `#FF6B09`

Contrast Ratio ? $2.85 : 1$ ⊘

Preview

Regular Text

A high color contrast makes anything easier to read

Large Text

A high color contrast makes anything easier to read

Graphic Components

⊘ Fail for 17pt and below

⊘ Fail for 18pt and above / 14pt bold and above

⊘ Fail for icons and actionable graphics

Recommendations Save

Contrast Suggestions ⌵

T `#FFFFFF` `#FF6B09` **Apply** Contrast Ratio 5.0:1

T `#FFFFFF` `#8B4513` **Apply** Contrast Ratio 5.0:1

T `#000000` `#FF6B09` **Apply** Contrast Ratio 6.0:1

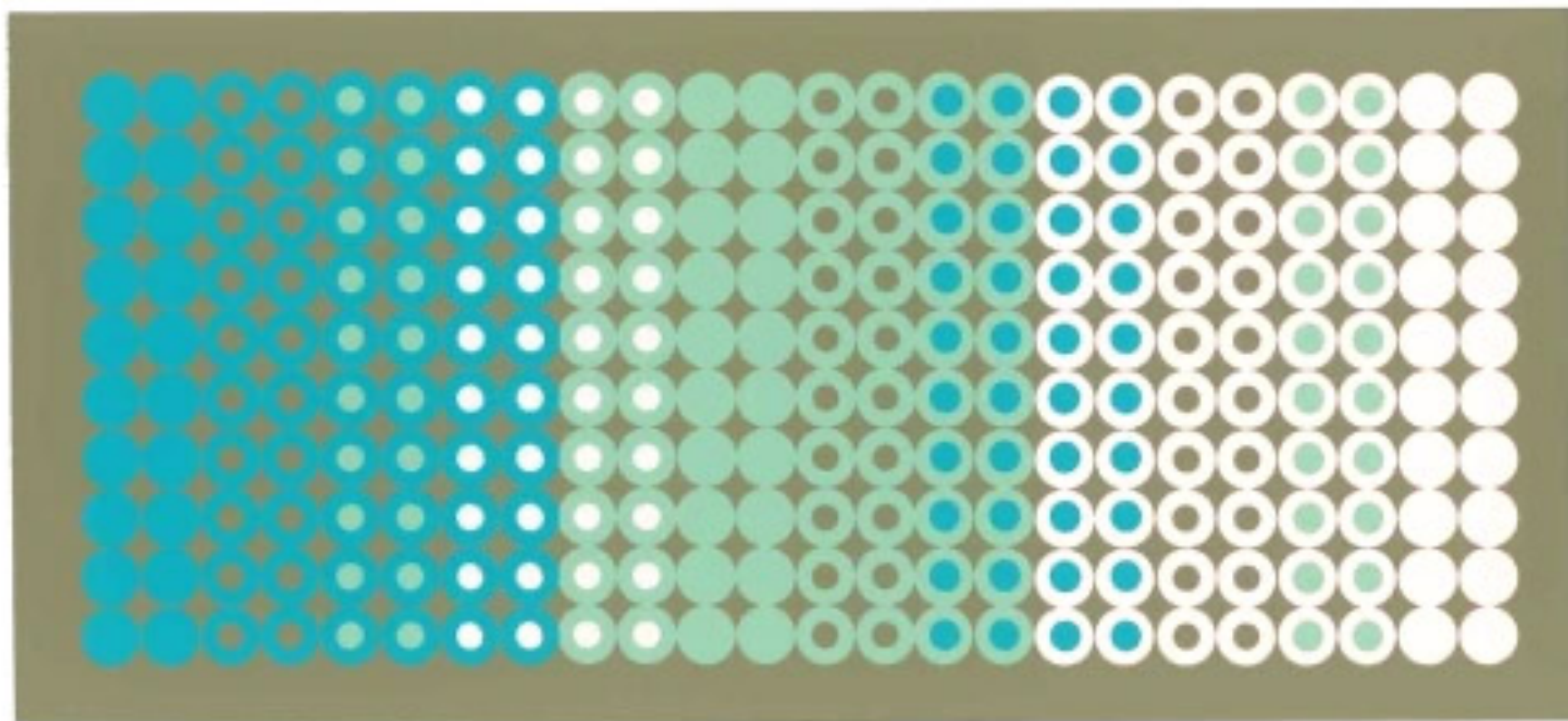
Set a Contrast Ratio ➤

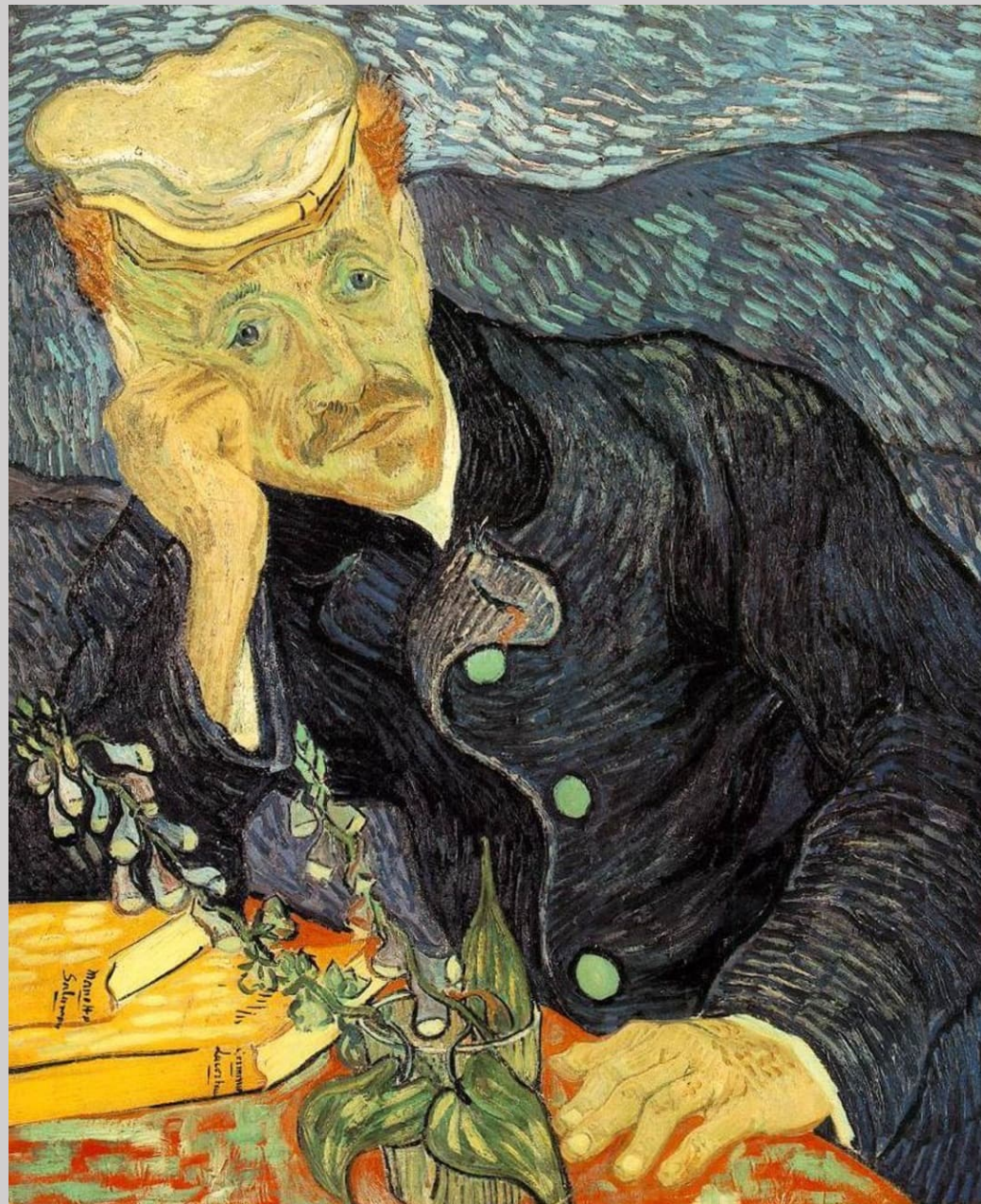
Save to Libraries

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Optical Mixture

- Albers
- Impressionism
- Pointillism
- Weaving (rug)
- Weaving (plaid fabric)

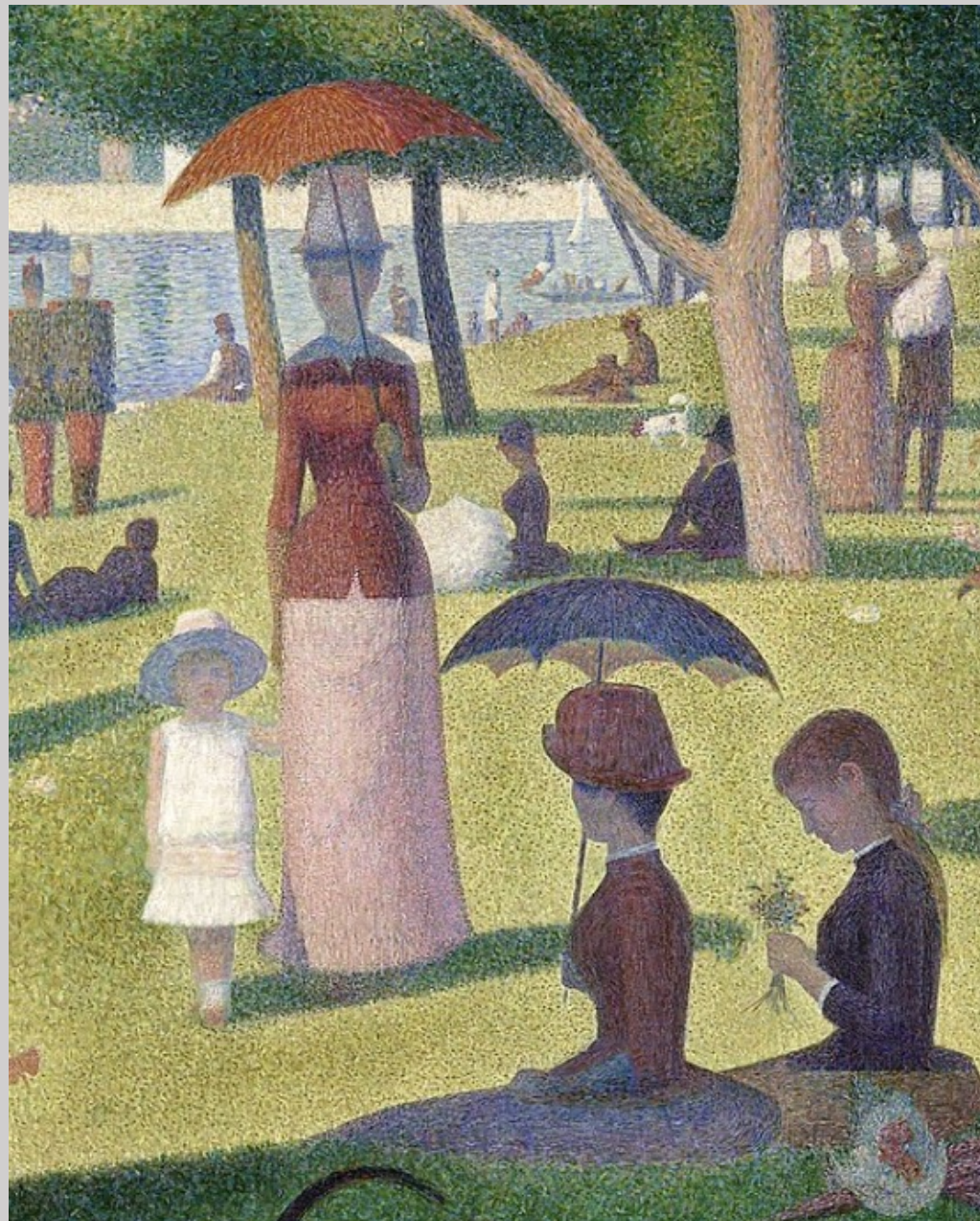




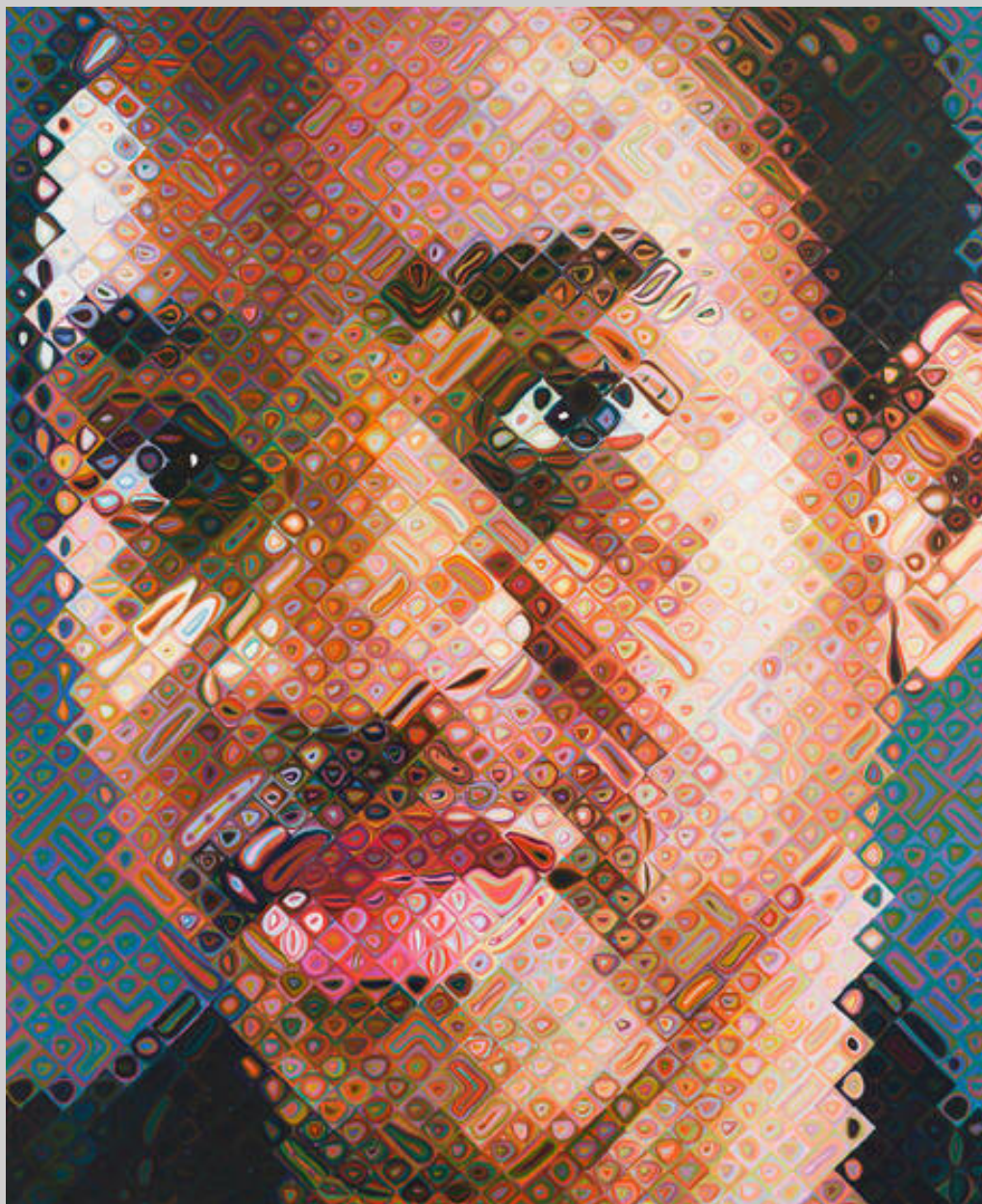
Portrait of Dr. Gachet, Vincent van Gogh. 1890.



Sunday on La Grande Jatte, Georges Seurat. 1884.



Detail from *Sunday on La Grande Jatte*, Georges Seurat. 1884.

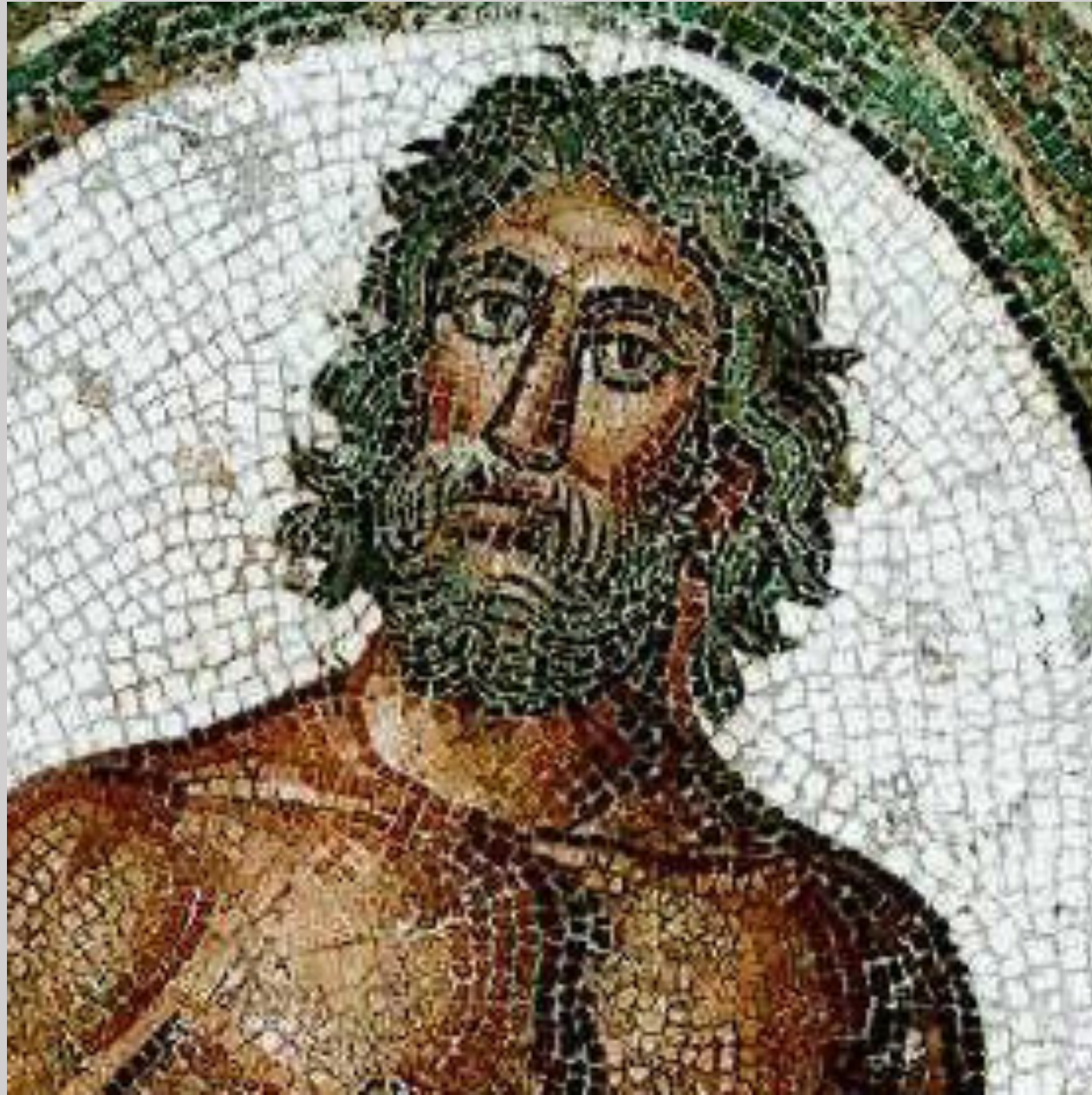


Lyle, Chuck Close. 1999.





Triumph of Neptune. Mid 3rd Century AD.

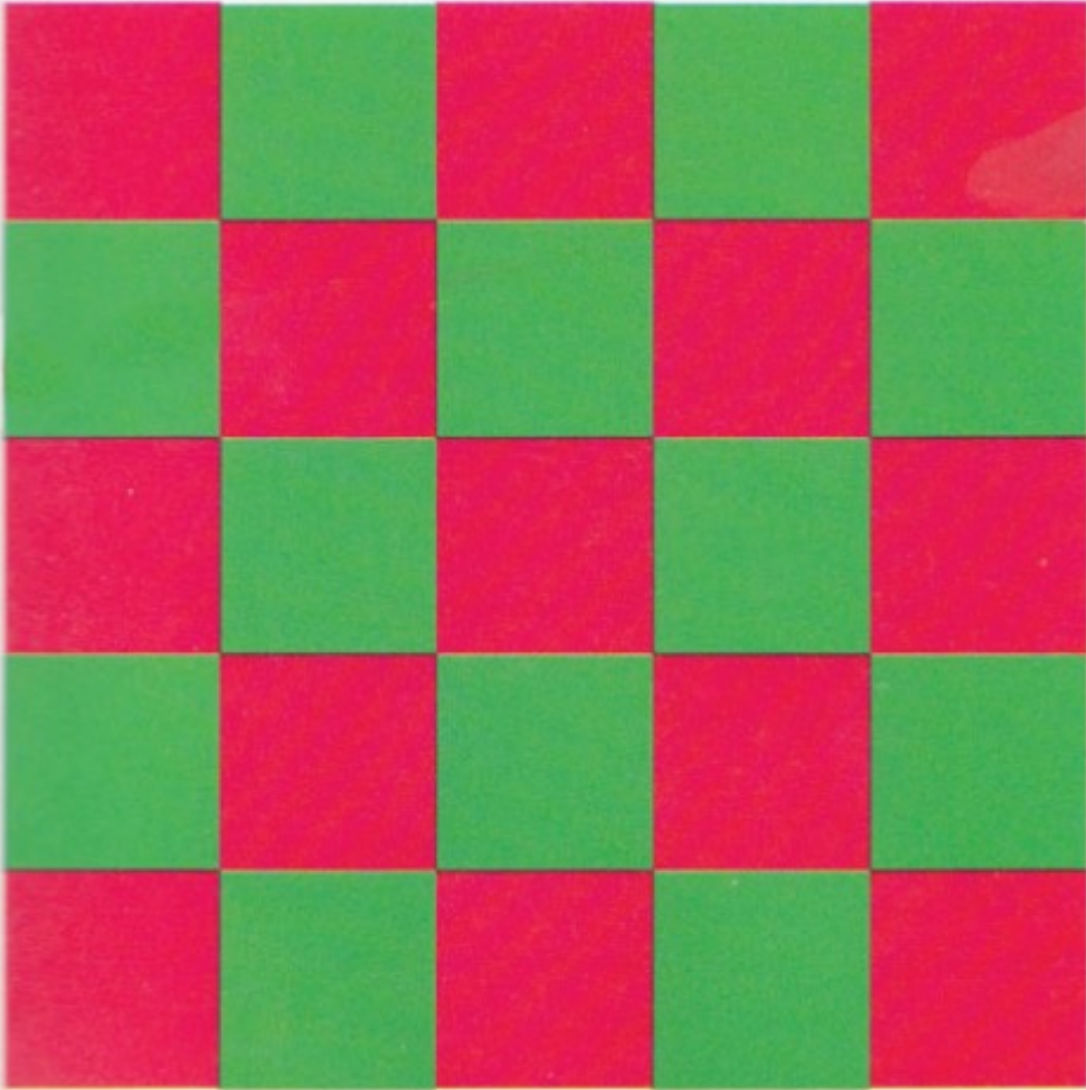


Triumph of Neptune. Mid 3rd Century AD.

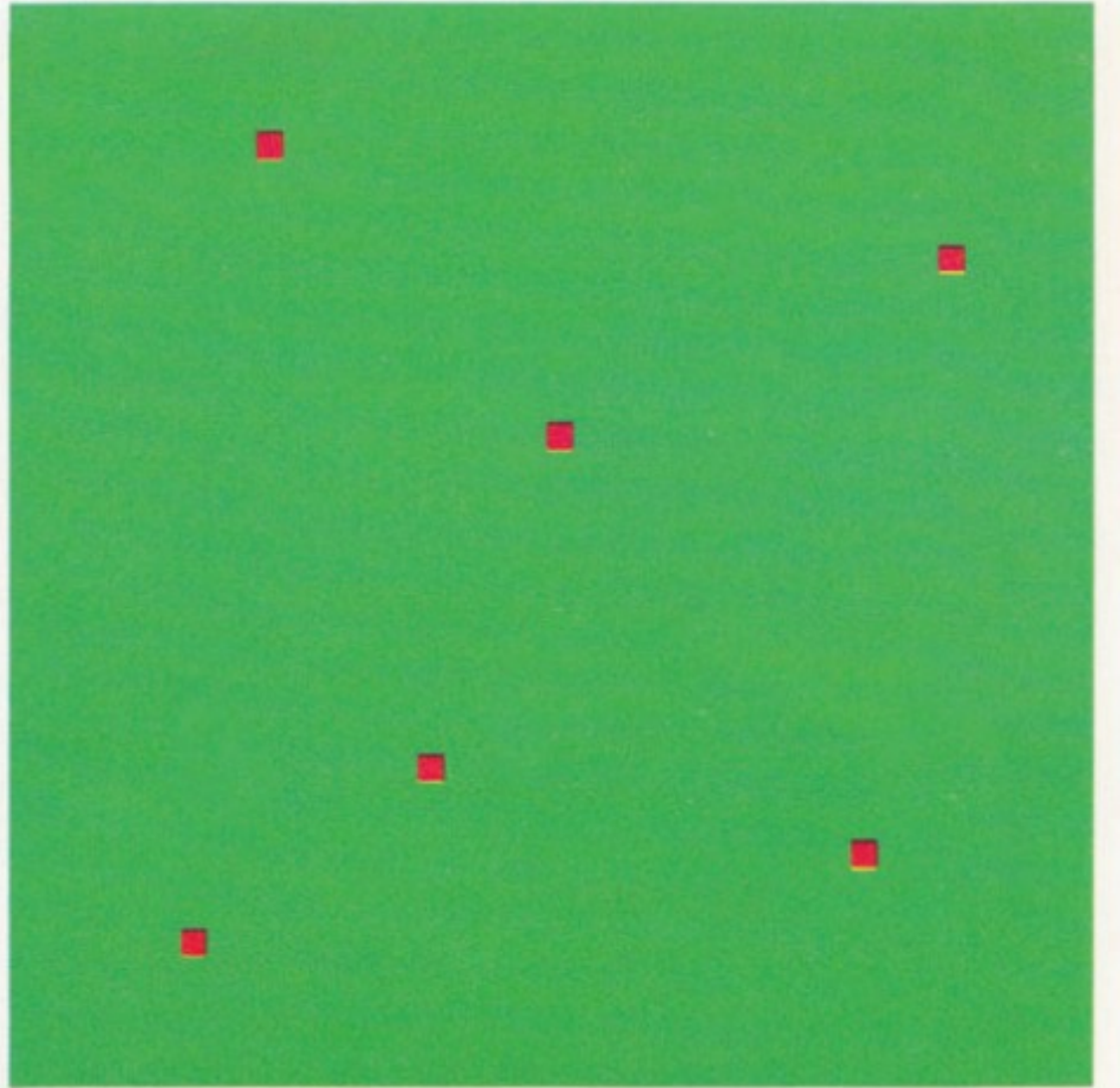
Quantity

How much? How often?

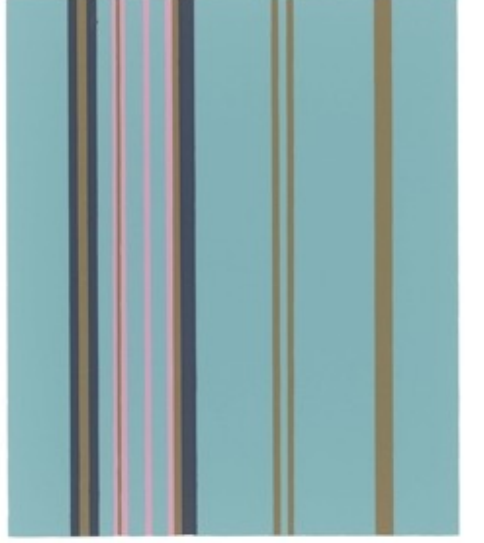
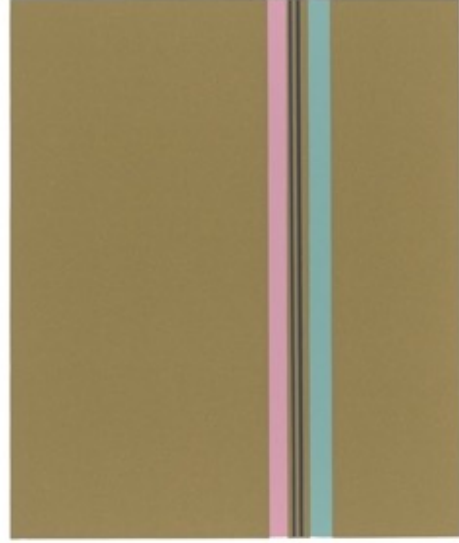
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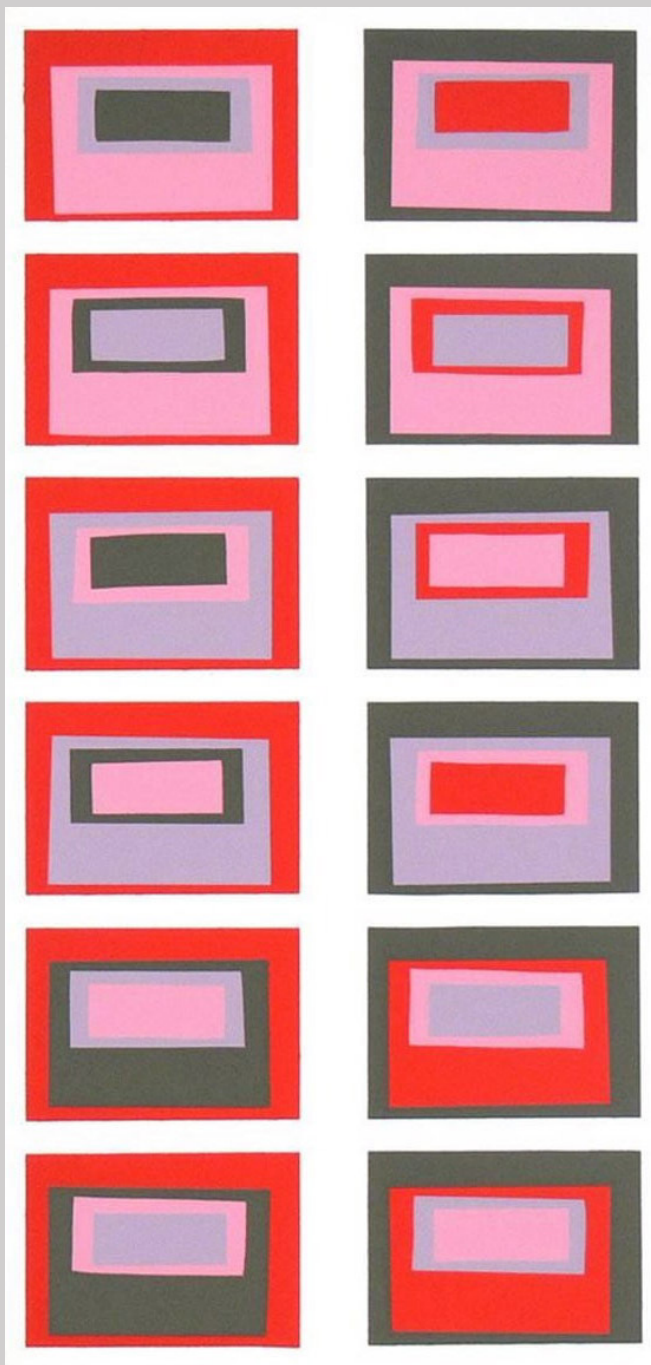


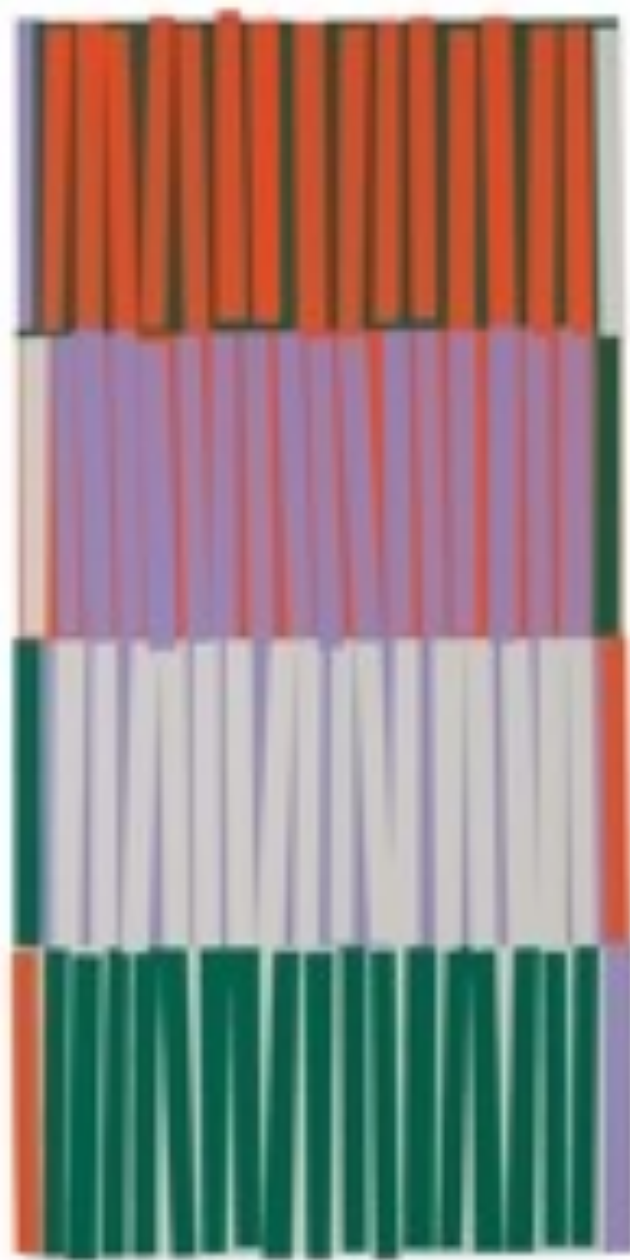
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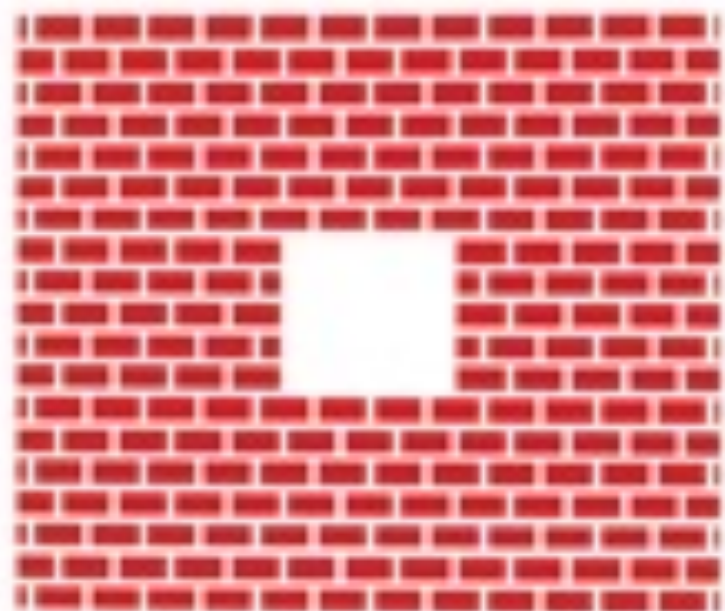
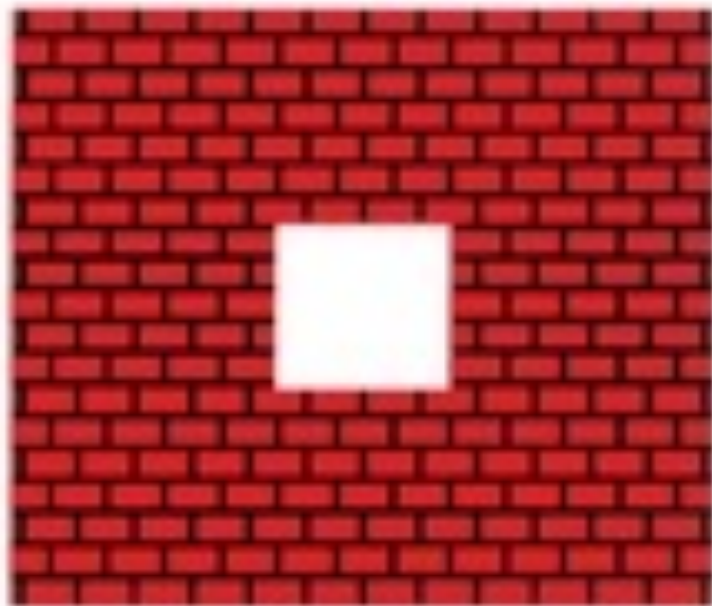
Johannes Itten.







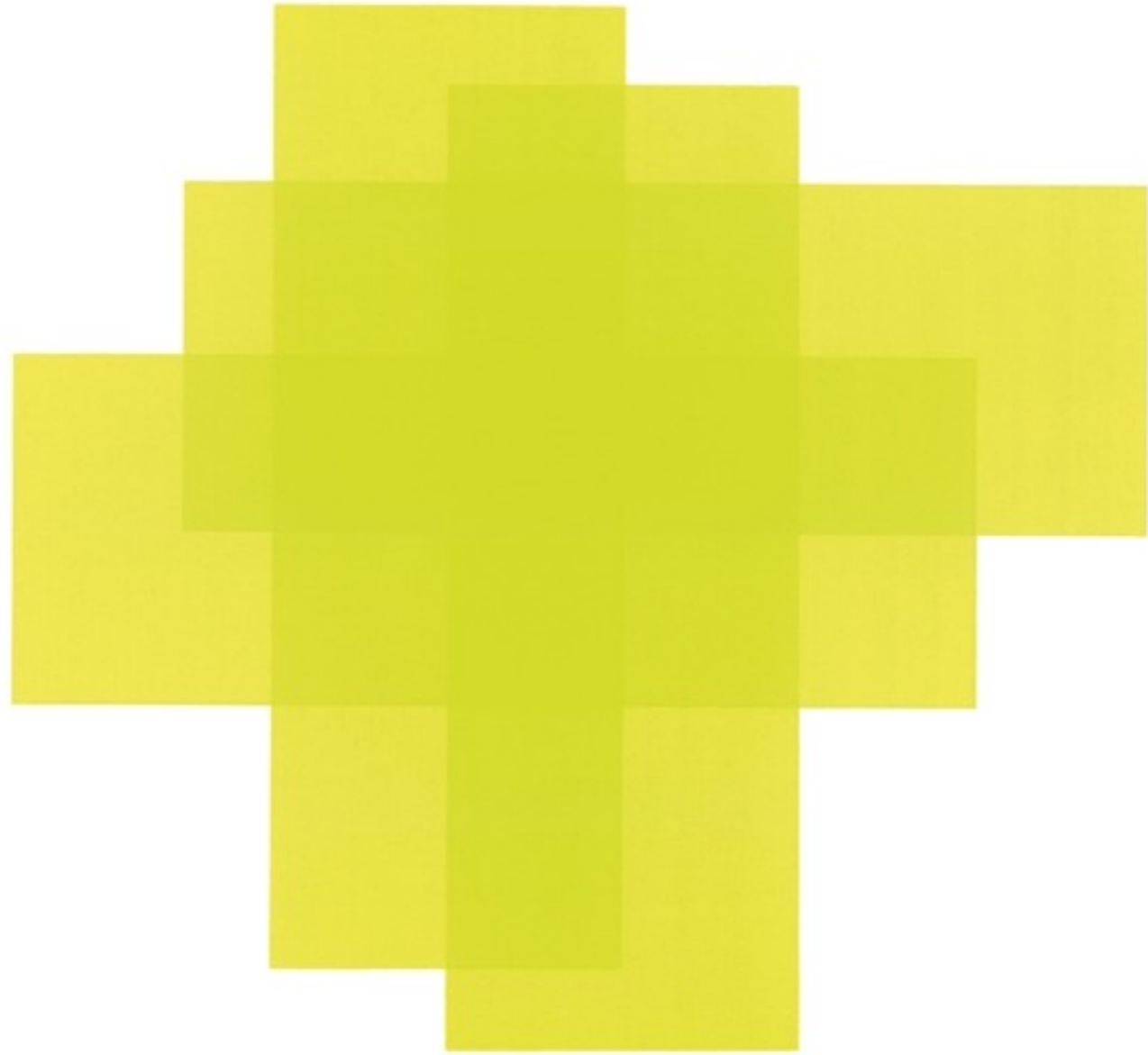
Bezold Effect

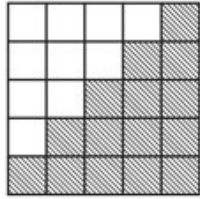




Weber-Fechner Law

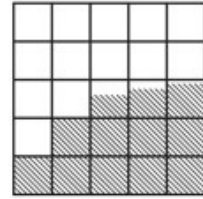
Ernst Heinrich Weber and Gustav Theodor Fechner



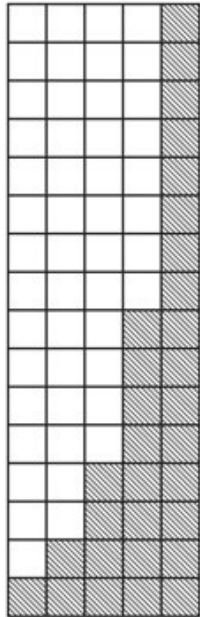


THIS PHYSICAL FACT

REDUCES TO

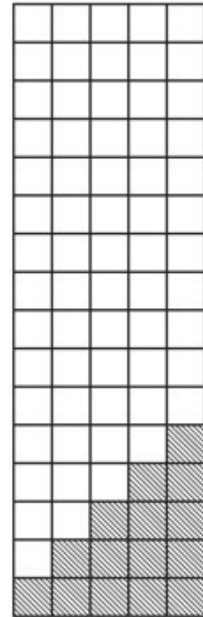


THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT



THIS PHYSICAL FACT

PRODUCES



THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT

Weber-Fechner Law

Color Constancy/Retinex Theory