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Interaction Of Color: Revised And Expanded Edition



Synopsis

Josef Albers's *Interaction of Color* is a masterwork in twentieth-century art education. Conceived as a handbook and teaching aid for artists, instructors, and students, this timeless book presents Albers's unique ideas of color experimentation in a way that is valuable to specialists as well as to a larger audience. Originally published by Yale University Press in 1963 as a limited silkscreen edition with 150 color plates, *Interaction of Color* first appeared in paperback in 1971, featuring ten representative color studies chosen by Albers. The paperback has remained in print ever since and is one of the most influential resources on color for countless readers. This new paperback edition presents a significantly expanded selection of more than thirty color studies alongside Albers's original unabridged text, demonstrating such principles as color relativity, intensity, and temperature; vibrating and vanishing boundaries; and the illusions of transparency and reversed grounds. Now available in a larger format and with enhanced production values, this expanded edition celebrates the unique authority of Albers's contribution to color theory and brings the artist's iconic study to an eager new generation of readers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book is written as an instruction on teaching about colors, including theory and practical exercises. Josef Albers' writing style reads very well and is easy to understand (even for a not native speaker like me). The reproduction of the color plates is not perfect, but by far good enough to understand the exercises -- especially considering the book's moderate price."Interaction of

Color" is not about rules, color systems, pigments or physical qualities but rather about color perception. Because we hardly ever see a single color, the book deals with the dependency and interaction of colors. "Just as the knowledge of acoustics does not make one musical -- neither on the productive nor on the appreciative side -- so no color system by itself can develop one's sensitivity for color". Because only experience and training will develop an eye for color and an the sense for relations between colors, the book encourages the reader not only to read, but to experiment actively with colors. To introduce the reader to the theme, Albers compares the relativity of colors with a simple but convincing experiment: You need 3 pots, each filled with warm, lukewarm and cold water. After dipping the left hand in the cold and the right hand in the warm water, put both hands simultaneously into the lukewarm water. It appears to be warm for the left, cold for the right hand, though its neither of this temperatures. Similar to this haptic illusion our color perception is always relative. The book explains subjects relating to color properties like intensity and brightness, color mixture, transparency and space illusion, harmony ... it really boils down the fundamentals of color theory in a simple and comprehensible way, illustrated with the clear color plates.

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