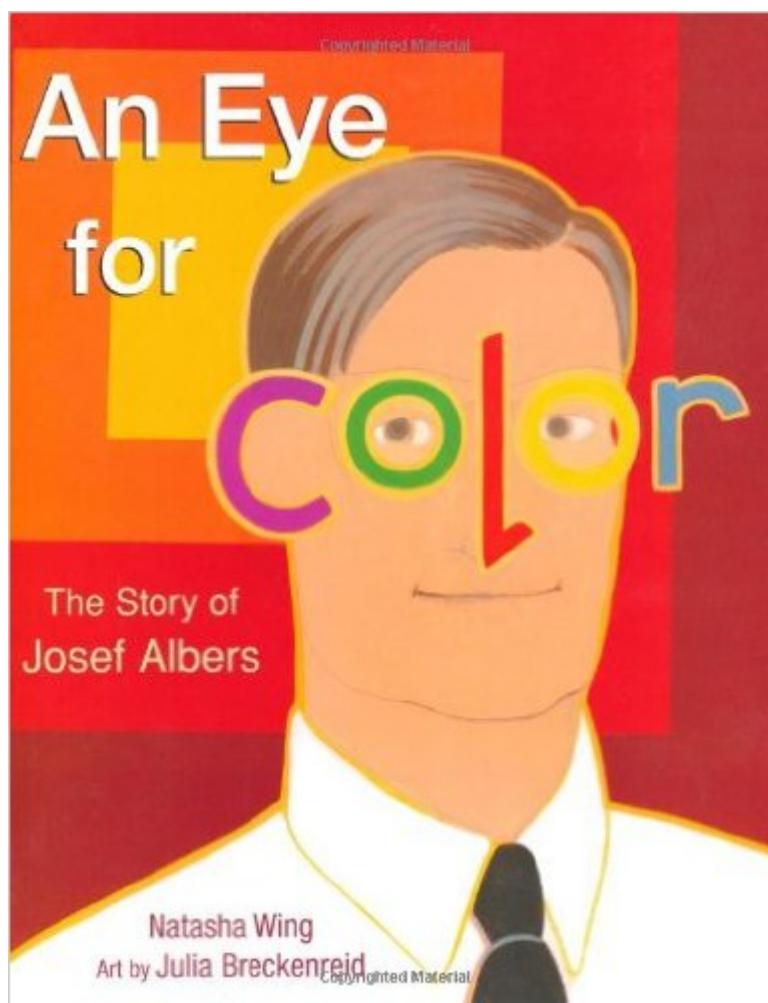


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An Eye For Color: The Story Of Josef Albers



Synopsis

As a child, Josef Albers loved to watch his handyman father paint houses. When Josef grew up and became an artist, he reduced each image to its simplest shapes, breaking it down into blocks of color. He made an incredible discovery: he could alter the entire mood of a painting just by changing the way he combined the colors! Josef spent his entire life studying color, and what he found revolutionized the way people look at art.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #171,396 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Â Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Painting #54 in Â Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > History #94 in Â Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 and up

Customer Reviews

Josef Albers, a boy living in Bottrop, Germany, loved to watch his father at work. His father, a handyman, painted a door as if it were an "artists'" canvas. As a young student he would scrounge around in dumps to find interesting materials for his collages. Later, when he became an art teacher in America in 1933, he made things like an accidental paint spill turn into a learning experience. He wanted "to open eyes," but with his brand of teaching, it probably wasn't a particularly difficult task. He enjoyed living and teaching in America, but it was the vibrant colors of Mexico that "captured his eye." In his correspondence he described Mexico as "truly the promised land of abstract art." Adobe buildings became his inspiration and he painted rectangles with color schemes of all sorts. His unusual use of color and sheer numbers of rectangles began to teach him something about color. By changing the colors, put them next to others he found that the "mood of the painting changed." It

was as if the colors had taken on personalities of their own. It was a little experiment tinged with shades of mystery that nudged him into exploring this phenomenon. When he was sixty-one he began his experiment in earnest. He painted squares, squares and more squares ... what was Josef going to discover? I loved this story of art and discovery. The simple text, accompanied by vibrant examples of color and the interactive effects on one another was very striking. In the back there is a short, but fascinating glimpse of the author's childhood recollection of Josef Albers, her neighbor. There is a short biography of Albers, a glossary, a selected bibliography and some very interesting "See-for-Yourself Activities." This would be an excellent addition to your classroom shelves, especially if you are an art teacher!

It's rare to find a book that so seamlessly combines story with illustrations, and in such an exciting and intriguing manner! *An Eye for Color* tells the story of Josef Albers who spent years studying color and what he discovered that forever changed the way people look at art. The book contains illustrations that are interactive; an Author's Note explaining how Wing came to know Albers as a neighbor; extended biographical information about Albers, including a photo; a glossary of art terms used in the book; a color wheel; and selected bibliography. Well worth the money for any teacher dealing with limited funding for the arts. This book brings a wealth of knowledge in a very exciting package!

My 5 year old daughter loves art and is fascinated by how it's made and what artists do. Since the main character of the book is a man I wasn't sure if she'd like it, but she LOVES it. We've read it many times and she enjoys the little 'color experiments'. It has inspired some of her own artwork and she brought the book to class when it was her turn to bring in a story. Fun and beautifully, classically illustrated.

This book not only tells about Josef Albers' ideas and work, it also gives kids plenty of ideas for experimenting with color. The projects in the book can be done by anyone with access to construction paper and a ruler -- and every child can experience the wonder of the changes of color from simple combinations.

I'm an Art Teacher at a k-12 school. We have used this book with our 1st graders and our high schoolers and everyone in between. Someone TOOK our copy and so we bought another one. It's that good.

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