The Magic of Color

Workshop 3: Afterimage

Many of us are currently confined at home with our children. Le Korsa and the Albers Foundations would like to offer you a weekly workshop idea to allow your child to explore the magic of color. Each week until the end of April 2020, we will launch a new color prompt that can be completed using materials you may already have around your home.
Workshop 3: Afterimage

MATERIALS
° Brightly colored paper — this could be construction paper, old magazines, catalogues or packaging that can be cut up — any paper with areas of bright color
° White paper
° Scissors
° Glue
° Pen or pencil

STEPS
1. Show your child the red, black and white image above. Ask them to hold their eyes on the small black dot in the middle of the red circle for 10 seconds. Instruct them to quickly move their eyes to the dot in the middle of the white square. After looking at the red side for 10 seconds, an afterimage of a fuzzy blue-green circle should appear when they move their eyes to the white side. This is best done in bright light.

2. Ask your child what they see and why they think the blue-green circle is there.

3. Ask your child to cut out (or rip) at least 3 brightly colored areas of paper. They could be any shape.

4. Have your child draw a small dot in the center of one of the brightly colored shapes.

5. Have your child place the brightly colored shape on the left side of the white paper, leaving a large white area to the right.

6. In the middle of the white area, have your child draw a second small dot.
7. Follow the same procedure as in step 1. Have your child focus their eyes on the dot in the center of the colored shape on the left for 10 seconds, then quickly move their eyes to the dot in the center of the white area.

8. Experiment with other colors and shapes. Can you have more than one afterimage color at the same time? Does every color have an afterimage color? (Yes. Each color’s afterimage color is its complementary color.)

9. When your child has made a design that they like, have them glue it together.

10. If you’d like, share images of your projects on social media with #AlbersForKids