

KARL BENJAMIN

Persons
Projects

Karl Benjamin (1925–2012) holds a significant place in the history of postwar American art as a key figure in the development of Hard-edge painting, a movement that emerged in Southern California in the 1950s. His work is characterized by the precise organization of geometric forms, sharply delineated areas of color, and a sophisticated exploration of chromatic relationships. Benjamin's paintings reflect a rigorous formalism that distinguishes them from the gestural expressiveness of Abstract Expressionism, aligning instead with a more systematic and analytical approach to abstraction.

Benjamin gained national prominence through his inclusion in the seminal 1959 exhibition *Four Abstract Classicists*, curated by Jules Langsner, which also featured Lorser Feitelson, John McLaughlin, and Frederick Hammersley. This exhibition was instrumental in defining the Hard-edge style and establishing a distinctively West Coast contribution to

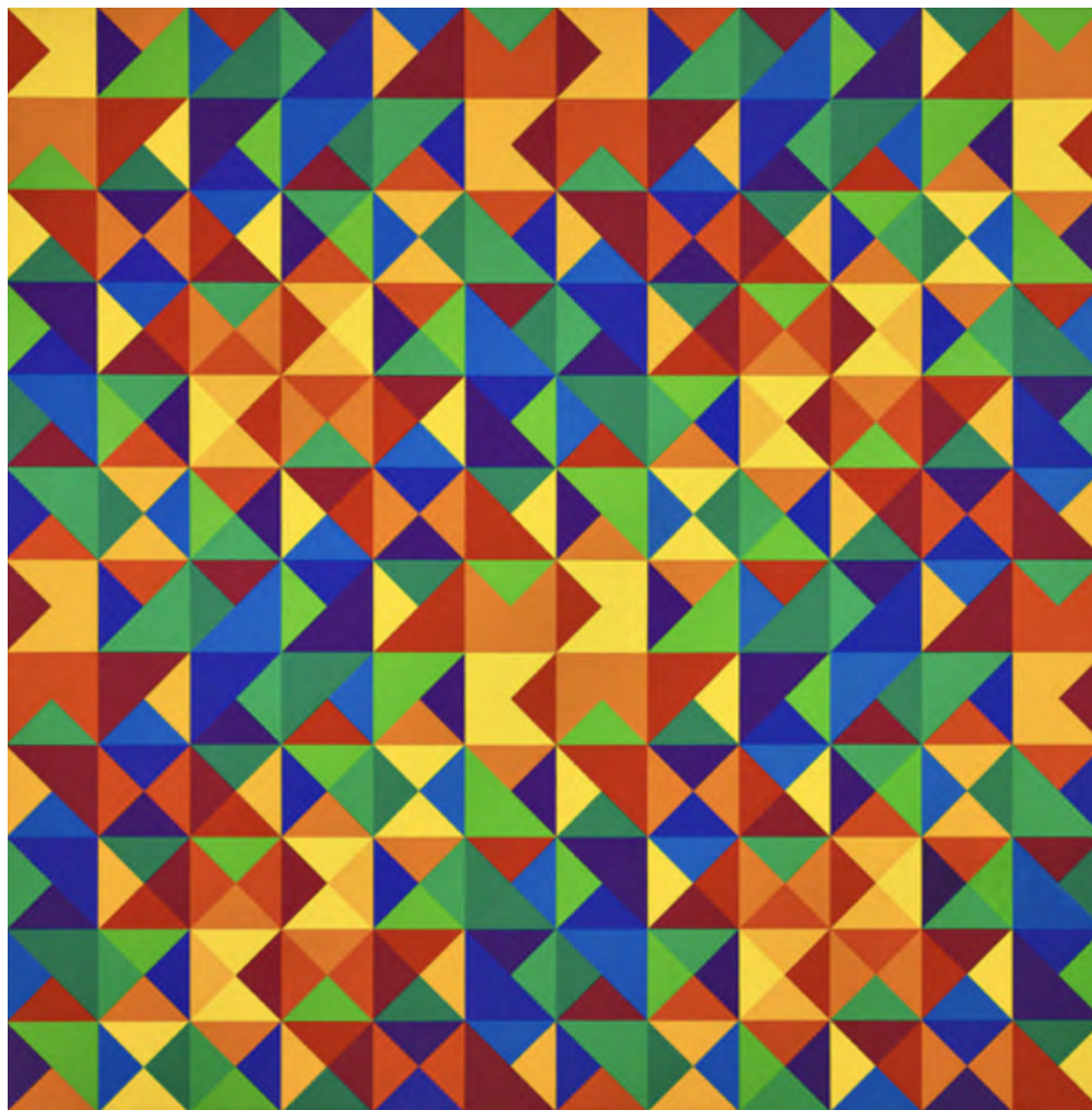
modernist abstraction. Benjamin's work from this period demonstrates an exceptional command of visual rhythm and color interaction, contributing to broader discourses on perception and spatial dynamics within abstract painting.

Although widely exhibited in the United States, his work was presented only once in Berlin, as part of the *Pacific Standard Time* exhibition (2012) in Martin-Gropius Bau, which sought to recontextualize and internationalize the contributions of Los Angeles-based artists within the broader narrative of postwar art. In addition to his artistic practice, Benjamin was a dedicated educator who influenced subsequent generations of artists through his teaching. His legacy continues to be reassessed in contemporary scholarship, particularly in the context of mid-century American abstraction and regional modernisms.

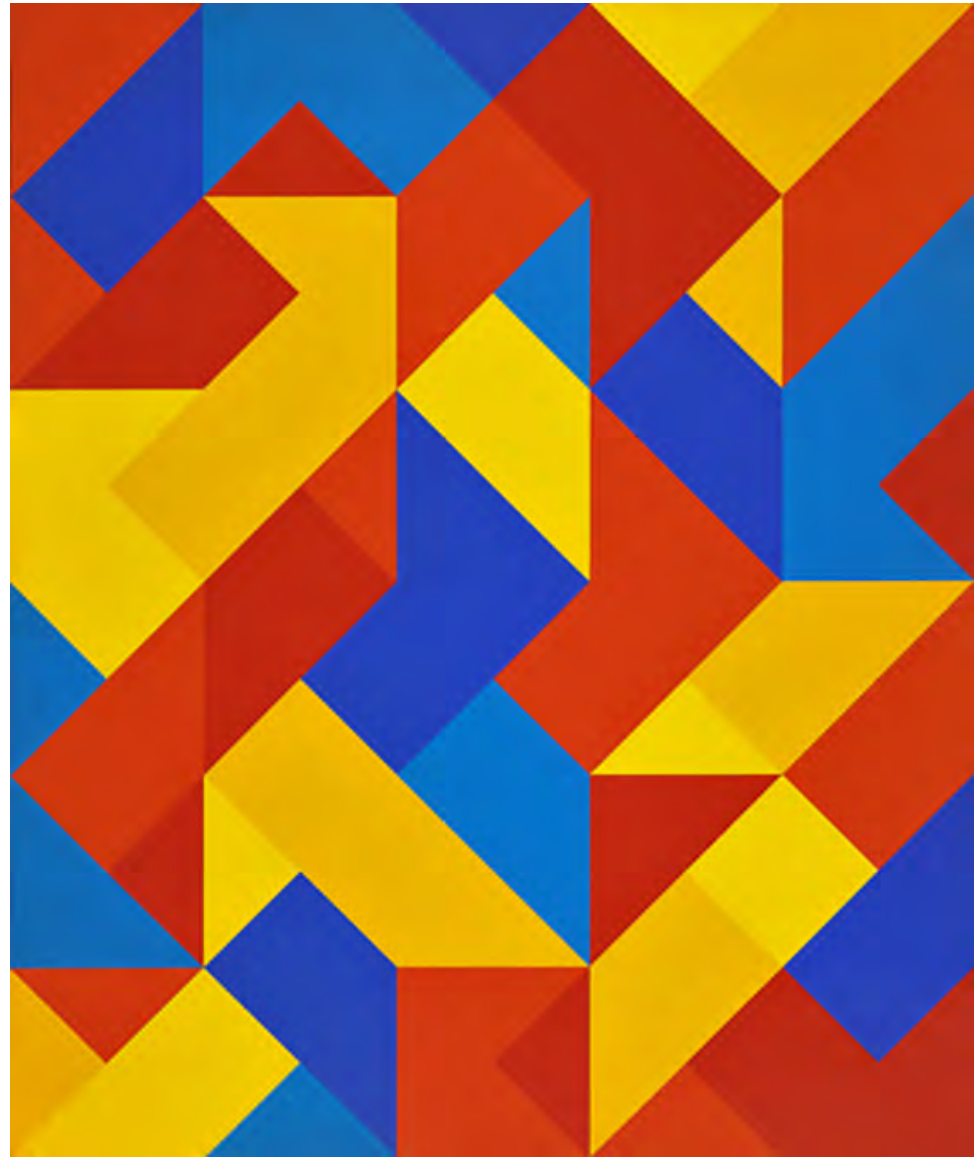


Karl Benjamin
The Late Paintings

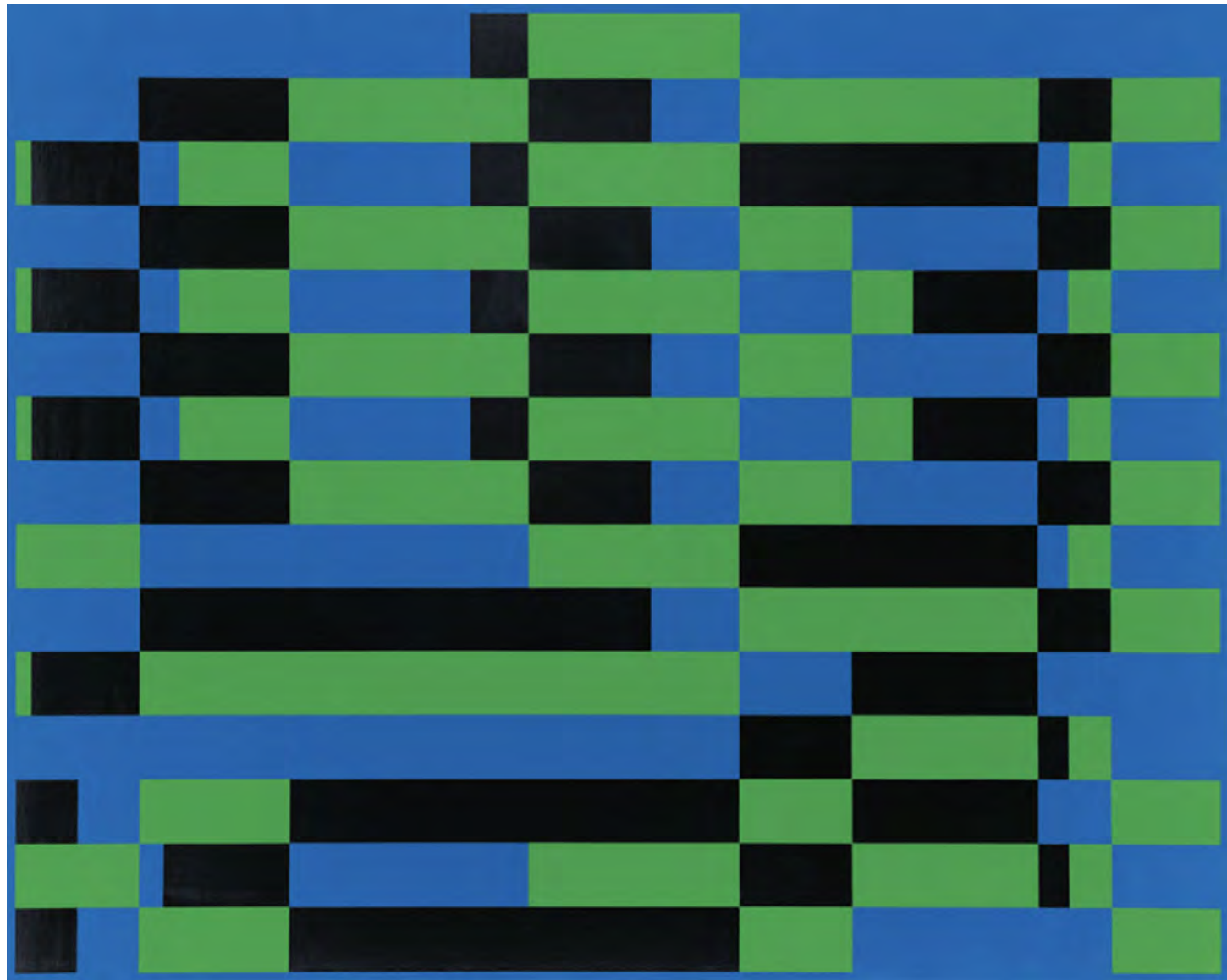




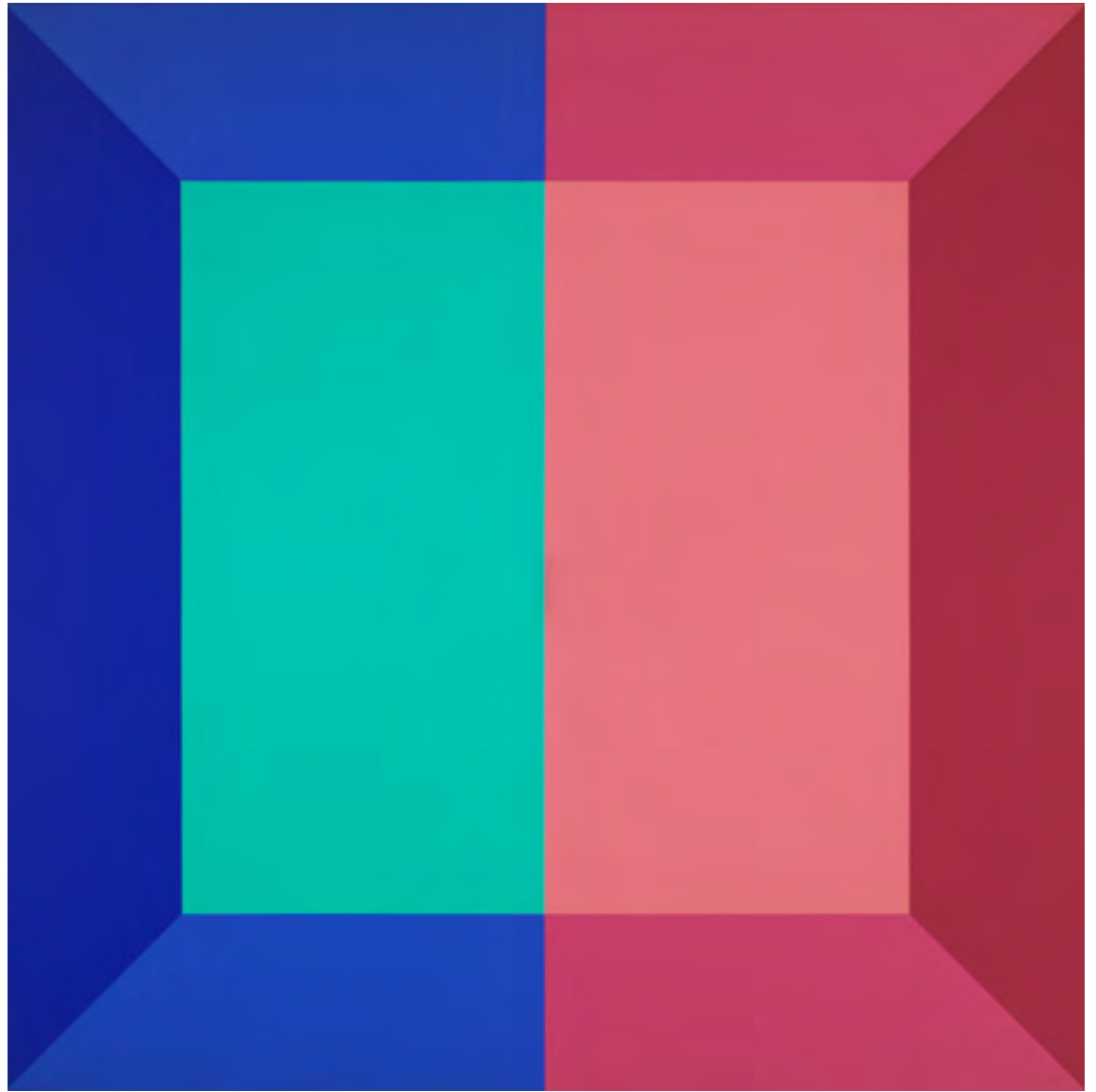
#11, 1970, Oil on canvas, 172,7 x 172,7 cm



#32, 1968, Oil on canvas, 129,5 x 106,7 cm



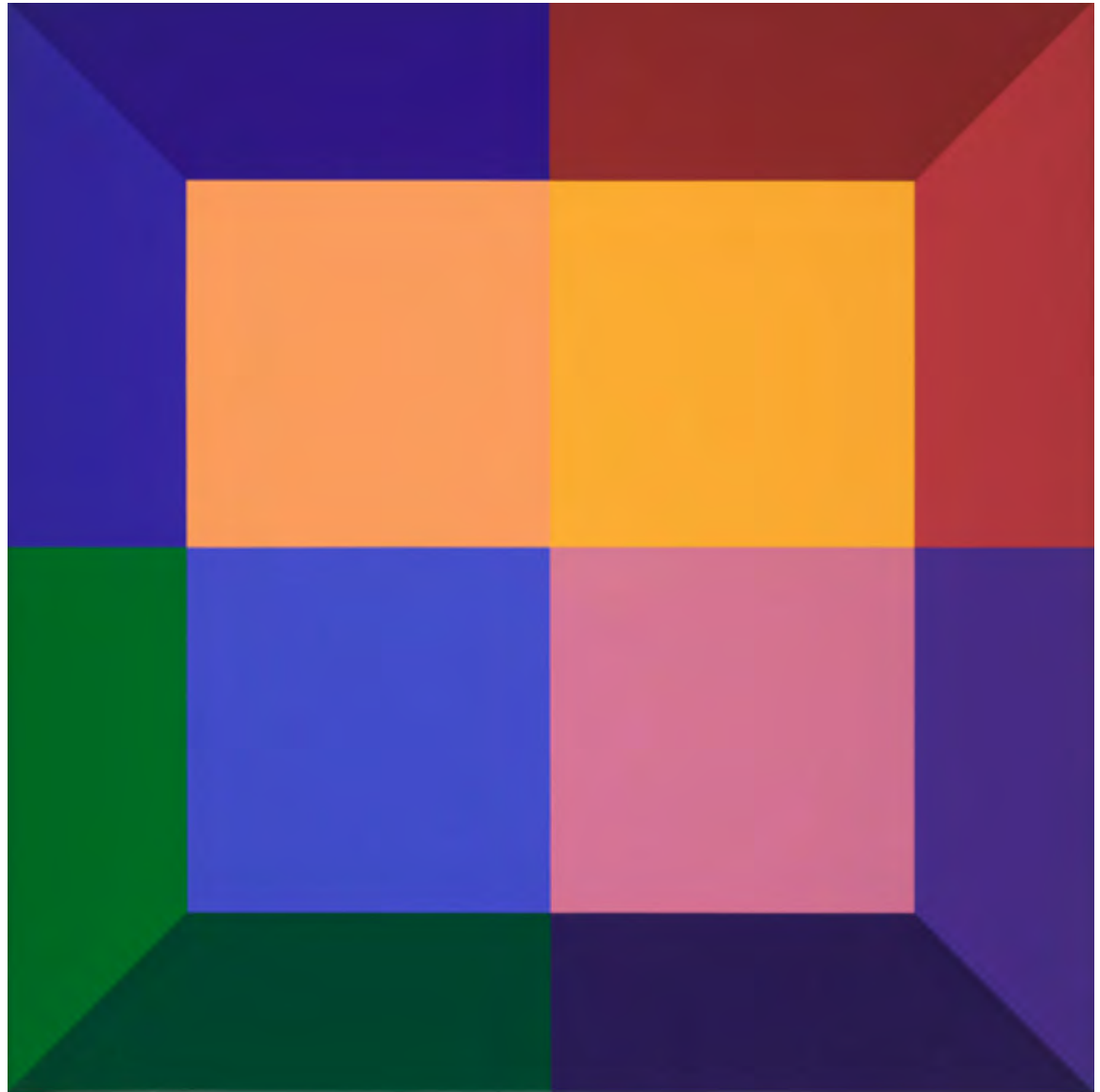
Bars: Black, Blue, Green, 1959, Oil on canvas, 101,6 x 127 cm



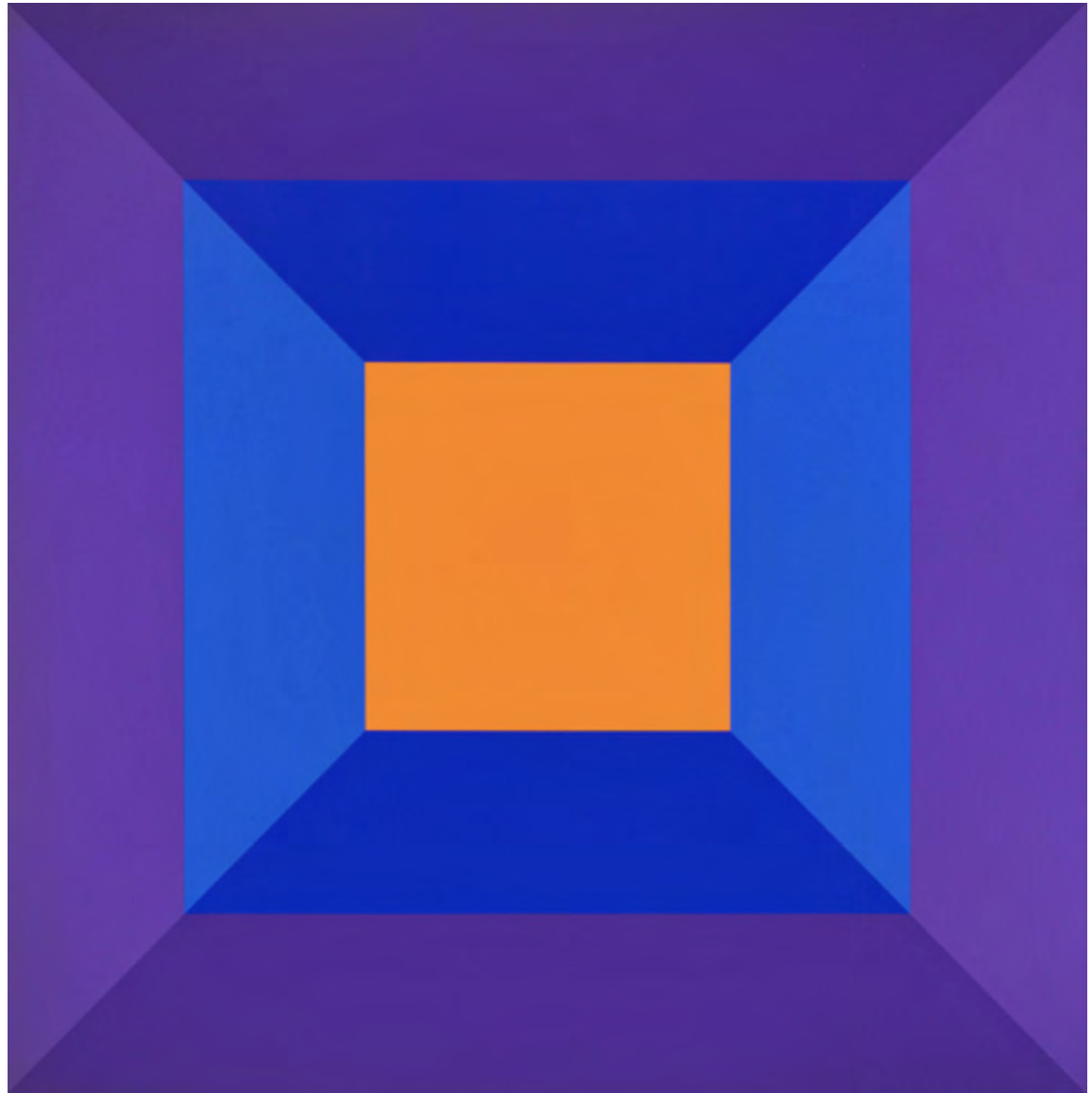
#13, 1974, Oil on canvas, 122 x 122 cm



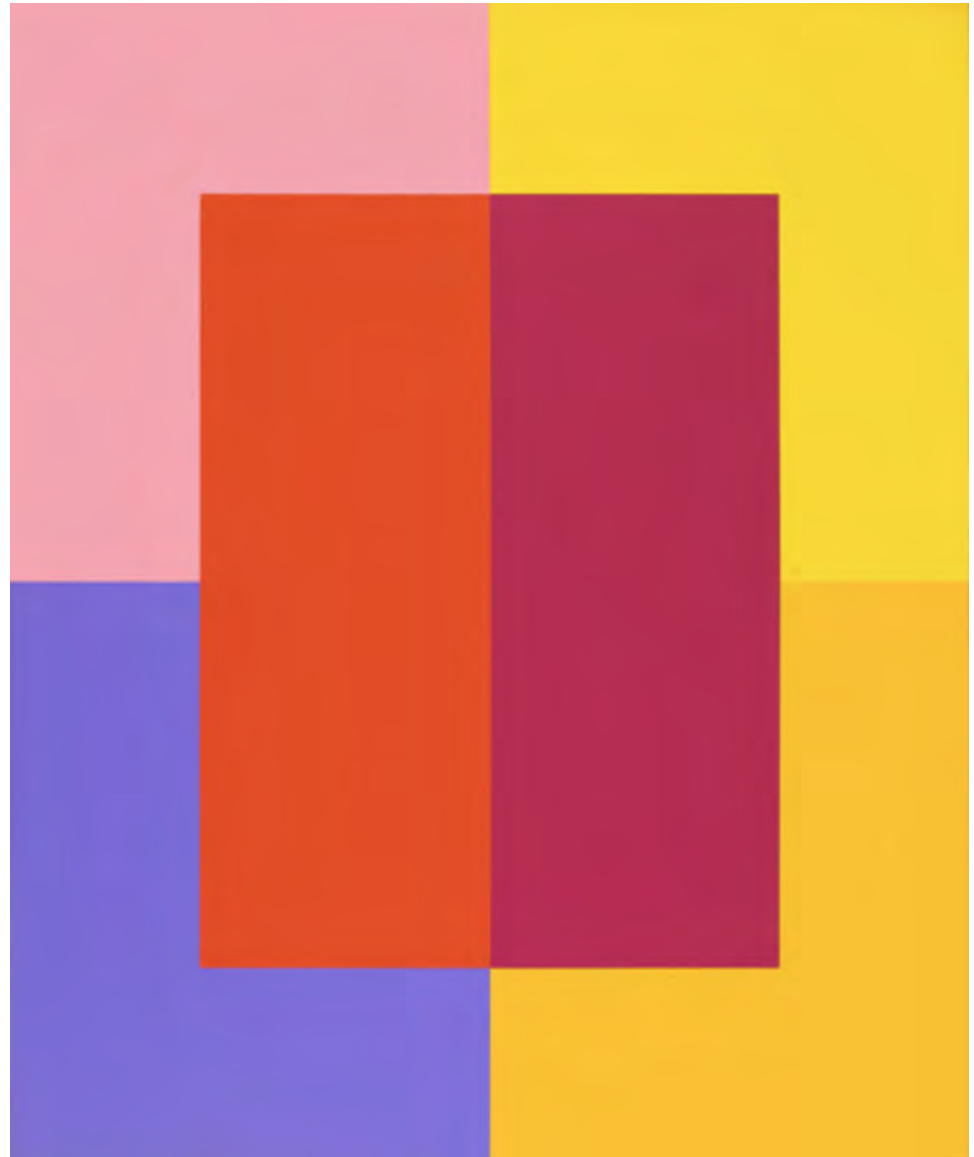
Karl Benjamin X Comme des Garçons, 2019, Louis Stern Fine Arts, © Estate of Karl Benjamin, Courtesy of Louis Stern Fine Arts



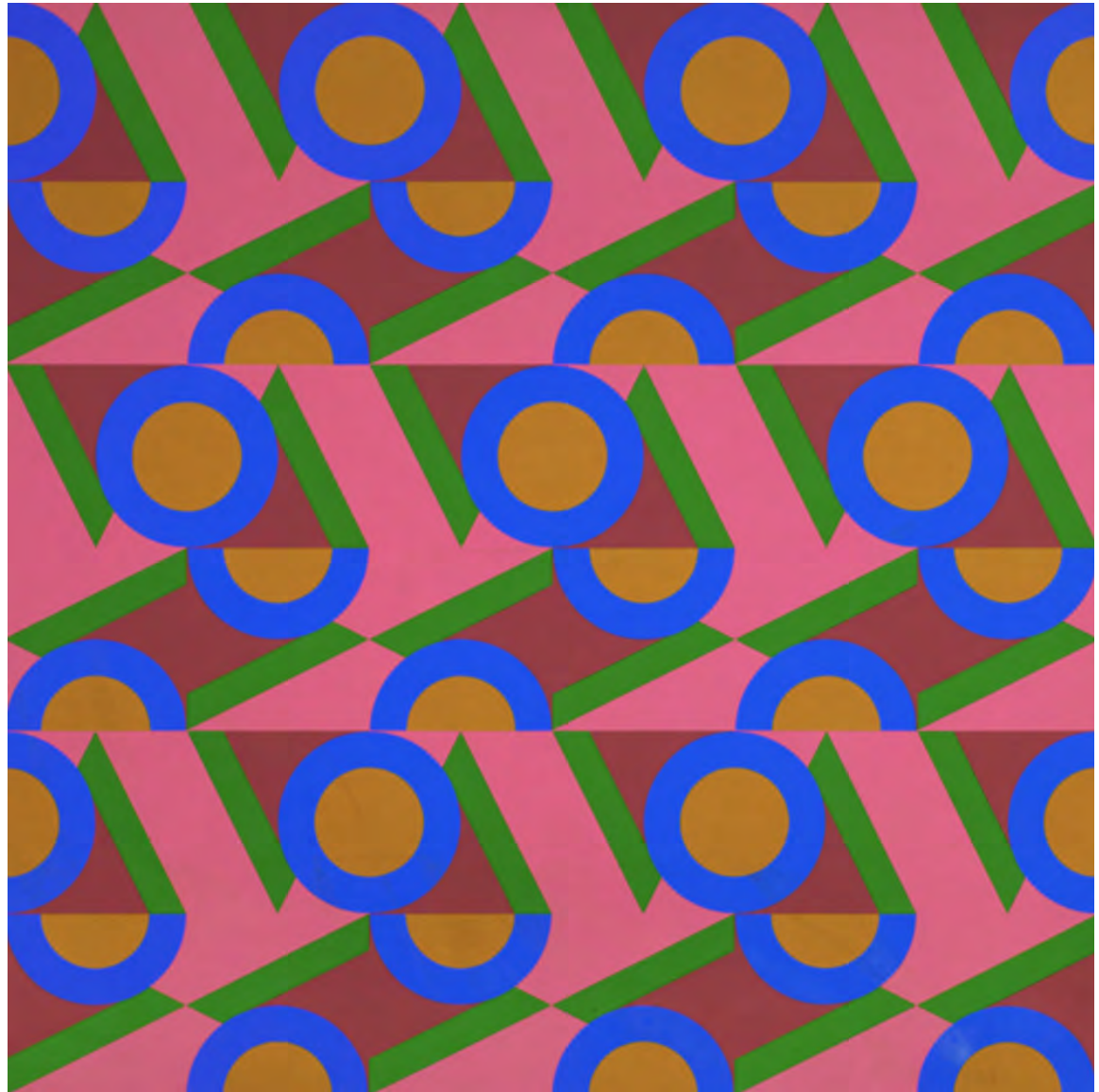
#14, 1974, Oil on canvas, 122 x 122 cm



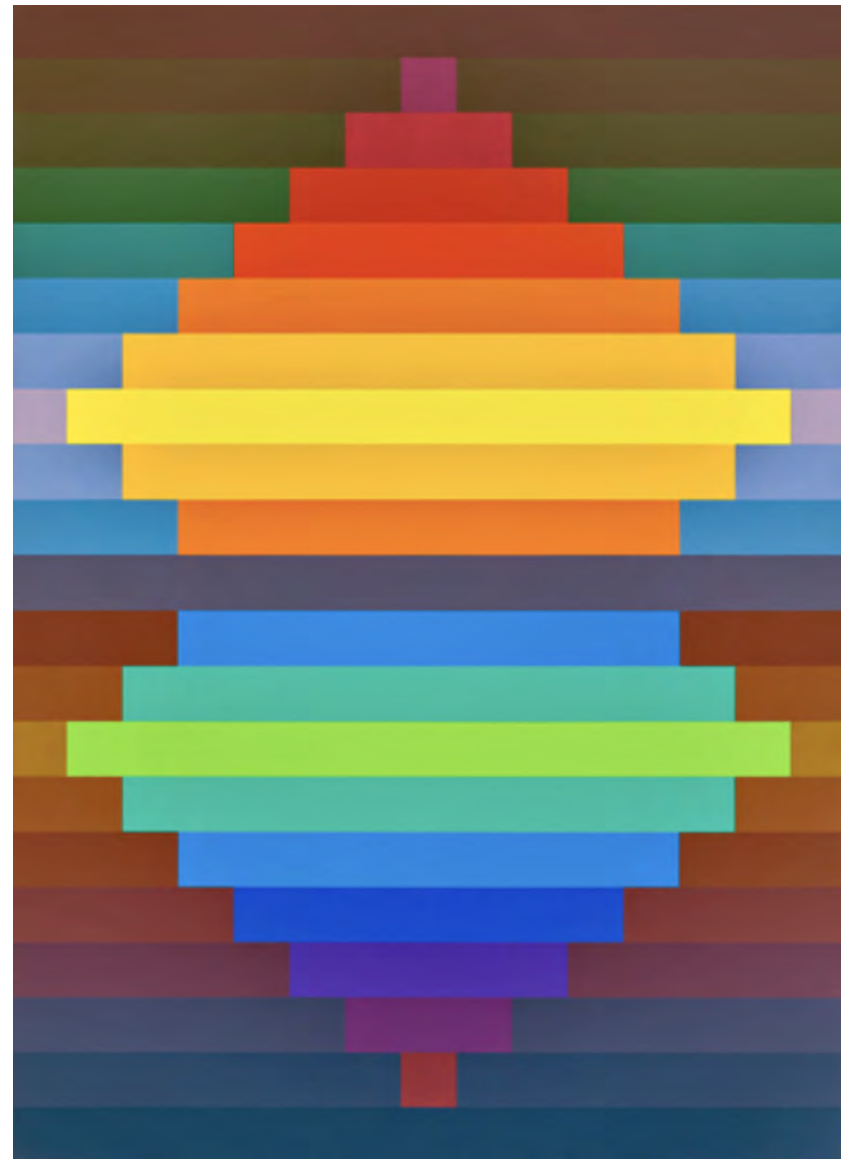
#21, 1974, Oil on canvas, 122 x 122 cm



#3, 1975, Oil on canvas, 121,9 x 101,6 cm



#21, 1983, Oil on canvas, 152,4 x 152,4 cm



#13, 1983, Oil on canvas, 160 x 114,3 cm





#4, 1987, Oil on canvas, 160 x 114,3 cm

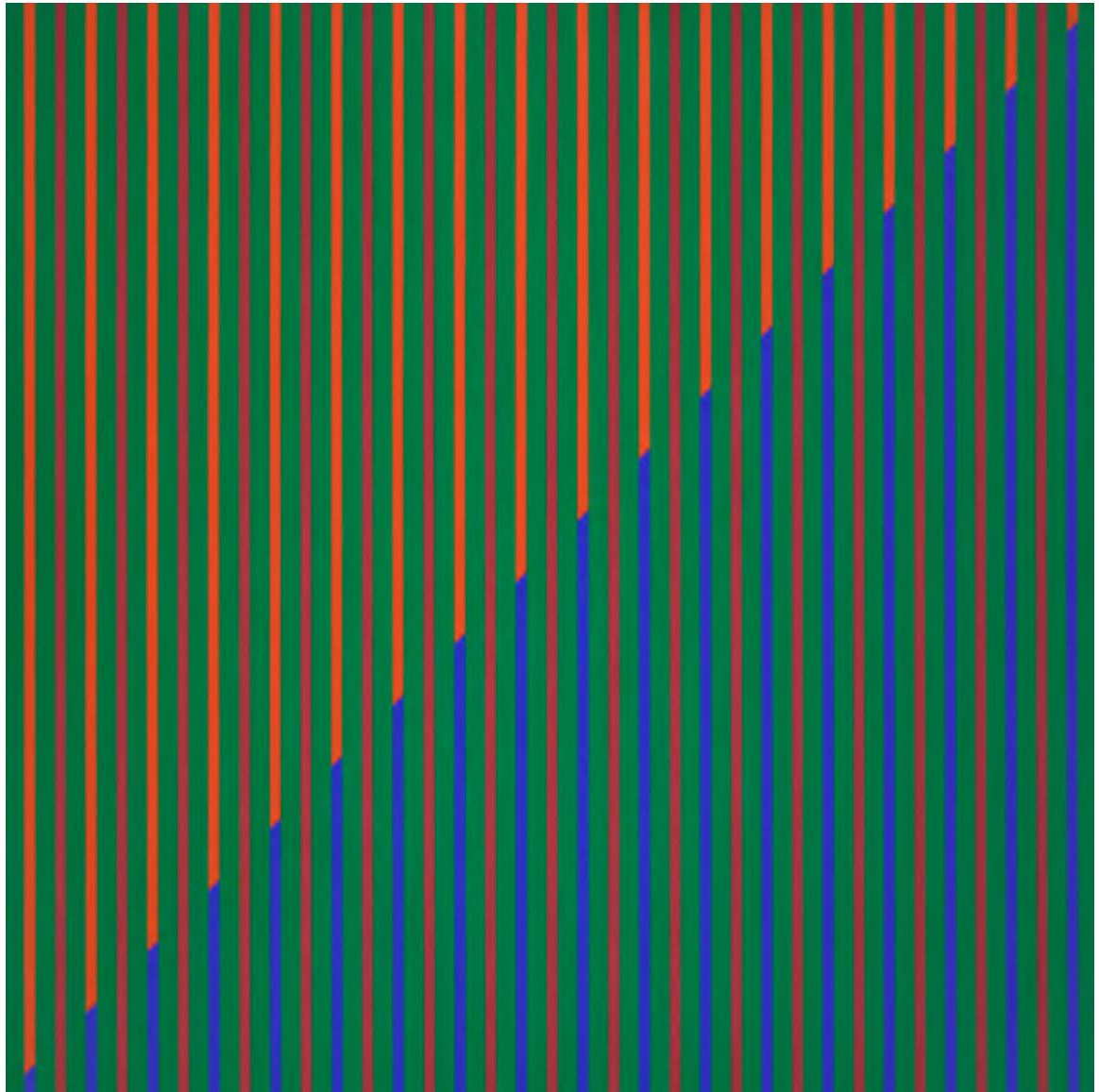


#6, 1989, Oil on canvas, 152,4 x 122 cm

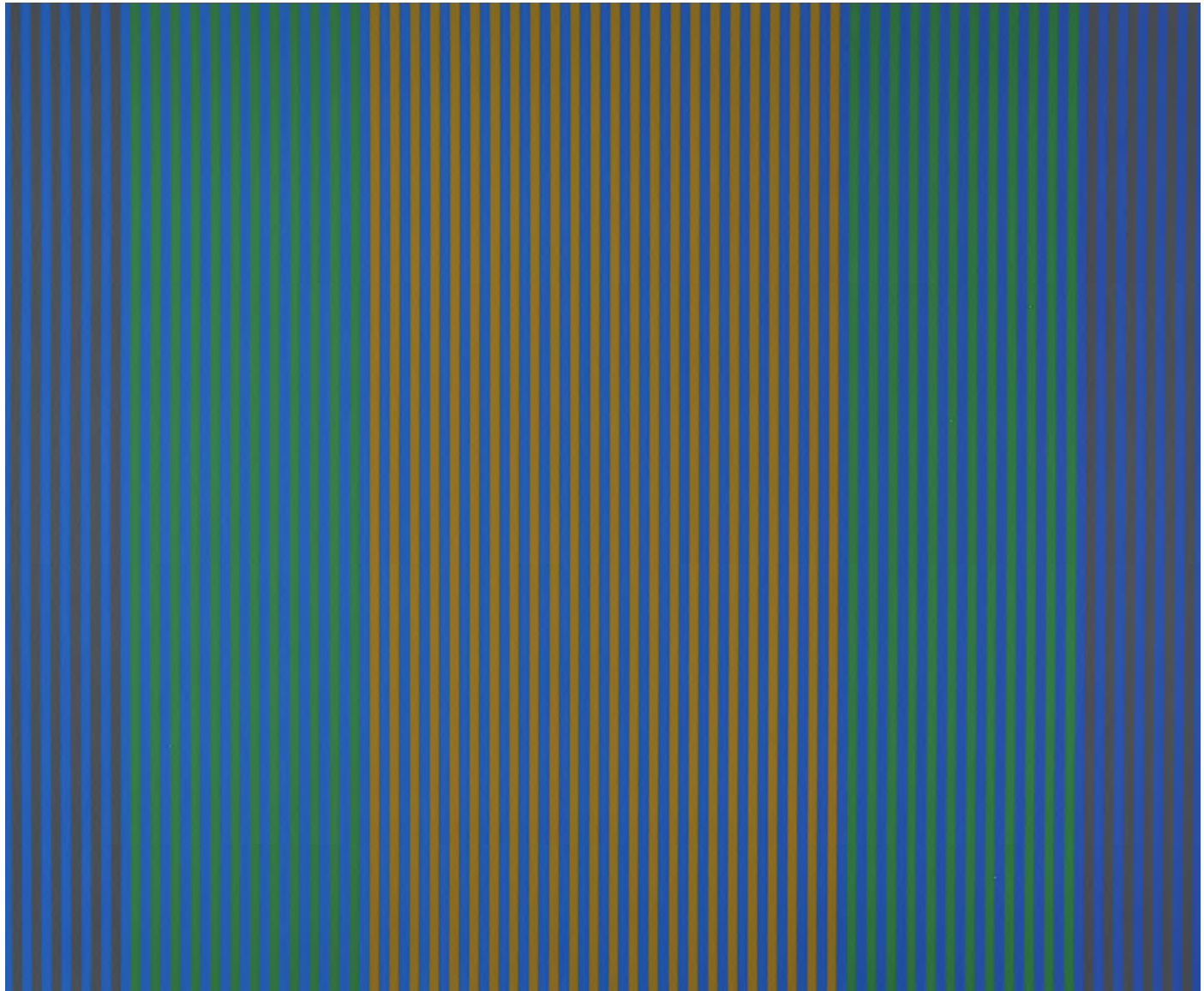


#7, 1995, Oil on canvas, 111,8 x 142,2 cm

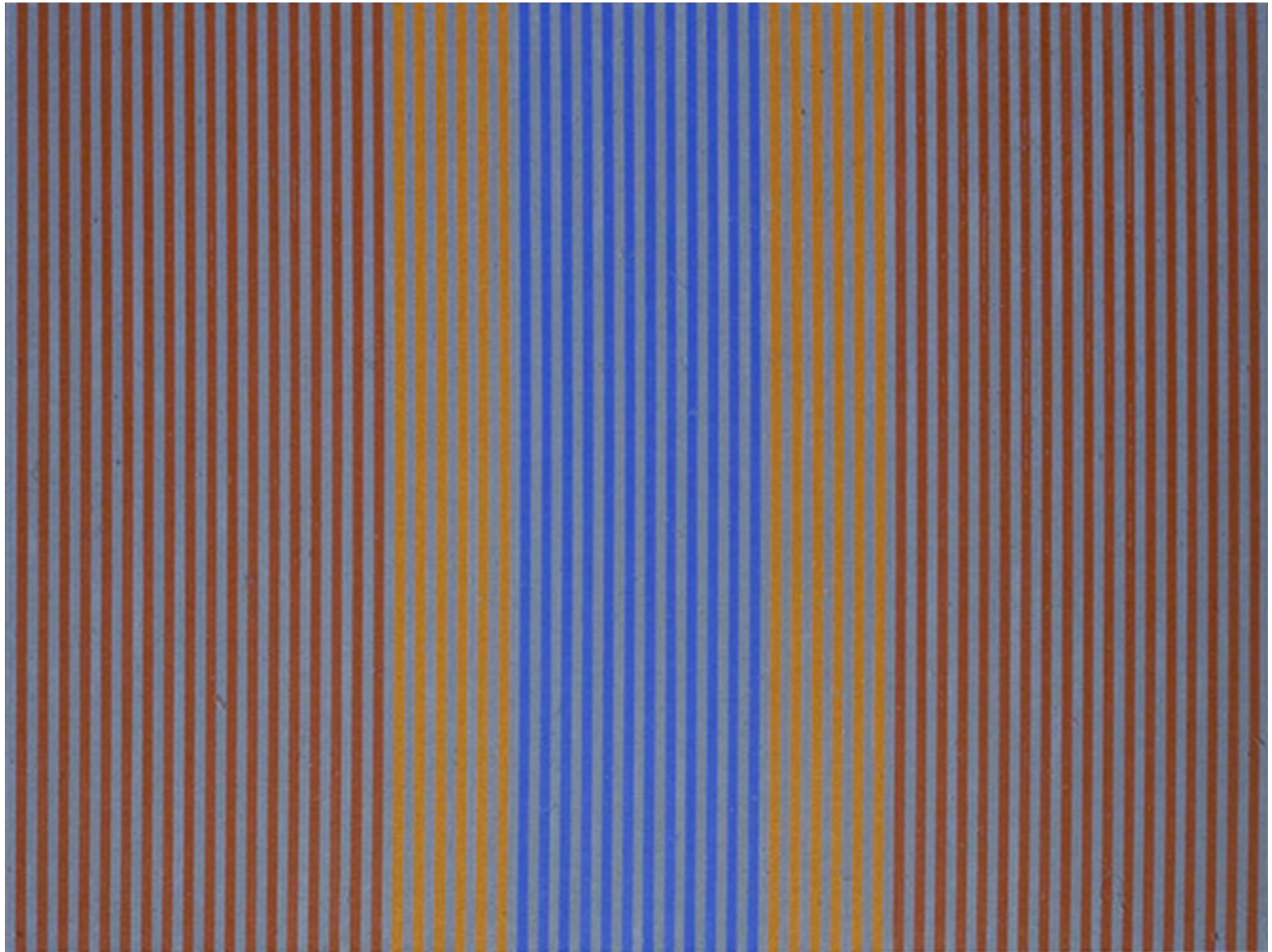




#33, 1975, Oil on canvas, 135,9 x 135,9 cm



Stripes (Blue, Grey, Green, & Dirty Orange), 1980, Serigraph, 63,5 x 76,2 cm



Stripes III, 1979, Silkscreen on Arches paper, 75,6 x 88,9 cm



*A Centennial Exhibition, 2025, Louis Stern Fine Arts,
© Estate of Karl Benjamin, Courtesy of Louis Stern Fine Arts*

Persons Projects

Lindenstraße 35
10969 Berlin

+49 30 2888 3370
berlin@personsprojects.com