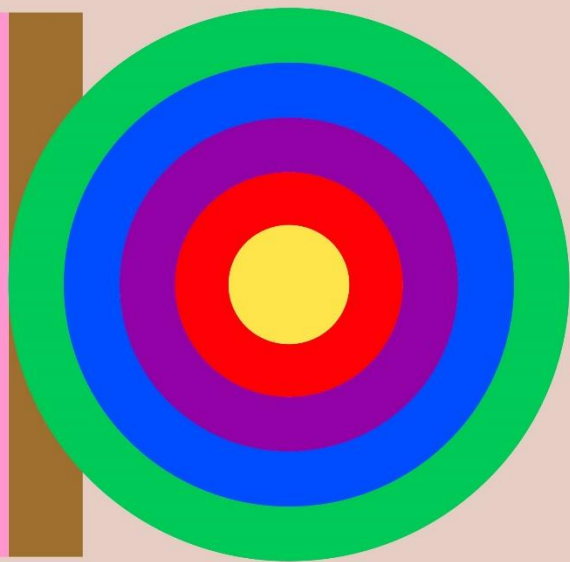




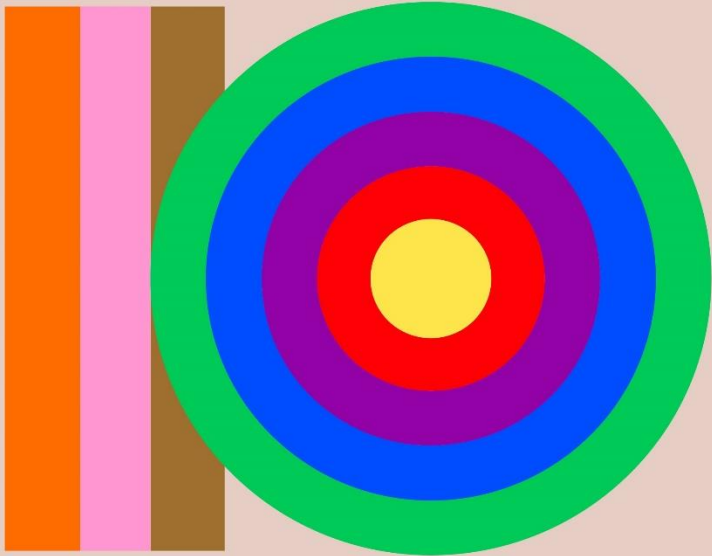
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Oral History Project

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY BUILDING A COLLECTIVE MEMORY

IMMA is excited to launch an oral history initiative to Celebrate 10 years of Marriage Equality. We invite individuals to share their personal reflections on that moment - where they were, when they heard the result, what it felt like, and how it shaped their understanding of love, identity, and belonging.



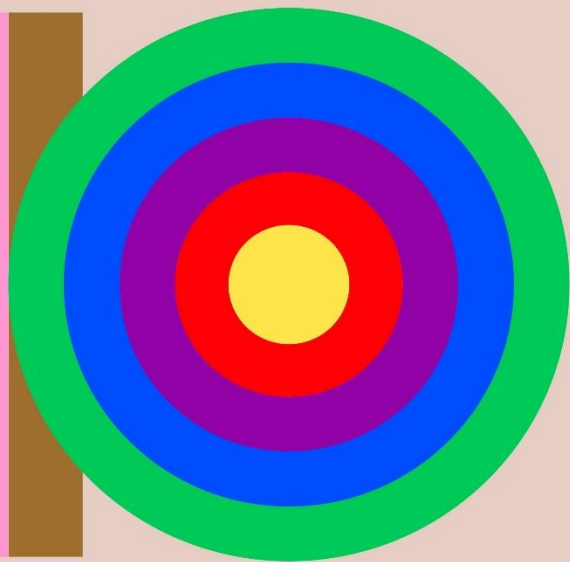
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What did that moment feel like for you?

It was the first time in my life that I felt proud to be Irish.



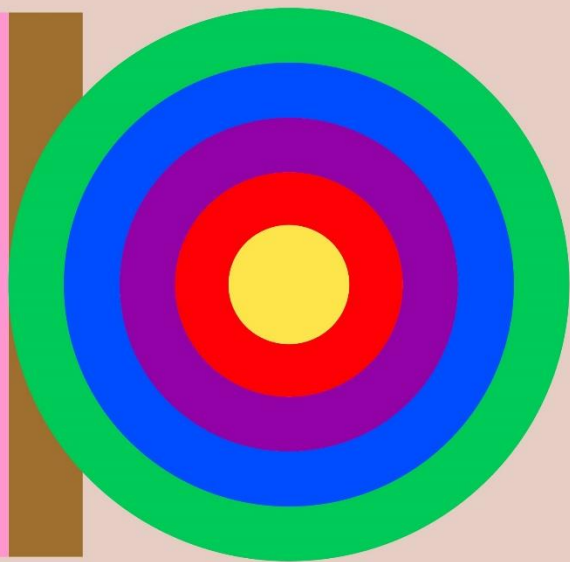
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What did that moment feel like for you?

I was 19 when the referendum passed. I wasn't out yet, to myself, to my friends, to my family. I was so scared at the time to talk about it with people in case I gave my closeted self away. I was so scared to talk about it with the wrong people and have more reason to stay in the closet. I was so filled with hope when it did pass. It took me another 6 years to come out of the closet, but the marriage referendum was a big help.



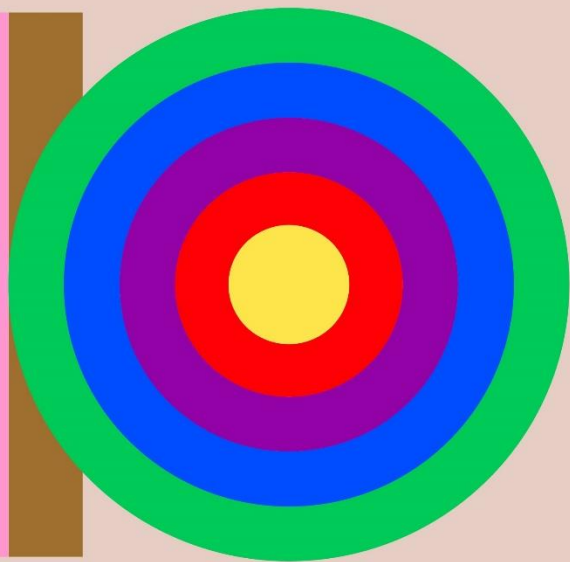
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What did that moment feel like for you?

It was a delight to see that equality transcended the right of centre politics that continues to dominate Irish political landscape. It is still a source of pride that Ireland was the leader in the adoption of this as legislation.



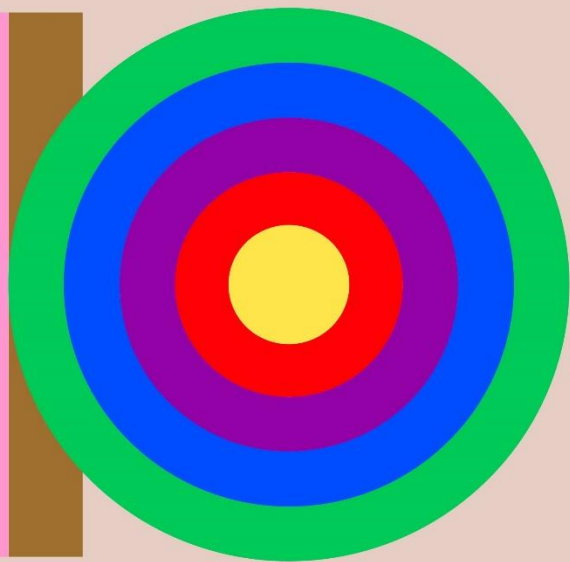
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What did that moment feel like for you?

I felt pride in my country and hope for the future! I felt the real power of my individual vote so strongly that day. We could - and can - make change in this country.



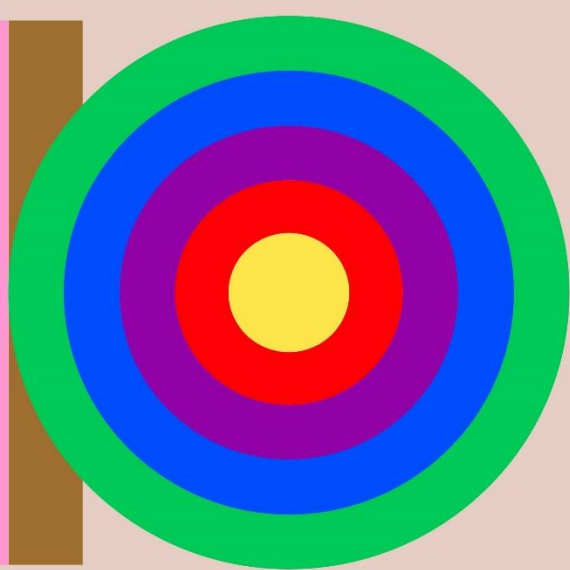
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What did that moment feel like for you?

When the results came in at Dublin Castle it felt like a dark cloud had finally lifted. The collective atmosphere was incredible with all the LGBT+ people and allies finally feeling equal.



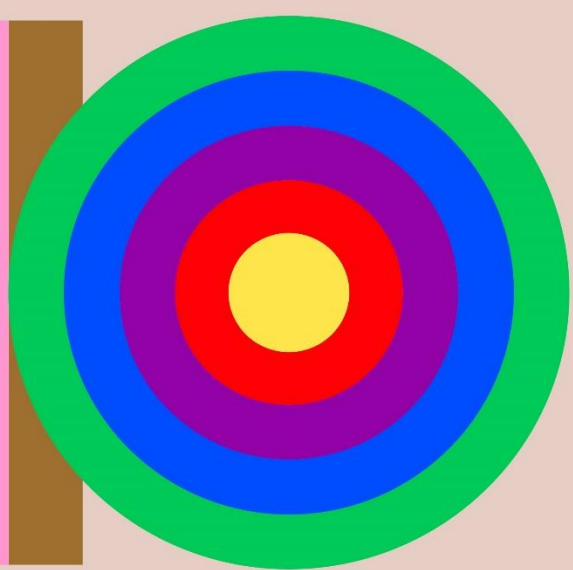
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What did that moment feel like for you?

Happy and, sad at the same, time. Emotions all over the place As trans folks were kind of forgotten ,in the fight for marriage equality.



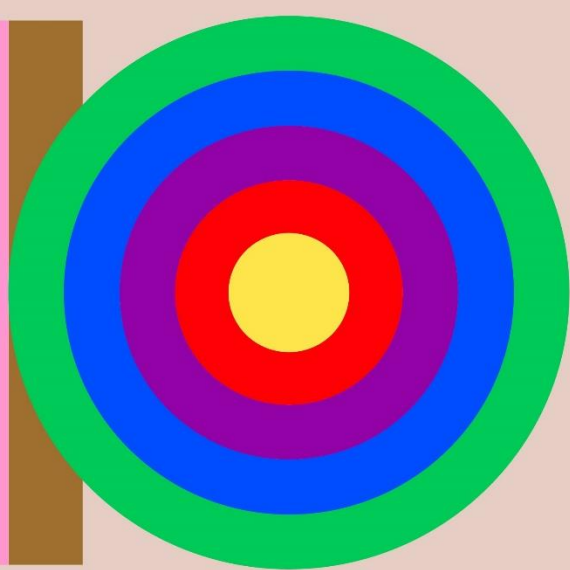
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What did that moment feel like for you?

I was only 11 at the time but I just remember feeling so much joy! I remember I had just been in town with my dad to buy a bike and we got home just in time for the count on telly. I sat down to watch with my mam and dad. When it passed and they showed videos of everyone around town cheering and crying, it made me so happy. Little did I know how much the law being changed would actually personally effect me later in my life!



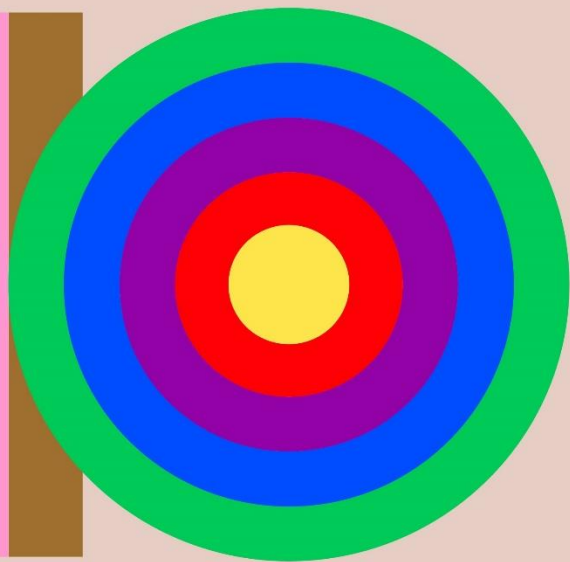
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What did that moment feel like for you?

It meant little to me at the time as I was still a teenager and didn't think about marriage equality. But it was ground breaking for me because it felt like an obvious change that came to late. It felt like there was already freedom in expression for sexuality so felt like an extension of the sentiment my generation seemed to hold.



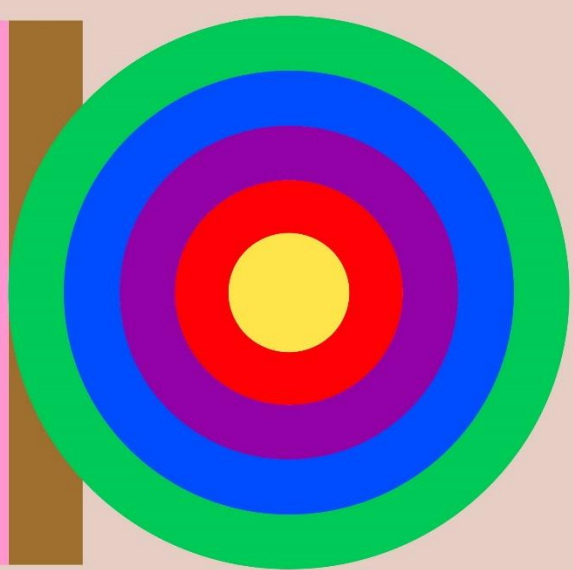
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What did that moment feel like for you?



As I am not from Ireland, what I remember from it is Niall Horan tweeting about it before it was passed to urge people to vote in favour.



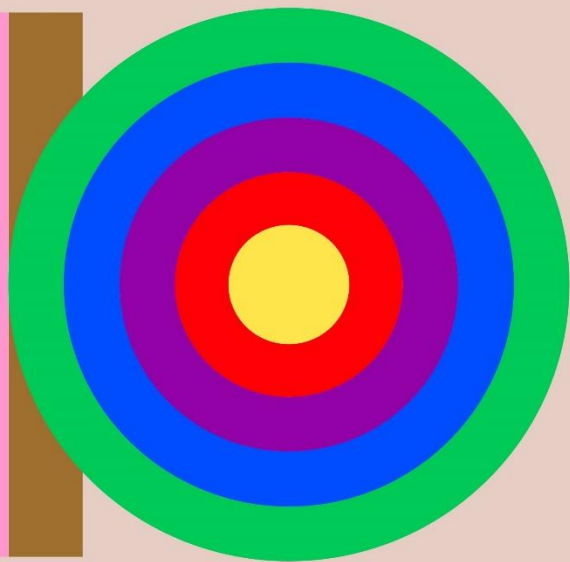
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What did that moment feel like for you?

I was 11 and knew I was gay when marriage equality passed. In the run up, all I was hearing from my community and family was about how why it wouldn't and shouldn't be voted in. I was convinced that it wouldn't, that Ireland just wasn't ready yet. When I heard that so much of the island voted yes, it was this sign that there was so much more to the world than I had know, that Ireland did have a place for me, and that so many people out there were by my side.



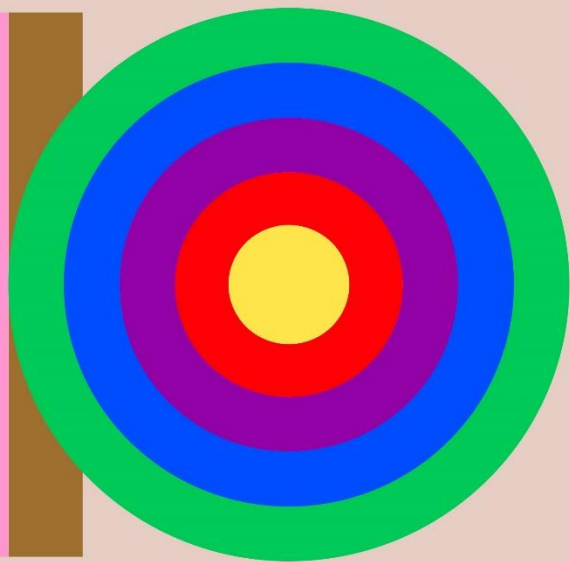
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What did that moment feel like for you?



Like a weight had been lifted, hopeful and a sigh of relief
celebratory.



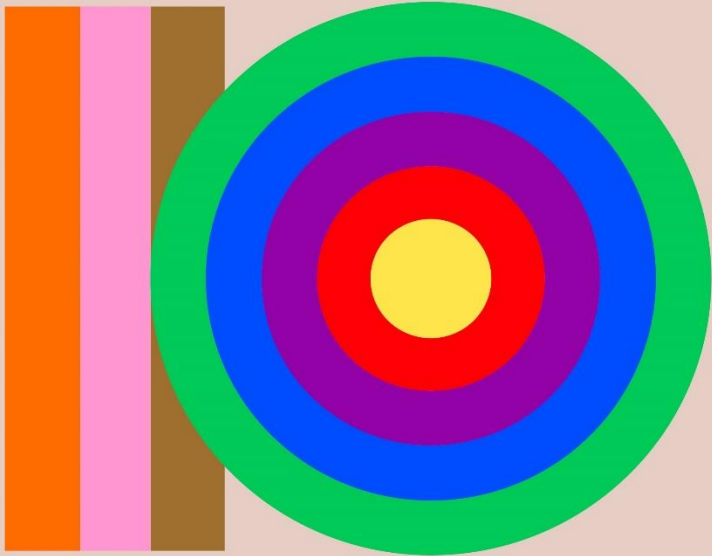
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What did that moment feel like for you?

Like the country accepted who I was, but moreover loved me. As a cis white gay man I had never felt much prejudice but understanding my sexuality took 25 years of my life to do. The referendum made me feel like others would have a chance to figure themselves out earlier and have more opportunities to love the way they want from now on.



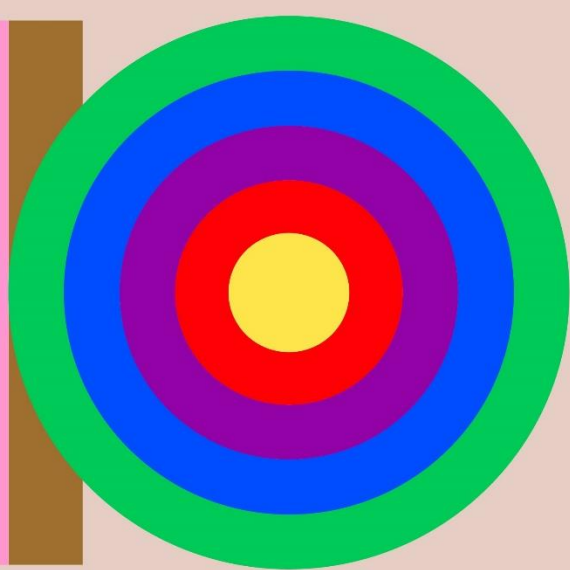
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What did that moment feel like for you?



It felt like the population of Ireland showed up to give us all the biggest hug of our lives.



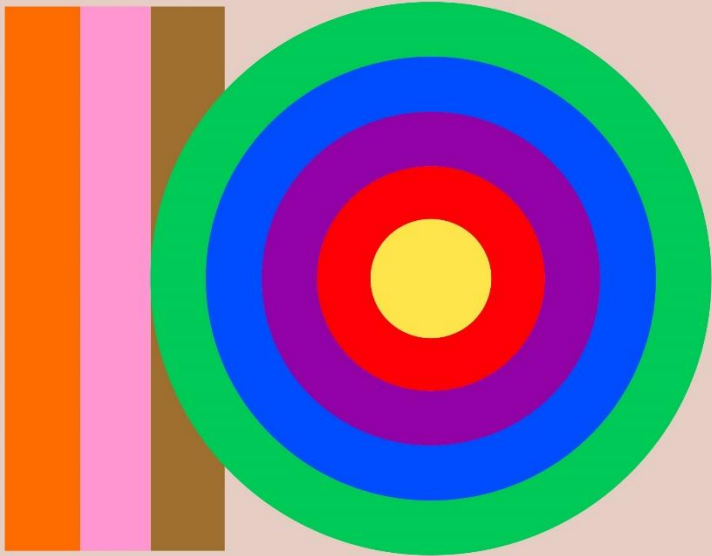
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What did that moment feel like for you?

It was amazing. We felt we were at the centre of history in the count centre as the votes were being counted. We were so proud that Ireland was the first country to vote for gay marriage through a public vote. We were very active in the campaign in Kerry and made a film about the campaign called The Day We Counted.



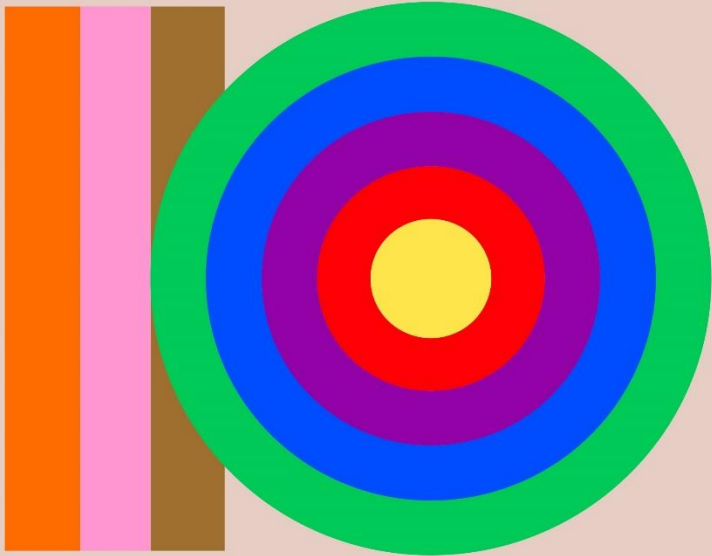
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What did that moment feel like for you?

Wonderful to see Ireland and the forefront of progression and so happy to see that all people are equal and given the same rights.



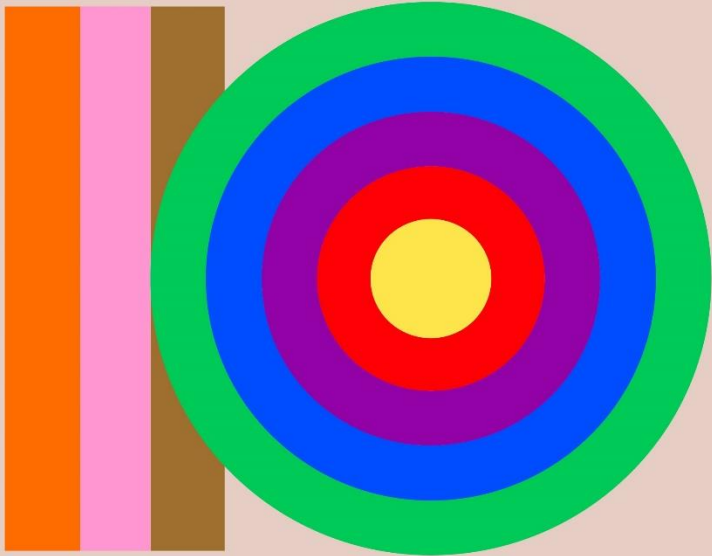
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What did that moment feel like for you?



I felt amazed and moved, in awe.



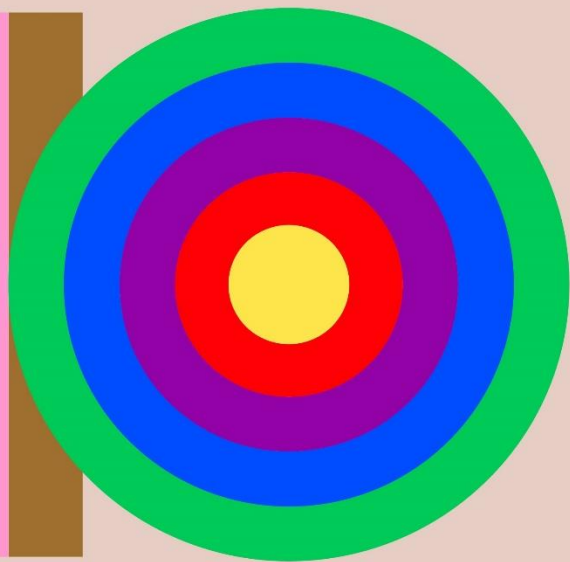
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What did that moment feel like for you?

Empowered



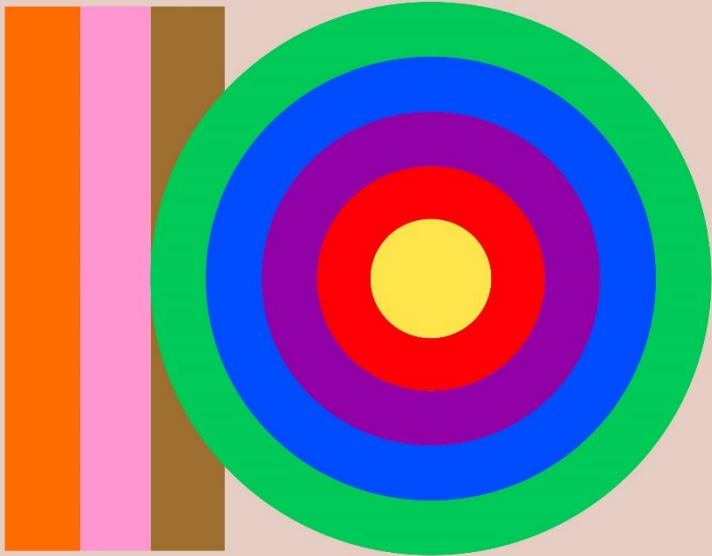
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What did that moment feel like for you?



Like Ireland was progressive and that we were becoming a more open and welcoming society. A place for other countries to aspire to.



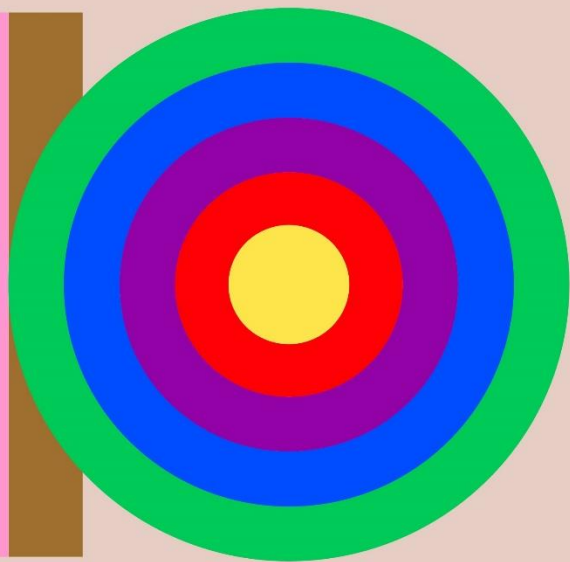
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Oral History Project

Did it change your hopes for the future?

It felt like the country was more accepting and safe for LGBT people.



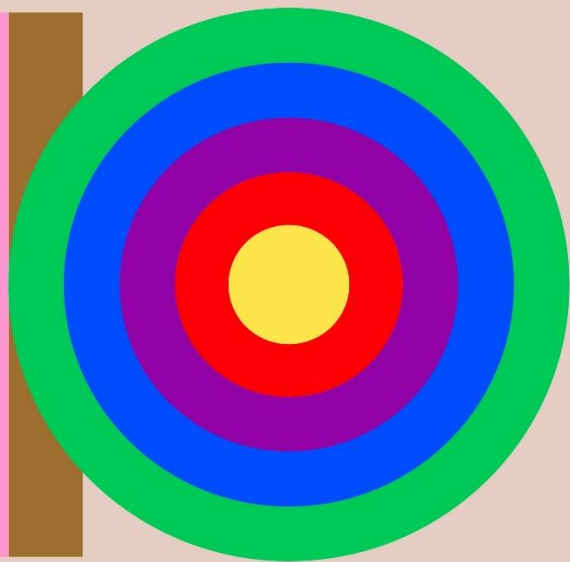
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

Yes. It gave me hope. It showed me how marriages don't have to look a certain way. It gave me hope that two people can fall in love and get marriage and that's all that's needed.



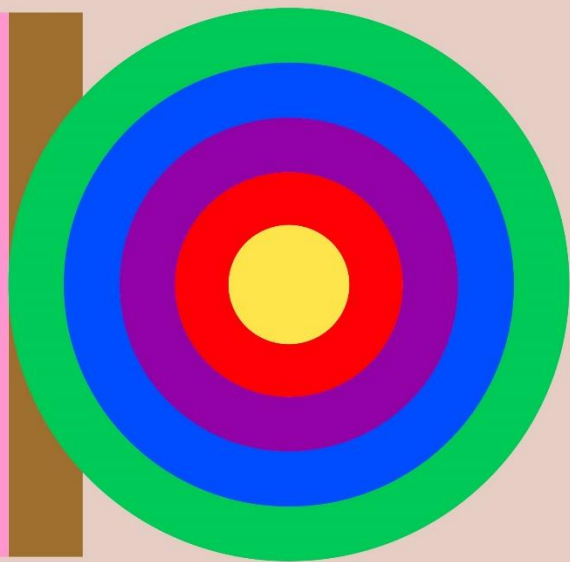
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

It did but now the future is tainted by the rise of nativists and fascist philosophies so for the short term i hold out less hope.



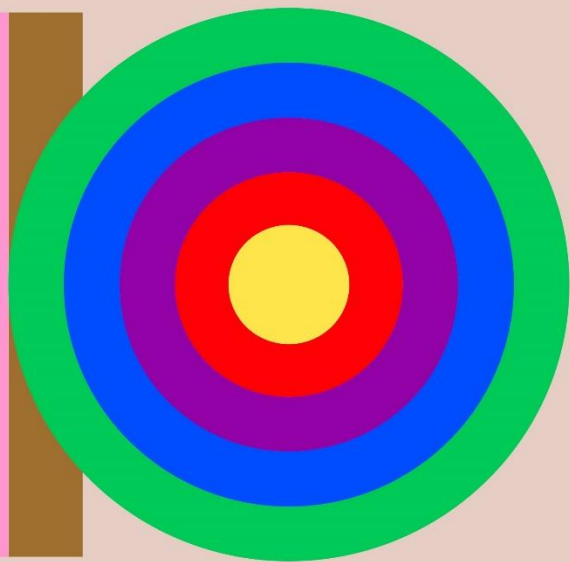
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

Yes, it made me see a new Ireland, one that was inclusive and able to change, open to love and equality and acceptance. I felt a real surge in joy and hope about Irelands future.



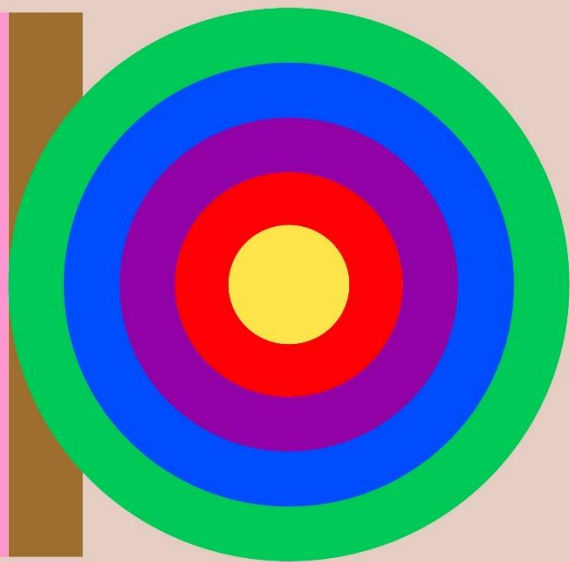
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

I would always be cautious about hoping for too much, often our gains are one step forward and two steps back but there certainly was hope that a majority of people of all ages truly believe in equality.



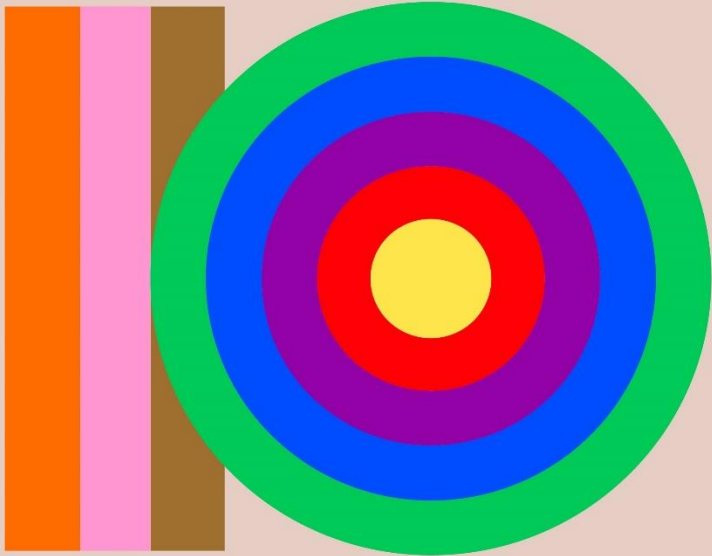
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

Yes, at last it seemed the people of Ireland, were seeing us as equal human beings.



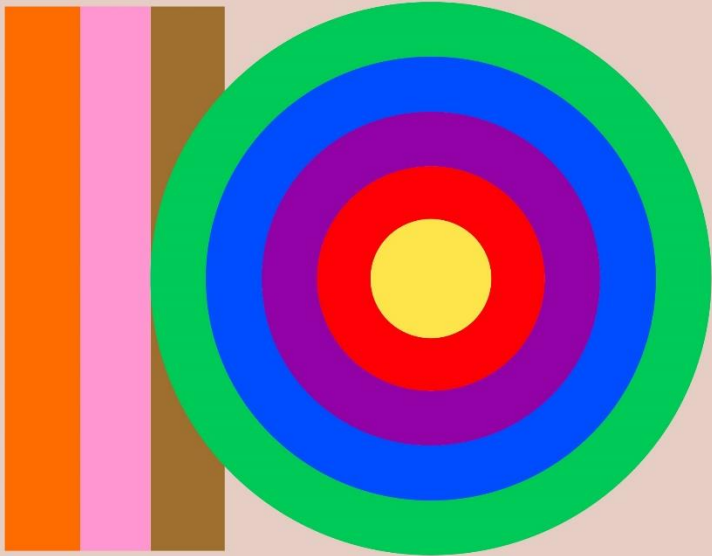
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

I think it gave me hope for the future. That good.



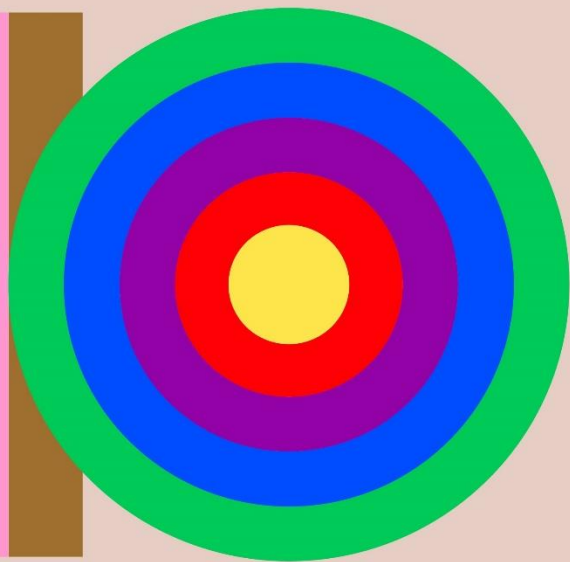
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

Yes, it made me feel like the future was free and inclusive.



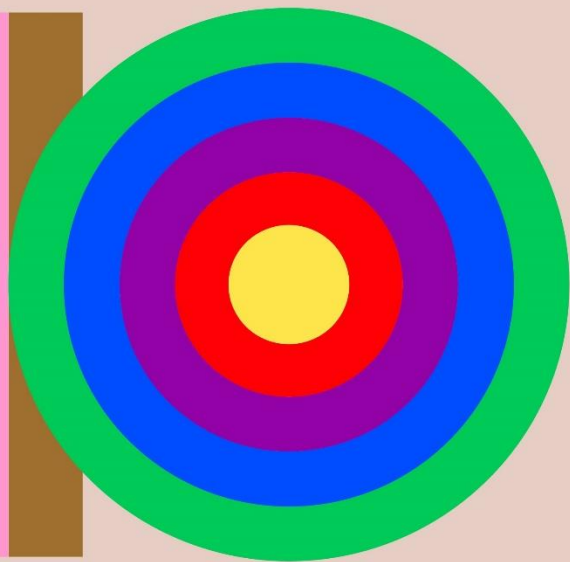
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

It told me that Ireland was a place I could grow up in and stay.



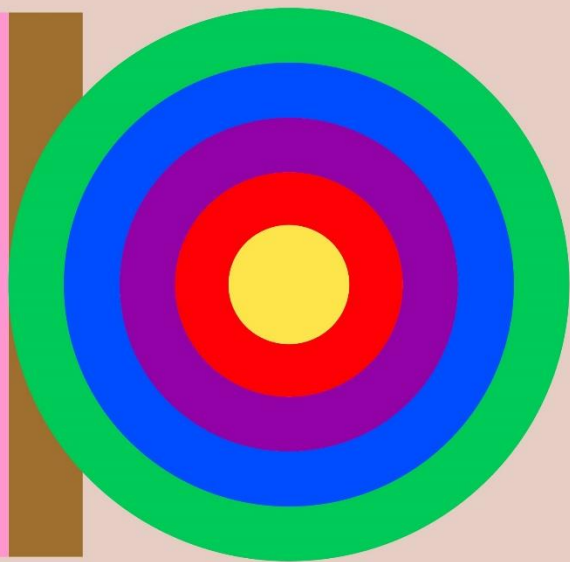
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

It demonstrated the power of collective action, when people come together to support and celebrate each other, we can make a positive impact on the future in our present moment.



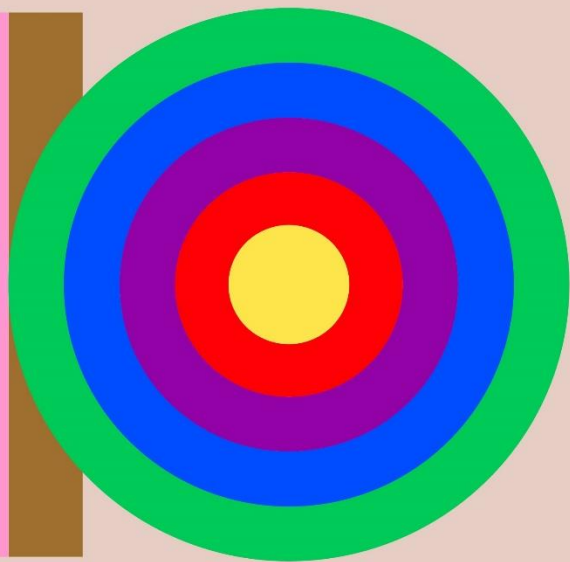
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

I had never considered marriage as a gay man, never considered having children, never felt these options were open to me and the kind of life I needed to follow. It was not a case of embracing heteronormative hegemonies but standing side by side and accepting difference and legislating for it.



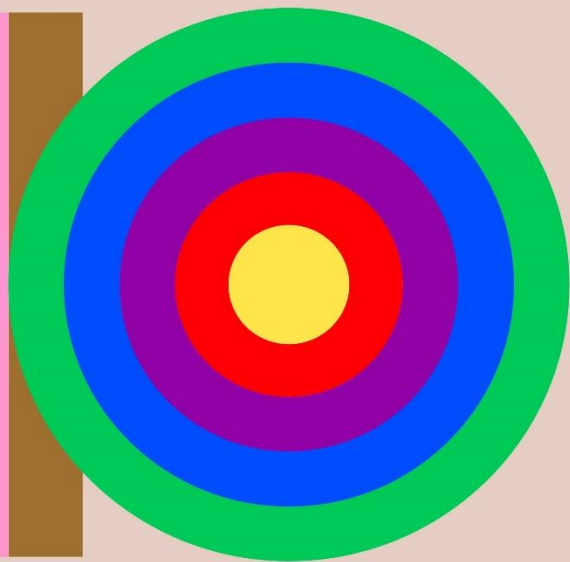
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

Yes we were the first couple in Kerry to get married. It made me feel hopeful that LGBTQI couples would have the same rights as our straight friends and families. Also made me hope that this might change things and give hope to people living in countries where they don't feel safe and free.



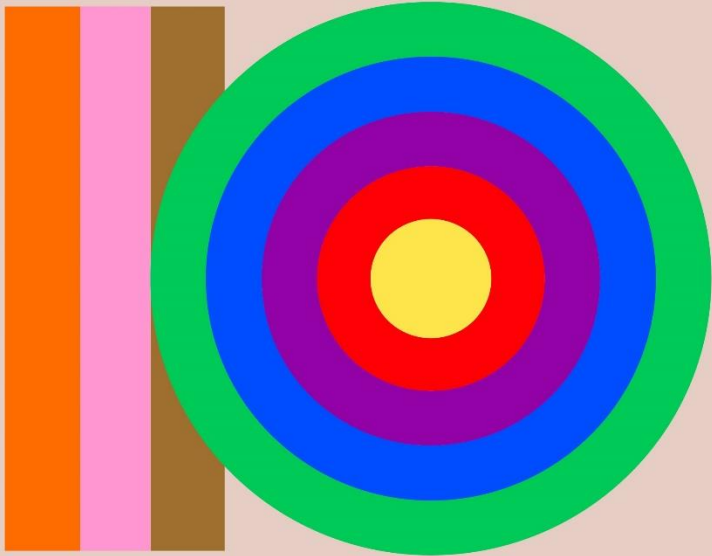
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

Yes it gave me high hopes that equal rights for all was something that would continue to roll out but unfortunately the future looks more bleak now with the Trump administration and the rise of the far right. It saddens me to see us going backwards, that is why it is so important to have these events and for institutions such as IMMA and NGI to continue to advocate and give a platform to all communities.



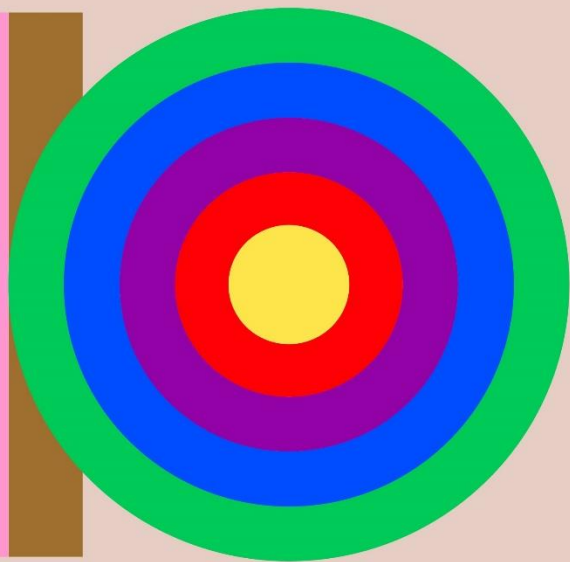
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

We are not sheep



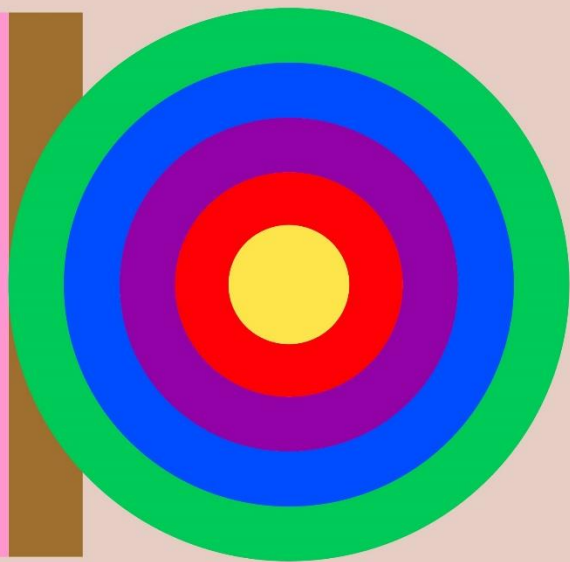
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Did it change your hopes for the future?

Yes i was very proud of Leo Varadkar.



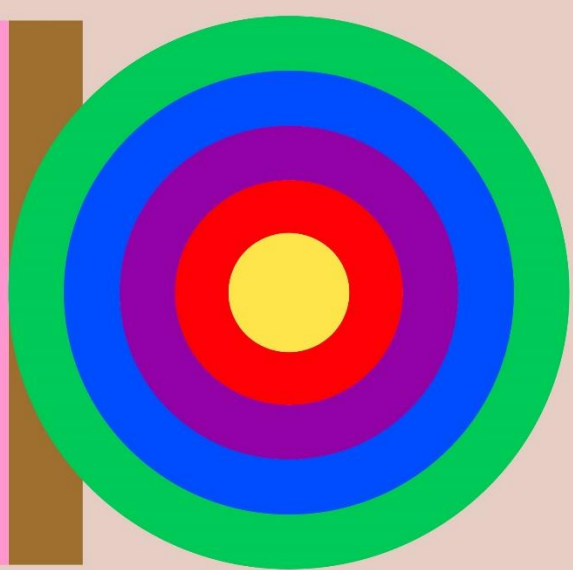
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Oral History Project

What does it feel like to fall in love?

It feels exhilarating, passionate and comforting.



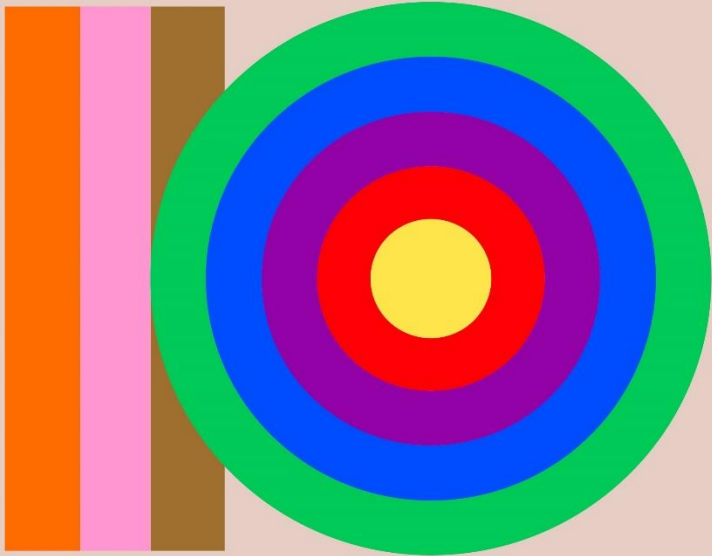
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

It literally feels like falling. Like holding your person's hand and jumping into something together. It feels physical, it feels electric, it feels tangible. It feels so exciting, so scary, and so safe all at the same time. I'm currently falling in love for the first time. I could stare into her sunflower eyes for hours, hold her hand, feel alive.



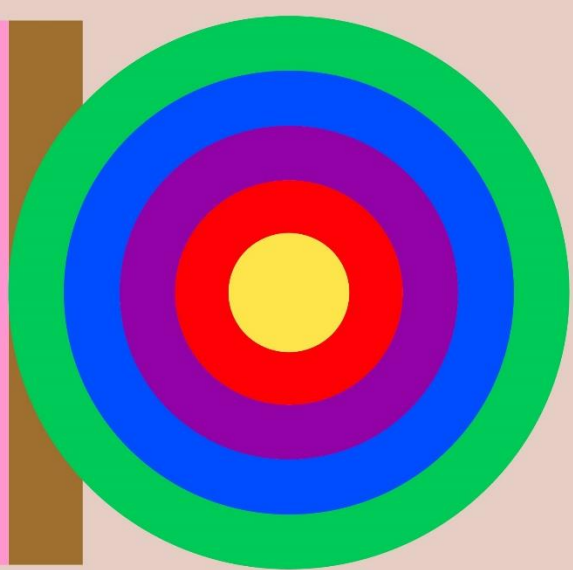
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

Scary, hopeful, full of potential, confident.



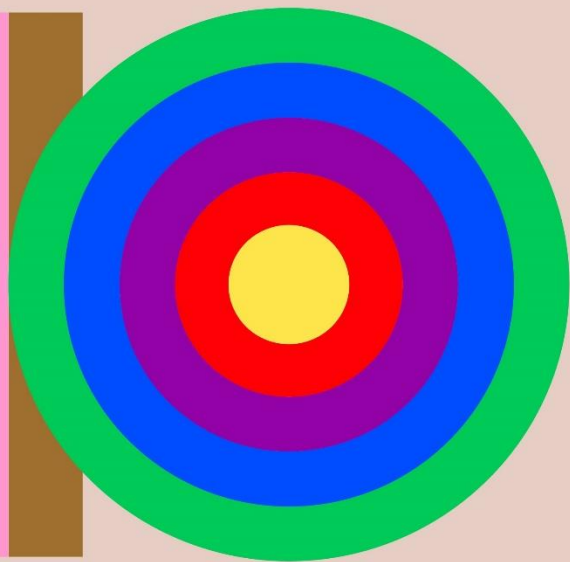
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

Awful, I would personally counsel against it. Only one person every truly falls in love, the other is always a happy recipient. Try not to compromise your self. love should be undertaken as a contract with yourself not as an unqualified offer to another individual. Love brings with is a sadness that pervades and cripples the personality. Fall in love often, quickly and while your young.



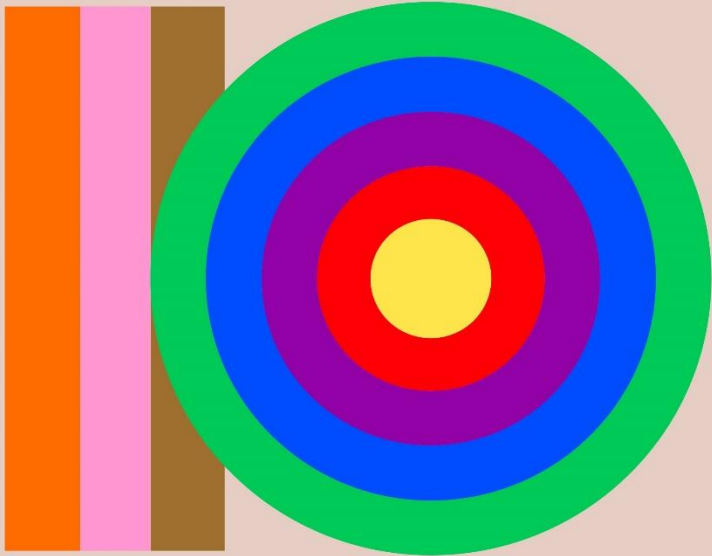
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

At first it is terrifying to feel such depth of emotion for any person, but over time it grows into a beautiful, calm feeling that wraps around your life and gives you more strength in every breath. Loving is so natural, human, and integral to our being. To love is to be human.



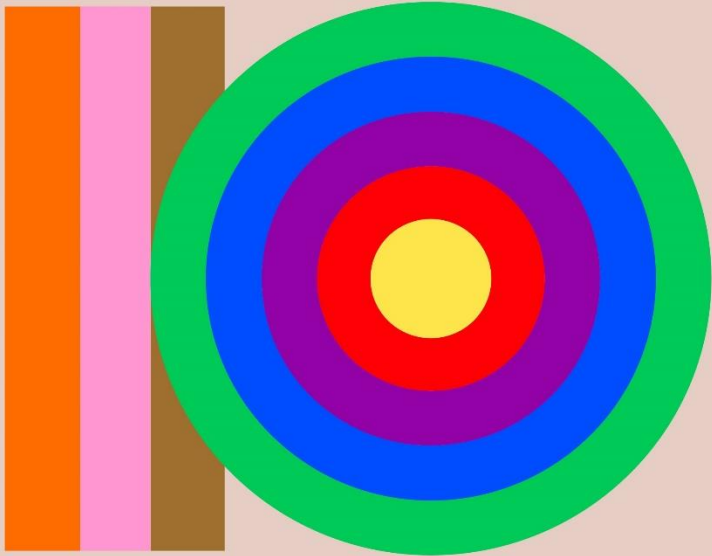
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

I've only fallen in love once, it was initially intoxicating but was never meant to be.



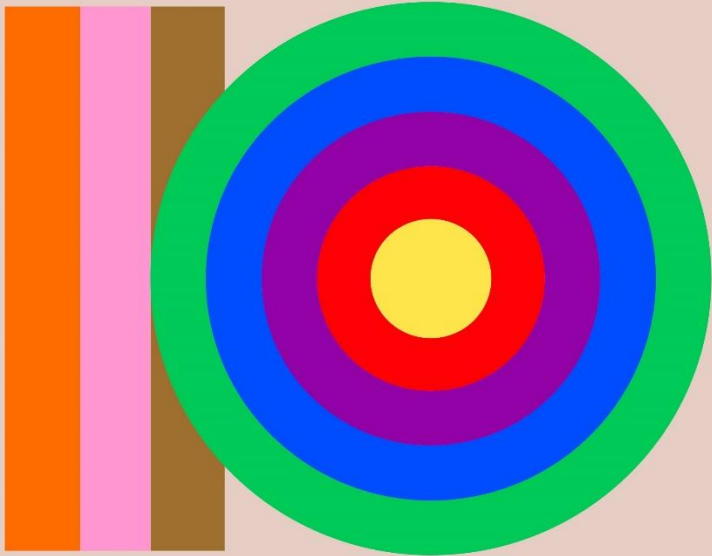
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

Sad my wife never lived to see or feel the Equality.



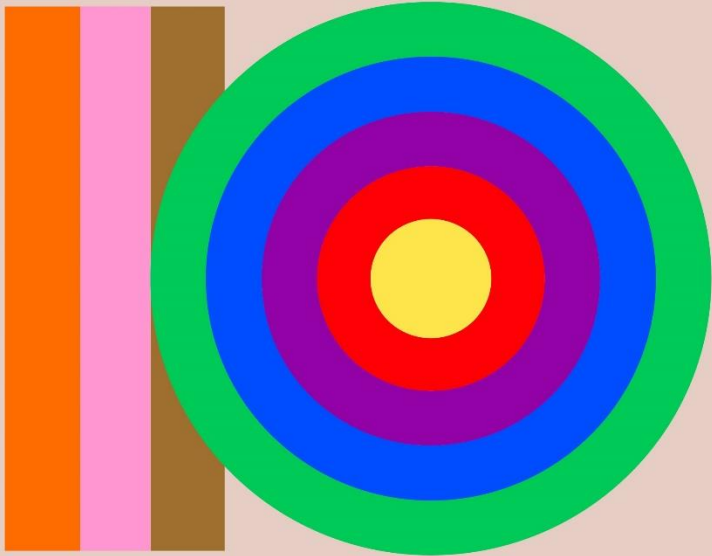
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

So far I've only felt platonic love and it's still so magical.



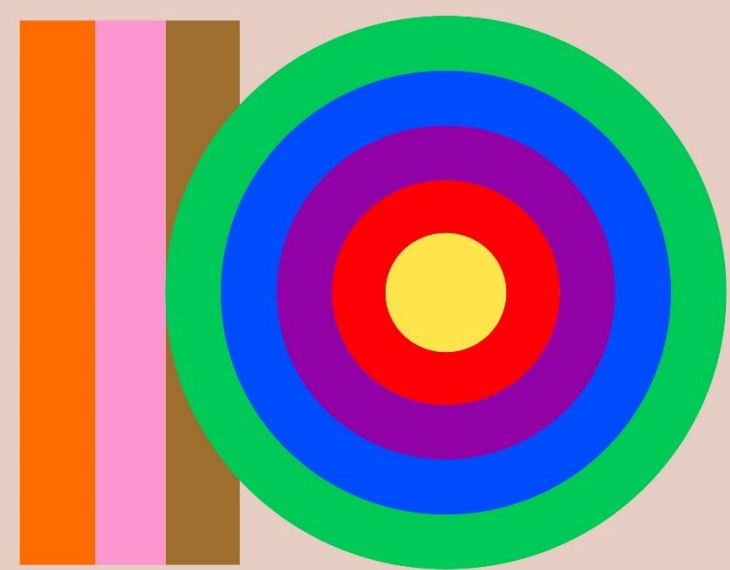
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

Safe and an ode to my humanity.



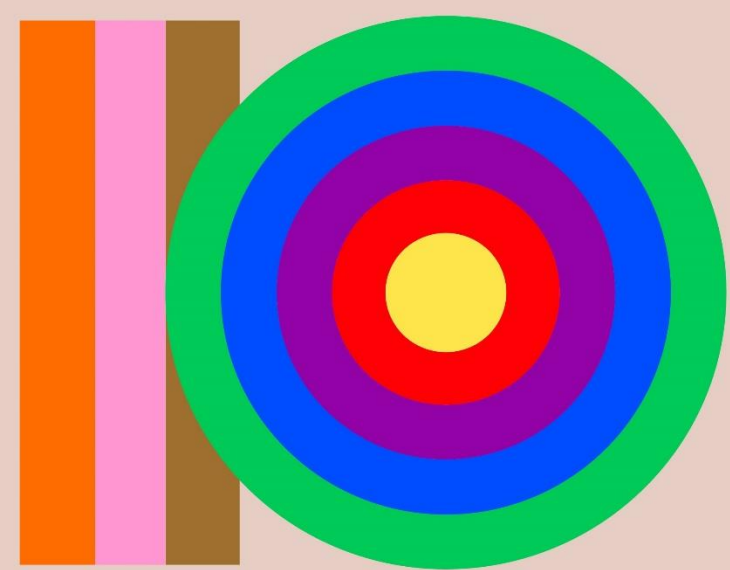
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

Falling in love always feels like this release of control for me. It's noticing all these little things and seeing how you could love this person, all the little things you think you'll appreciate even more if you have more time, seeing where your love could grow into. To admit to it, that you're no longer just seeing where the love could go, is saying that no matter what this means something. That you have loved this person. That a history of that love will live in you.



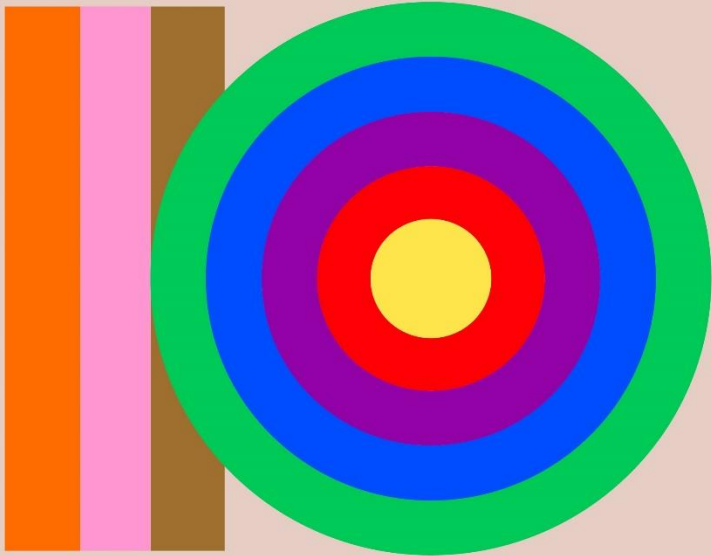
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

Love is an everyday thing, it's meeting up with friends, being with family in it's many different forms, opening yourself up to new experiences and new people, it's making connections and being together.



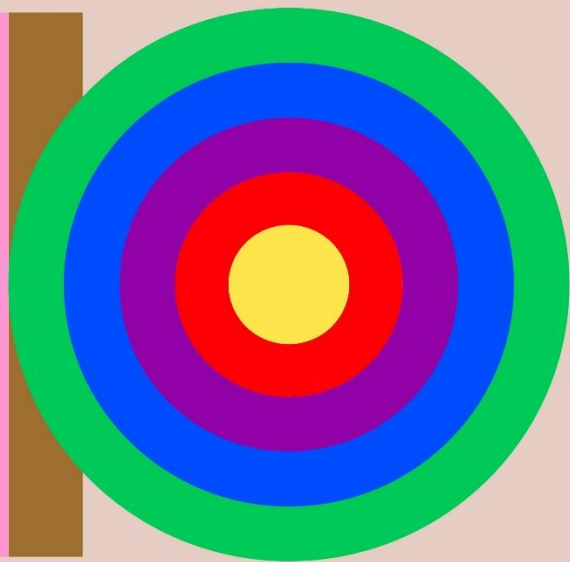
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

It's the same as anyone falling in love. It's trust and commitment,
a shared life.



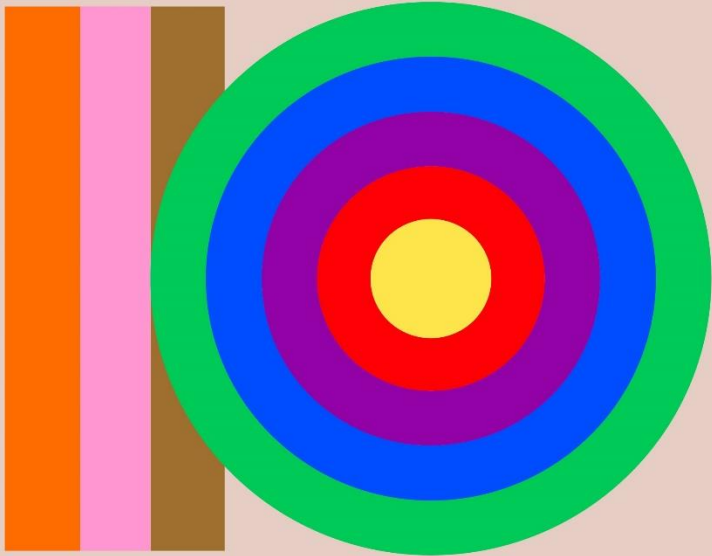
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

Attraction, inside jokes, and shared gestures... finishing each other sentences... discovering each other, hating to be apart, feeling whole... learning to overlook foibles, and accepting that love may change, the person may change, but the reason for that initial attraction will always be there... looking forward to the world together



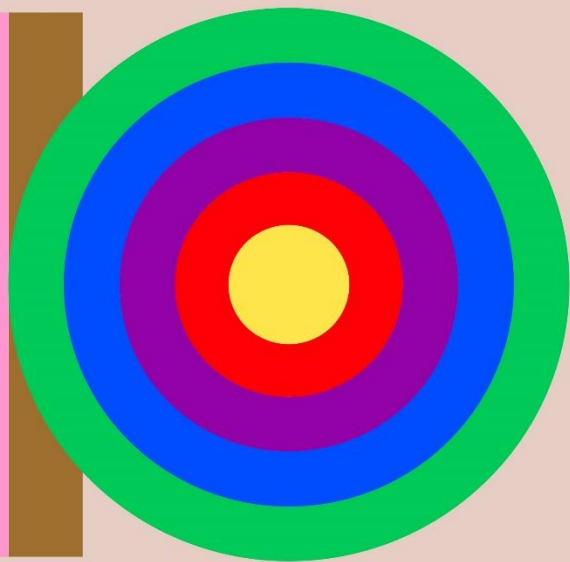
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

What does it feel like to fall in love? A beautiful excitement and tingling of possibility.



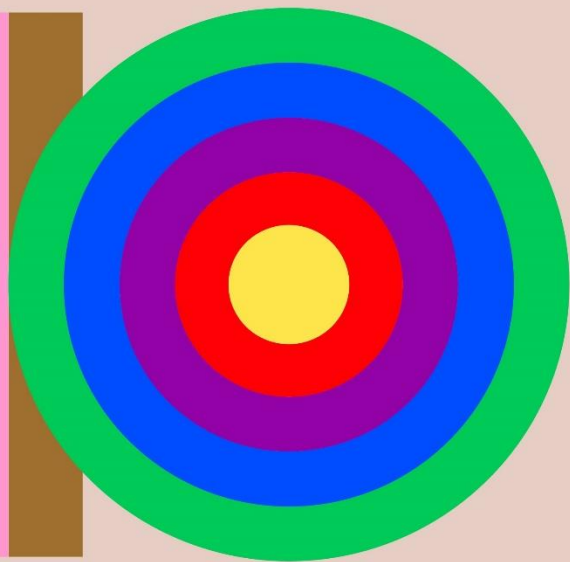
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

It feels safe, respected, heard and cared for, I have found that love can transform. There are many ways to fall in love, the love you have for your child is one of the most important there is, healing past family trauma and changing the tide for future generations.



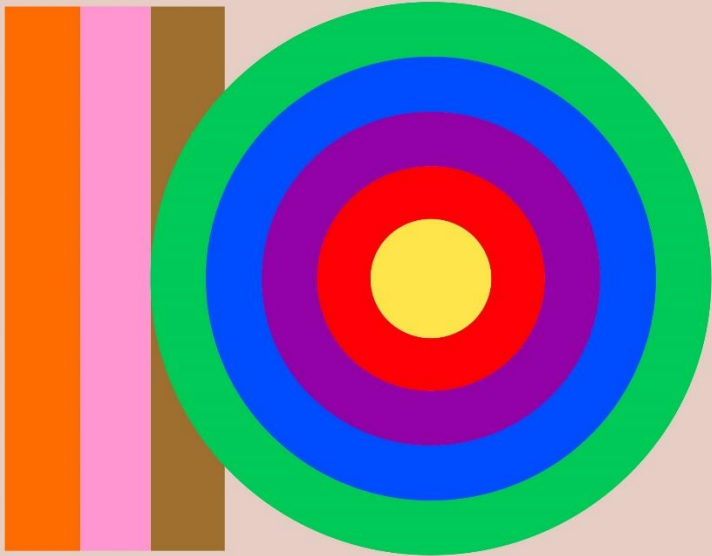
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

Well, if it's reciprocated it feels that life has more meaning, that you are valued and somehow more worthwhile. It takes you over reciprocated or not and is very hard to get over when it's not.



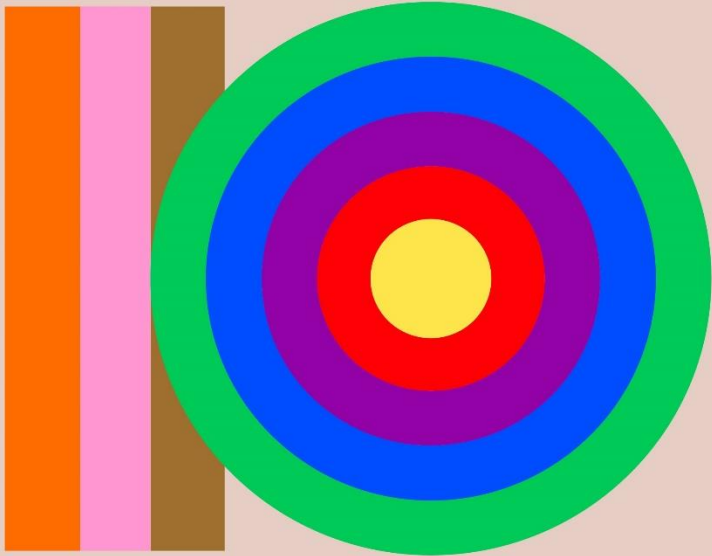
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What does it feel like to fall in love?

I don't believe that love exists.



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What does it feel like to fall in love?

All consuming, feeling so happy when the feeling is reciprocated.