

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- January -

Color: A Balancing Act

Suppose my painting is coming along just fine and midway through the process my intuition tells me to do something completely different. I introduce a fairly intense color, maybe Phthalo Green, on the right-hand side of the painting. Knowing that instinctive strokes arise from unconscious creative thinking, I want to capitalize on the stroke of green.

How do I balance the rest of the painting with this isolated color statement?

You might suggest I place other Phthalo Green strokes throughout the painting. This answer would not be wrong. But remember, the objective is to mitigate the strong statement of Phthalo Green so that the eye will not be locked onto its intense color. The goal is NOT to balance color throughout the painting.

Let's consider other tools to bring the viewer's eye back to our area of dominance. Harder edges, stronger value contrasts, more detail and texture, a figure, and line work can all help to direct the eye back to the focal point. So don't be afraid to let your intuition take over.

Keep you brush wet,

Eric



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