

# MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- NOVEMBER -

## TRY SOMETHING NEW

Have you ever wished you could try something new, but felt afraid that it may take you from your usual — and accepted— painting style, or that it may not be well received by your adoring audience? Don't be afraid. It may be just what you need to improve on your existing body of work.

I have had this experience in the last year and a half where I chose to delve into the abstract painting world. After many years of painting in a representational style, I felt a need to break away from the demands of the subject matter - the mental and exhausting pull it exacts from my creative process, especially as I finish up a painting - and express myself more freely. Hence, my Tidepoint series began. I found this series of paintings opened up a confidence in my intuitive responses - that they are correct and can be trusted.



It was totally liberating - I could concentrate on design alone and was not encumbered by the demands of my subject. However, I wondered if I would ever return to representational painting, and feared to some degree, that indeed I wouldn't go back. As always, the artist who makes a living at his or her creativity wonders if collectors can accept the change and growth that individual must nurture.

Recently I have delved back into some representational subject matter as I taught a workshop in Spain. I was surprised to find that I had an increased ability to trust my intuitive impulses, which in many cases varied from what I actually saw.

A higher level of creativity was coming forth, and in so doing, I found the process much more enjoyable. I wasn't feeling, or even allowing, the dictatorial demands of my subject matter as before. I was allowing my intuitive responses to reign. A sense of freedom, a higher level of interpretation, was being realized. What joy this is!

I think Degas has addressed this well:

“Only when he no longer knows what he is doing does the painter do good things.”

All because I took a diversion and tried something totally new!

Keep your brush wet!

ERIC



AWS Gold Medal of Honor