

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- November -

WHAT MAKES A MASTER?

"A picture is first of all a product of the imagination of the artist; it must never be a copy. If then two or three natural accents can be added, obviously no harm can be done. The air we see in the paintings of the Masters is never the air we breathe." --Edgar Degas

Every good painting needs a lie. Documentation of reality makes for a poor painting. Strict adherence to a photo reference contributes to this problem, but the same can be true when painting plein air.

But we go too far the other way if we reject the wisdom of the past and simply express ourselves. A painting that is full of imagination, but lacking in discipline, is no more pleasing to the eye than an overly realistic one.

When I judge a show, it is a real pleasure to view the work of artists who have learned to express their ideas while adhering to timeless principles of design.

Keep your brush wet,

Eric



AWS Gold Medal of Honor