

# MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- March -

## CREATING AN AREA OF DOMINANCE

*One of the key elements of a good composition is the area of dominance—the part of the painting that draws and holds the viewer's attention. The artist achieves this by constructing sharper value contrasts, more intense color, warmer colors, harder edges, and more detail in that focal area. So far, so good. But the flip side of this concept is that the other areas of the painting must be softer, more muted, less detailed. Otherwise, there will not be sufficient contrast for the area of dominance to stand out.*

*Keep in mind that in watercolor, it is much easier to start with soft edges, tightening them up later as needed, rather than the other way around. I start with soft edges throughout. Then toward the end of the painting session, I create hard edges in my area of dominance and progressively construct fewer and fewer as I move to the outside of the picture plane.*

*Let your area of dominance make a more powerful statement by simply backing off on the rest of your painting.*

*Refer to DVD #6 in my Painting Loosely from Photographs series for further exploration of this topic.*

**Keep your brush wet,**

**Eric**



AWS Gold Medal of Honor