

# MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- MAY -

Eric,

I have such a hard time finishing my paintings. I get halfway through them and they look so ugly I abandon them. What do you think my problem is?

- Ruth from Spokane

Ruth,

Those who try my method of painting need to exercise the discipline of waiting before seeing results that have a degree of finish. My shapes are loosely constructed in the beginning. Unfortunately, a process that has a degree of finish from the beginning may provide psychological comfort during the process, but a painterly look usually suffers.



I prefer to block in my largest masses and refine as I come to the finish line. It all tends to snap together at the end. My suggestion for you is to work through the uncomfortable “unfinished “ stage of the painting through to completion. You have nothing to lose. I especially would encourage you to do so if your light pattern is still intact- once the light pattern is gone, then the painting is probably also. I generally leave my light pattern the white of the paper and tone it with color at the end, if I need to.

So press forward with your painting until it is complete, ruined, or you don't have anything else to say. Most of my paintings don't come together until the very end.

Keep your brush wet!

ERIC



AWS Gold Medal of Honor