

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- June -

COMBINING SHAPES

Painting loosely doesn't simply mean doing what comes naturally. Done well, it requires following some important principles. One of these is the idea of combining two adjacent shapes of similar value into one larger, more interesting shape--something that looks more like a puzzle piece than a simple geometric shape. When painting a boat, for example, I don't separate the dark hull from its dark reflection. Instead, I paint through the waterline and create one new shape with no separation. These big shapes allow for passages of flowing color and bold brushwork. The effect of reflected color is an additional benefit of this approach. And the soft edges created are easy to tighten up later with a firm stroke, if desired.



My books and videos elaborate on each of the key design concepts behind painting loosely. My weekly Zoom mentoring classes focus on principles of composition as well. May you find these tools helpful as you continue on your artistic journey. The Connecting Shapes DVD #1 or the streaming version are both excellent for this subject.

Keep your brush wet,

Eric



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