

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- September -

COLOR MIXING TECHNIQUES

The first principle of effective use of color is to squeeze more paint than you think you'll need onto your palette. Throwing away expensive paint at the end of your session may go against the grain, but it is preferable to throwing away your work.

Your paint should have the consistency of sour cream. This allows you to easily pick up multiple colors on your brush. Once the paint starts to feel more like toothpaste, it's time to squeeze out some fresh paint on top of the old. If you squirt a little water or throw a damp sponge into your palette before closing it at the end of the day, that paint can last several days.



I will stack colors on top of each other with the brush, and then do only one figure eight or letter s on my palette before applying paint to paper. This allows the color to be "broken" or unmixed. The juxtaposition of thin bands of color creates an appealing, Impressionistic look. After that initial stroke of unmixed color, oftentimes I will load up my brush with water and go back and scoop up the remains of the figure eight or s to apply to my paper.

I hope you find this brief introduction to color mixing techniques useful. If you would like to learn more, a good place to start is with my color mixing video, which is on special this month. I cover this topic in more depth in my weekly online mentoring class.

Keep your brush wet,

Eric



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