

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- November -

AREA OF DOMINANCE

There are two strategies for creating an area of dominance that I use which work particularly well with watercolors. First, soft edges are much easier to work with than hard edges. A soft edge can easily be tightened up into a harder one by simply overlapping a crisp stroke over the underlying soft edge. This can create a beautiful painterly, loose stroke.

I often start painting on damp paper, encouraging soft edges throughout. This gives me much more flexibility in developing my painting. I won't be caught in a corner with too many hard edges that need softening. Towards the end of painting I ensure a tight, hard edge or possibly several in the area of dominance and progressively construct fewer and fewer as I move to the outside.

Second, intense colors are easy to neutralize with successively grey washes. Grey washes that have dried are difficult to intensify. Therefore, I start out painting with a lot of intense color - more than I need - in anticipation of graying areas away from my area of dominance. Progressively larger passages will be neutralized as the eye moves away from the area of dominance.

Try to give your area of dominance a more powerful statement by simply backing off on the rest of your painting.

Keep your brush wet,

Eric



AWS Gold Medal of Honor