

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- January -

HOW TO START A NEW PAINTING

To kick off the New Year let's think about how to start a new painting. Here are a few hints that help me begin a new painting.

First and foremost, I always paint what is exciting and interesting to me. I paint with the attitude that if this is the last painting I will ever do, what shall it be? It has never made much sense to me to drudgingly paint an uninspiring subject for academic reasons. Life is too short.

Second, a prepared value study will eliminate much of the guesswork in the painting process. My studies are done quickly with a soft pencil. I allow myself only three values: lights, mid-tones and darks. This avoids the risk of the painting having a scattered look or becoming confused.

The value pattern also saved time: a five minute sketch can save me an hour of trying to salvage a poorly planned painting. Most importantly, a value study gives me confidence. It helps me develop the right attitude of boldness and directness needed in my work. With a good value study the painting will be strong.... as long as I keep focused on it!

To be continued...

Keep your brush wet!

Eric



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