

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- February -

HOW TO START A NEW PAINTING - Part 2

Welcome back for part two on how I begin a new painting. If you missed part one you can find it on my website, Part 1

When beginning, don't look at a blank white piece of paper as a painting to be made. That creates too much pressure. Instead, I focus on it as a study, a problem to be solved, an emotion to be communicated.

A painting is something of value, to be admired by peers, to put on the wall – hopefully not to match the couch! I have an idea to communicate, and if it ends up as a painting of worth, that will be a nice bonus.

This freedom of thought has not come easily for me. I have struggled with the strain and tension of appealing to the tastes of others. I try to keep in mind what a Southern Belle once told me, “Honey, you have between here and here (pointing to my ears) people living that ain't payin' rent. It's time to evict them!”

Finally, the first few strokes set the tone for the rest of the painting. Attack large shapes with boldness—not necessarily with speed, but with directness and a large brush. I don't pull my punches. I guess it is a statement to the paper that I am in charge, and if I go down in flames, it's going with me. Don't let it take you down! This attitude helps break the ice to creative expression.

Keep your brush wet!

Eric



AWS Gold Medal of Honor