

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- June -

A CHALLENGE FROM ERIC!

"It is a good thing to copy what one sees, but it is even better to draw what one can only remember...In that way, your memories and your imagination are freed from the tyranny of nature." Degas

At some point in an artist's life the question of "What is my potential?" arises. We wonder if we have reached our peak or if there is still something more we can do? Avoid getting discouraged by staying open to discovery. Strive to make exploring new forms of self-expression an integral part of your journey.

Let me suggest a tactic that may open up new possibilities: See what you can do without your reference. Try by painting from memory, or from a location sketch. This allows you to tap into your soul and bring forth your own interpretation of the world, without hindrance. Paint with raw expression, whether realism or abstraction, or anything in between.

Painting from a photo or even in real life can become a hindrance to creative impulses. If you have received acceptance from faithfully copying photos or a model this approach will require some courage. Put thoughts of rejection aside and charge forth with new interpretations of expression that have been hidden. I have found when taking this path that I have a more intimate relationship with my painting. My instantaneous yet subtle impulses drive the process, not my photo or model. I also find at the end of the process that I "own" the painting, rather than it being an exercise in dictation and the reference owning me. I get to see what I am made of and can be pleasantly surprised, just as I think you will be too.

I would love to see your reference free art journey! Share your artwork on Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag #ReferenceFreeArt. Let's inspire each other in this exciting exploration of creativity.

Keep your brush wet!

Eric



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