

## Horizontal or Vertical? - Frank Zampardi

Traditionally, artists have had to make a major decision before embarking on a painting.... should they paint the subject on a landscape (horizontal) or portrait (vertical) format. Often the subject will dictate the answer, but this is not always the case. Most sky paintings suit a landscape format, however, it is worth experimenting with different formats, as the unexpected can often have much more visual impact.

Landscape is the traditional format for paintings containing large areas of sky or panoramic views and has the advantage of allowing a wide-angle vista to be painted enhancing the feeling of open spaces.

The portrait format, however, can produce a much more exciting, visually dynamic composition. The height of this format allows a very "high" view of towering clouds to be painted, enhancing the effect of "pressure" on the horizon. This can often be used to dramatic effect when painting storm clouds or clouds with a great amount of "height," allowing for more attention to be given to specific cloud shapes than an overall "sky" view.