

Reminders for Landscape Painting: from Dorée Voychick CPPG

Plein air Painters would "learn" about Light, Color, Perspective and Depth of Space as they viewed a Landscape - trying to paint it.

- 1.) Foreground (objects/area that is closest to the Viewer or the "lower" portion of the paper for painting. The foreground objects will be larger - brighter in color.
- 2.) Background - (objects/area that is farthest from the viewer or the "middle to upper" portion of your paper. The background objects will be smaller - duller in color.
- 3.) Middleground objects/area is in between the two or in the "middle" area or below the Horizon Line.

It is best to look at a place in real life - to "see" how the objects or area changes in SIZE, COLOR, LIGHT from Foreground to Background.

Because the LIGHT changes ...from close to far -- so does the COLOR. Usually objects are brighter, deeper, more intense in color when closer to the Viewer.

As these objects move back "in space" they get less sharp - duller- less distinct - more blurred ...the color is not as sharp far away.

Claude Monet did many "series" of works as Plein air to actually study the effects of Light/Color on a particular church as the day went so he could learn about how different lighting effects colors.

Landscape Painting is not difficult if you understand these "concepts" of Light. Suggestion: stand outside to view a landscape. Stand in the same spot in Sunrise, AM, Noon, PM, Sunset ..and take pictures ! then study these images looking at the colors you see -- and how it changes. Then view the pictures for Size of objects close to far away. You will begin to understand the importance of "seeing" sky, sky coloring, shapes, size of shapes from close to far, colors and color changes when the light changes, and details of shapes, details of colors from objects right close to you and ones that are very far away.

Perspective is the viewpoint from where you stand - viewing a Landscape. Perspective is the science of how I "see" vs "what I know". I know the mountains are brown rocks, green trees.....but when they are far away - they look blue.

Plein Air Painters needed to LEARN about what they see and then relate it to their own experiences of what they know from those experiences. You will do the same as you stand in front of a Landscape - looking. Always be aware of where the light is coming from, how are colors on objects changing from close objects to farther away.

Do I show what I see? That becomes the creating part of an Artist >>> some artists create what they see realistically, detailed and correct.

Some artists create what they see emotionally, reactionary, abstractly.

You decide ...sometimes your "style" comes thru without you realizing -- accidental art becomes what you like!

When creating a Landscape painting, I take many photos and some different angles. This will help my Memory in remembering what I liked about this landscape, what caught my eye, and why I wanted to paint this picture... Then I decide where my Background area is located and begin with those shapes, size, colors. I do not finish the background -- but stop and begin the Foreground area which will be more detailed, sharper colors and distinct. Wherever my "focal" area is located is where I want to concentrate on my "Best" work ...since this is the area of my Landscape where I want the viewer to be drawn towards. It might be lighter, brighter colors, larger in size, etc When my focal area is nearly completed then I return to finish the other areas of the paper around it --- Ideally a "painter" works Background to Foregroundkeep this in mind as you work.....put in the "under painting" for the Background area FIRST --

THEN leave it to work on the Foreground..

But you must return to Finish the Background BEFORE you finish the Foreground --- optically your brain will not "see" the depth of space correctly if the background is finished AFTER the objects in front.

It is not fun this way....but important.

Hope this helps ~ Doree.