

Values Sketch

I know many of you are tempted to skip or skip as a rule, the "value-sketch" stage of creating your paintings. If you do, you're missing out on the practice of bringing your painting closer to what your vision may be. **STARTING WITH A VALUE SKETCH INCREASES THE CHANCE OF ENDING UP WITH A SUCCESSFUL PAINTING.**

Why do this? Because making a value sketch helps you in analyzing the scene, simplifying it into a few simple **SHAPES AND VALUES**. This also helps in visualizing the placement of **SHAPES** of the "Pictorial Elements" in your composition. It also helps to eliminate the stress of having to **REDO**, until you get the values and shapes right. If you're one who skips this important step, you've probably experienced the creation of "mud" necessitating the "do over" step and the accompanying "angst".

By taking the time to make several value sketches, you can experiment with alternatives and choose the "best" design. Yes, design, because composition is a design. You may also experiment and change the values of the compositional elements. This will allow you the option of seeing how the main elements are viewed from a different perspective.

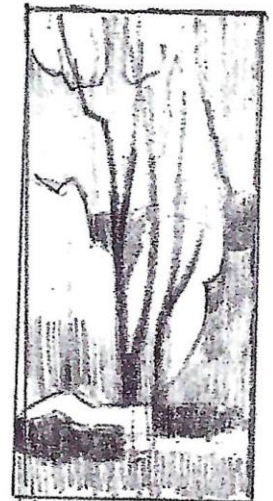
This important step in the creative process is a precursor to your final piece. It's where you can make the important decisions smoother.

Here's how to make a Value Sketch:

The key is to keep your value sketches simple. Several value sketches consisting of just 3 or 4 values and shapes can be made on 3"x5" index cards. **USE A SOFT PENCIL 5B OR 6B** pencil for the mid and dark tones preserving the whites. Also, "block in" your shapes vs drawing them with lines.



9x12 - 3:4



16x8 - 2:1

