

## DECEMBER – LAST MINUTE SHOPPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

**Merry Christmas**

from those of us at Wiegardt Studio Gallery,

Eric, Ann, Christl, Gail, Stan, and Cindy.



### GETTING TO THE FINISH

*Dear Eric*

*Why is it so hard to finish a painting? I seem to have an easy time of starting, but the finishing part gives me the "shakes".* Carol from Texas



**DAHLIAS II**

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Carol,

Finishing a painting can be difficult for several reasons. Fatigue can be one. An overriding fascination with detail can be another. But I think one of the major reasons is the tendency to neglect what the painting calls for.

The construction of a painting is not unlike the building of a pyramid. The block-in stage is the easiest and most fun because it offers tremendous latitude of expression, but it also sets the style of painting to follow. As you build up the pyramid, the underlying foundation increasingly determines the subsequent stroke character. By the time you are at the finish, the baton has been passed over to the painting- it determines the last strokes. The top of the pyramid has to fit the style of painting it caps, otherwise it won't work.

This releasing of control to the painting takes discipline, but it is necessary; otherwise you will end up with some finished paintings like I have experienced: a great finish, but it doesn't fit the rest of the painting.

Keep your brush wet!

Eric

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