

DEAR ERIC COLUMN - June

Dear Eric,

I have your landscape video which I really enjoy. Here is my question: is there a specific method to learn how to create the differing values? *Victoria*

Victoria,

The important thing to remember is that the values assigned to the landscape masses are in relation to each other- technically, it doesn't really matter what value you assign to your sky; however, you need to assign the other value masses in proper relationship to it. (If your sky is too dark, the mid tones and darks may be too similar in value, and consequently unreadable). The same can be said of the ground, hills, or trees, whichever you choose to block in first. For the most part, I keep them distinct and separate. This ensures that the sky goes over, the ground lies flat, and the hills and trees rise from the ground.

Another thing, if you have an interest in painting the value masses as they appear realistically, then there is no better way than to go out and squint at your motif. The big relationships should be evident. Some artists prefer the help of a square of red cellophane, as it will mask the colors and the value masses will be more readily understood.

Keep your brush wet!

Eric



AWS Gold Medal of Honor Award

