

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- April -

Dear Eric,

How do you know what color to use in your paintings? It all seems so random! - Sue from Arizona

Sue,

How to achieve of a good color harmony is often very puzzling to a workshop student, yet it not need to be so. Because I am basically an expressionist watercolorist - one who chooses his own color scheme without dependence on realistic color harmonies - color selection is done more on an intuitive level, and not based solely on what I see visually.



With that being said, upon completion of my value study, I have a sense of whether I would like my painting to be on the cool or warm side of the color wheel. Once I start applying color, I get a sense of what colors I would like to apply next. This is not as haphazard or as mysterious as it sounds, because I know a very import painting fact: color can be anything as long as it is reasonable, but my values have to be well organized. In other words, I really don't have to watch my color selection that carefully, but I do need to keep a clear focus on my value study. A well- organized (refined or unrefined) value study is the foundation to sensitive color. It sounds paradoxical!

You might also try simplifying your color selection to three to five colors. Your painting can't help but harmonize!

Keep your brush wet!

Eric



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