

# ERIC WIEGARDT

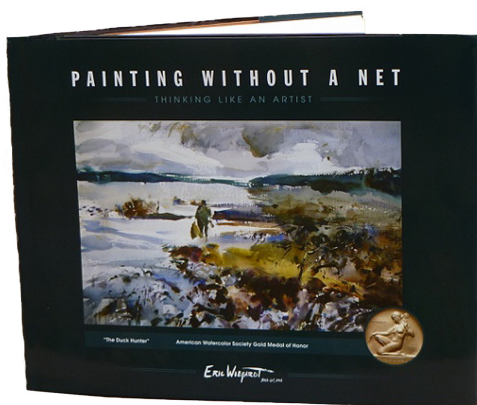
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**Bookreview by Jeffrey L. Waters**

**Painting Without A Net - Thinking Like An Artist**



Eric Wiegardt's magnificent new book, *Painting Without a Net* is a compilation of the articles he has written over the past few years for *Hot Press*, the newsletter of the Northwest Watercolor Society. Each issue of *Hot Press* featured a page entitled, "Wiegardt on Watercolor". These were enormously popular with our members and one of the main reasons they looked forward to the next edition.

This 128-page book features one of these 61 articles on the left-hand page and a painting illustrating the discussion on the right. The articles deal with painting theory; areas of dominance, shadows, drawing, value, color, etc.

The title, *Painting Without a Net* came out of a conversation with fellow artist, Noel Thomas, while discussing the nature of painting boldly.

Eric is a strong proponent of good composition and acutely aware of edge quality as a defining characteristic of a good painting. He also deals with the mental and emotional hurdles watercolor artists face daily.

The book is most effectively read, one article at a time, allowing the wisdom of the master to permeate the soul. If one does not wish to delve so deeply, simply leafing through this beautiful tome for the glory of the paintings is a treat. Eric's loose style is perfectly captured in the fluid medium of watercolor. He is a master teacher. His "Secrets of Painting Loose" workshops fill rapidly. Eric is wonderfully generous with his time and is a delightful companion.

His studio and gallery are in his ancestral home at Ocean Park, Washington.

The cover is Eric's "The Duck Hunter" that won the American Watercolor Society Gold Medal of Honor, an award rarely given.

This a beautiful coffee table book as well as a highly instructive text. The reproduction quality of the paintings is superb. - Jeffrey L. Waters, Editor – *Hot Press*, Northwest Watercolor Society

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