

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- July -

THE BIGGEST VALUE JUMP

By the laws of nature, the biggest value jump is between the sunlight and shade. Smaller value shifts are generally found within the light area and the shadow area. Also, sunlight is such a huge determining factor in values that we can safely say that almost anything – there are always exceptions – in the sunlight is lighter in value than any object in the shadow regardless of local color and value. A black asphalt road will still be a light value in the sunlight.



This is important to know from a Design point of view, because nothing destroys a painting more quickly than too many value shifts. The temptation is to add excessive detail for a sense of realism in our paintings, but in the process, we can easily muddle our values. A simplified value structure of two values: light and dark – determined by sunlight and shadow – with some less prominent halftones teased in can provide much needed strength to our paintings. All good artists must simplify the value patterns they observe from life. This is one great way to do it.

Keep your brush wet!

Eric