

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

– January –

WHERE THE COLOR LIES

I have written about this topic at least once before. Because of its importance and the frequency of questions about it from my Zoom mentoring students, it bears repeating.

I tend to make my mid-tone shapes the larger shapes in my paintings because the color – and I like lots of it – lies in the mid-tones as opposed to the darks or lights.



The lights can be just tints or the white of the paper and the darks are limited in color because lighter, more vibrant colors such as yellows are left out. With the mid-tones being the larger shapes, the painting will be more colorful.

Also, I like to begin my paintings with the largest shapes – this is called blocking in – so it is quite natural to begin with the mid-tones.

Usually in the initial wash of the mid-tones I will try to establish a dark somewhere in the painting so I have a dark value to compare my mid-tones against.

Mid-tones are a favorite way for me to start a painting; I get a lot of color established soon and a quick block-in established.

Keep your brush wet,

Eric