

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- May -

A GOOD WAY TO SIMPLIFY YOUR PAINTINGS

One easy way to clean up a value pattern—especially if the subject is complicated, such as a street scene—is to reduce it to two values. This is not as easy as it sounds, because complex subjects have a wide range of values, and it is often hard to determine whether an object falls into the mid-tones or the lights. For example, what value is a black car that's in the light? Do you make it a light value, or is it a darker value because the car is black?

The answer is to change our thinking by focusing only on light and shadow. Whatever is in the light, leave at a light value – regardless of whether it's a dark object such as the car, or a light object such as a white house. If we sort all of the objects according to whether they're in light or shadow, and paint them accordingly, our paintings will be greatly simplified.

For added interest I will tease in some darks, but I focus on a simplified value pattern by only considering what the light is hitting and what's in shadow.

Keep your brush wet!

Eric



ERIC



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