

# MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- June -

## HILLS, VALLEYS AND LONG PLATEAUS

*Progress in our painting is not just one nice easy ride up a hill of continuous, steady improvement. Rather, it is excitement fueled by welcome improvement, interspersed with what seems like no progress, possibly even some regression.*

*This is all part of the painting process. We need to keep in mind that as long as we are painting we will most likely see improvement in the long run. Some regression or stepping back is expected when stretching ourselves in interpretation or technique.*

*What I have the most difficulty with, though, are the long plateaus. Sometimes it seems like instead of moving forward or back, I'm just in a holding pattern. I have learned these periods are really launching points for further development. Eventually new ideas do surface—a lot of times from the most seemingly insignificant periods of development. So as discomfoting as some of these plateaus may be—and they can seem to go on for quite a while—they are also periods of staging for new fertile ideas that refine our paintings. And then the hill of development and marked improvement starts all over.*

*We all like to have the excitement of the hills of creative development, but it's just not possible or desirable. We also need the valleys and plateaus to further our creative expression.*

*Keep your brush wet!*

**Eric**



**ERIC**



AWS Gold Medal of Honor