

# MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- July -

## SEE THE BIG RELATIONSHIPS

*It is important to see the big relationships when painting. The big ideas hold the painting together; the details are embellishments.*

*Relationships of large value masses to each other—the lights against the darks, the darks against the mid tones—are the backbone of the painting, much like the armature that holds a sculptor's clay upright. Without this underlying structure the painting fails.*

*The painting can be structured from realistic value patterns such as those found in nature. Landscape masses huge value shifts between the sky, ground, hills, and trees. (I have a video on this if you want to learn more.) Sometimes, though, we artists prefer to create our own value patterns, assigning values as we see fit to develop our creative vision. Both of these approaches are viable forms of artistic expression; many times I will have a combination of the two in my paintings.*

*It is important not to let anything—a photo reference, an on-location motif, or a set of design rules—get in the way of seeing an overall pattern of large value relationships.*

*I think this is one of the few “must have” design concepts for a successful painting.*

*Keep your brush wet!*

**Eric**



**ERIC**



AWS Gold Medal of Honor