

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- February -

FOCUSING ON OUTSIDE EDGE SHAPES

Detail is rarely the answer to our painting challenges.

Years ago, while teaching a plein air workshop in Florida, I learned an important lesson. I was right in the middle of a painting demonstration, trying to paint some palm trees. I was struggling with this unfamiliar subject, until I realized: The character of an object is best conveyed by the careful construction of the outside edge of the shape, not by the interior detail.

Try indicating your subject using a simple flat wash and just a suggestion of texture and detail. You can then complete the picture using bold, fluid brush statements within the shape for a loose effect. Or render the interior with more detail for more definition.

The fifth DVD in my Painting Loosely from Photographs series, Outside Edge Shapes, covers this topic in depth. Check it out in our website store.

Keep your brush wet,

Eric



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