

Waterway Tips and Techniques

- If you want to paint a tree, a bird or an animal, don't forget to put the bones and joints where they belong. Rubber wings, necks, or legs will flaw your painting.
- Find a few good pictures of the object, shown from different angles, to act as a guide. A great Internet resource for this is Google. Select "Images" in the upper right hand corner and do a search.
- If you want to loosen up, try using a bigger brush!
- Check your work in progress:
 - step away and look at your work from a distance.
 - turn it upside down. Does the composition still work?
 - hold it up to a mirror. This almost always pinpoints areas you need to adjust.

Edges and Texture Tips from Barbara Clark

EDGES: Hard edges, Soft edges, Lost edges, and Rough edges. They need to be in every painting.

TEXTURE: A variety of textures needs to be in all paintings. Soft, smooth or hard, and rough.

5 things that happen as space recedes are:

- Details get lost
- Edges get soft
- Value contrasts decrease
- Colors become cooler (bluer)
- Colors lose intensity (become duller)

Scraping into a wash (e.g., for grasses) -

If your paper still has a wet shine, water is still laying on its surface and the paper is relatively fragile. If you scrape into it, you create a groove in the paper's surface. Surrounding water will immediately gravitate into this low point and concentrate pigment there. You end up with a dark line.

If you want a light scraped line, be patient (it's so hard!) and wait until that shiny look is gone. Your scraper is more likely to simply push still damp pigment out of its way.

PLEIN AIR TIPS from Marilyn Pounds

For oil and acrylic painters, keep it simple. Bring a lightweight easel (and chair if needed), painting surface, paints, brushes and a palette knife, a simple palette (even a Styrofoam plate works), water or turpenoid, rags and paper towels, and a bag for trash. A camera can help with composing the view and recording it for future studio work. Don't forget that a comfortable artist is a good one! Wear sunscreen and a hat; bring the bug spray and some drinking water.