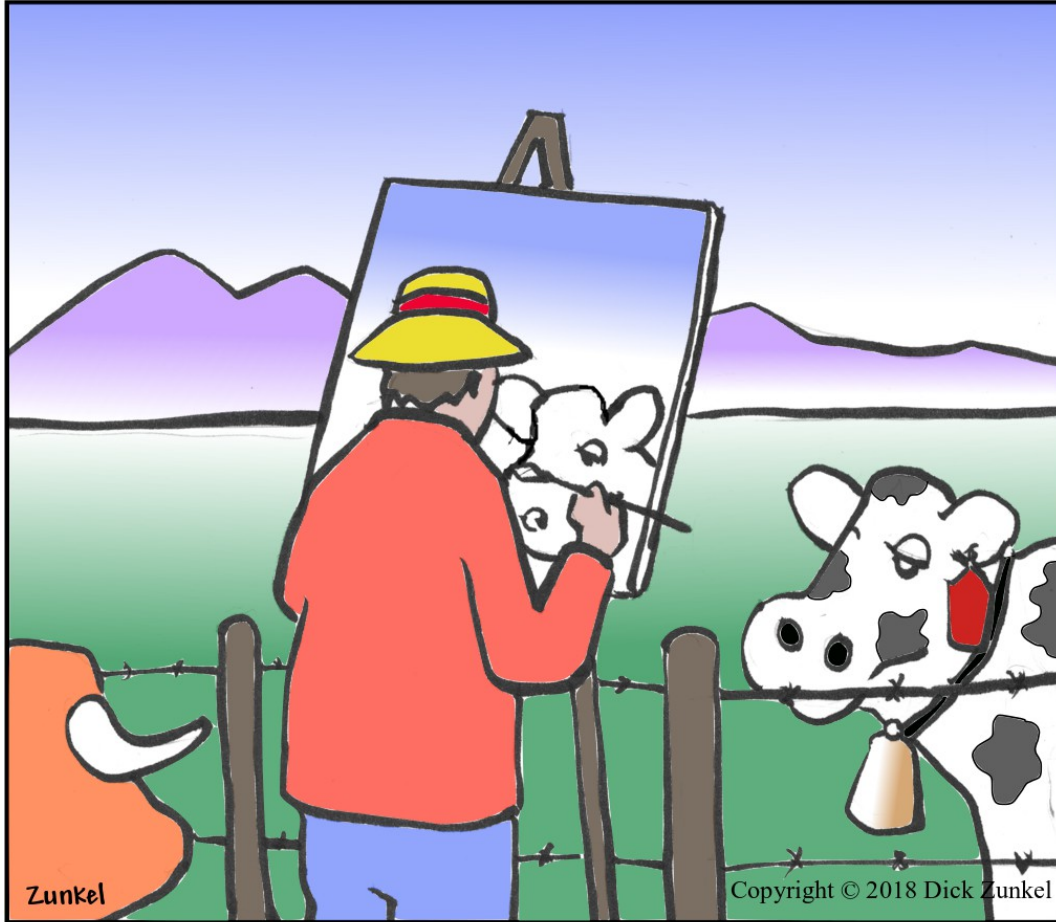


VIEWING SUGGESTIONS

- SET YOUR PDF VIEWER TO FULL SCREEN AND PRESENTATION MODES IF YOUR PDF VIEWER ALLOWS.
- USE ARROW KEYS TO ADVANCE AND REVERSE SLIDES OR SCROLL DOWN
 - TABLETS, PHONES, SWIPE SCREEN TO SCROLL



PAINTING PLEIN AIR

Making art
outdoors

A guide for artists new to painting plein air.

Presentation and "Plain Air" idea drawings by Dick Zunkel

THINGS YOU NEED, THE BASICS

For you:

- Sun protection
- Eye protection
- Insect repellent
- Environmental protection.
(cold, wind, rain, etc.)

Materials:

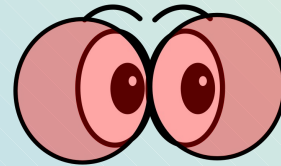
- Media, (paint, brushes, etc.)
- Portable chair
- Easel or small table
- Smart phone or camera
- A good attitude.



Avoid SNOW BLINDNESS (Especially watercolorists)

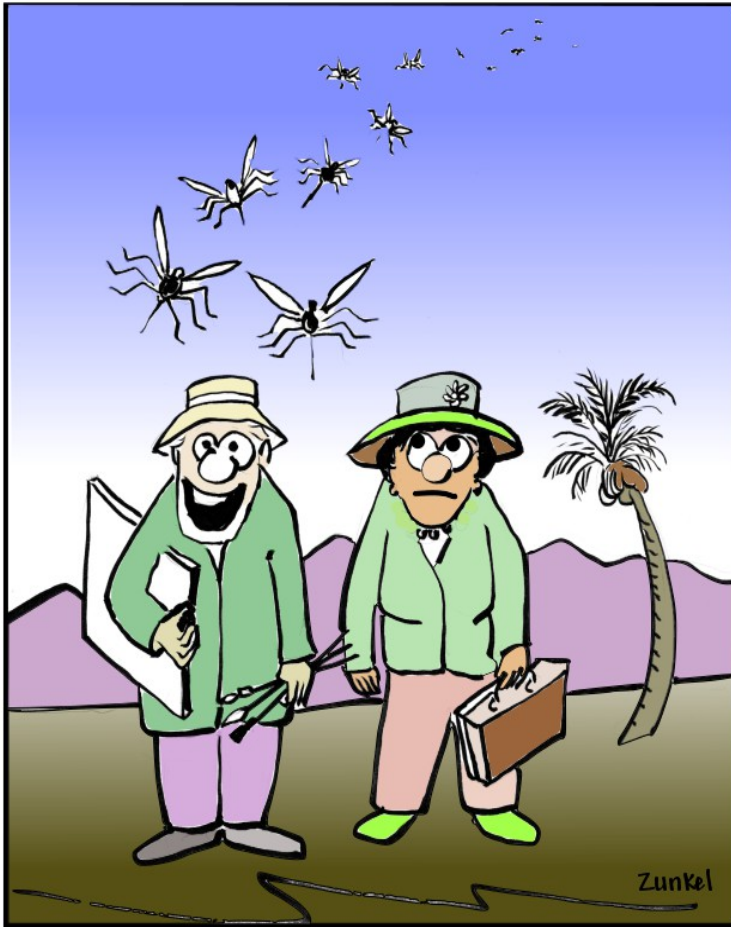


- Don't sit or stand in full sun.
- Find shade or use an umbrella..
- Wear neutral gray sunglasses.
Leave the rose colored glasses at home.



- Stop and look around often.
- Squint to check values.

SELECTING A PAINT SITE



"At last, the perfect paintsite!"

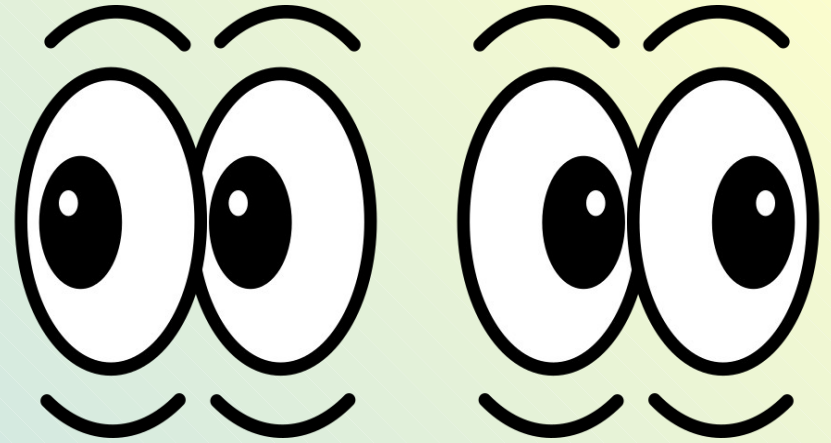
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- New to plein air? Start in your own back yard. The Grand Canyon can wait.
- Choose a comfortable place. You will be there over an hour.
- Avoid trespassing. Artists are not always welcome.
- Note the light source



Advice to artists: Never turn your back on the sea.

BEFORE YOU PAINT...



- Look at everything from different angles.
- Select important elements, disregard others.
- Make a preliminary value sketch. (Shapes, lights, darks)
- Decide where you place your darkest darks and lightest lights. They should be adjacent.

THE VALUE OF A VALUE SKETCH



"Remember, darkest darks by your lightest lights!"



Walls lack
contrast

THE FIVE STEP SYSTEM



1: Glaring white

2: Light gray

3: Medium gray (amateur zone)

4: Dark gray

5: Black

Use the full spectrum of values.
Avoid making everything level 3.



Value sketch
(simulated)

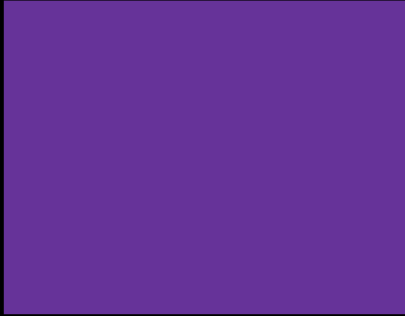
The facing wall is
slightly darker
than the adjacent.

Values in practice



COLORS HAVE VALUE TOO...

Moody



Shocking



Plan
your
Painting!

Pop



Muted



YOU'RE ALMOST READY!

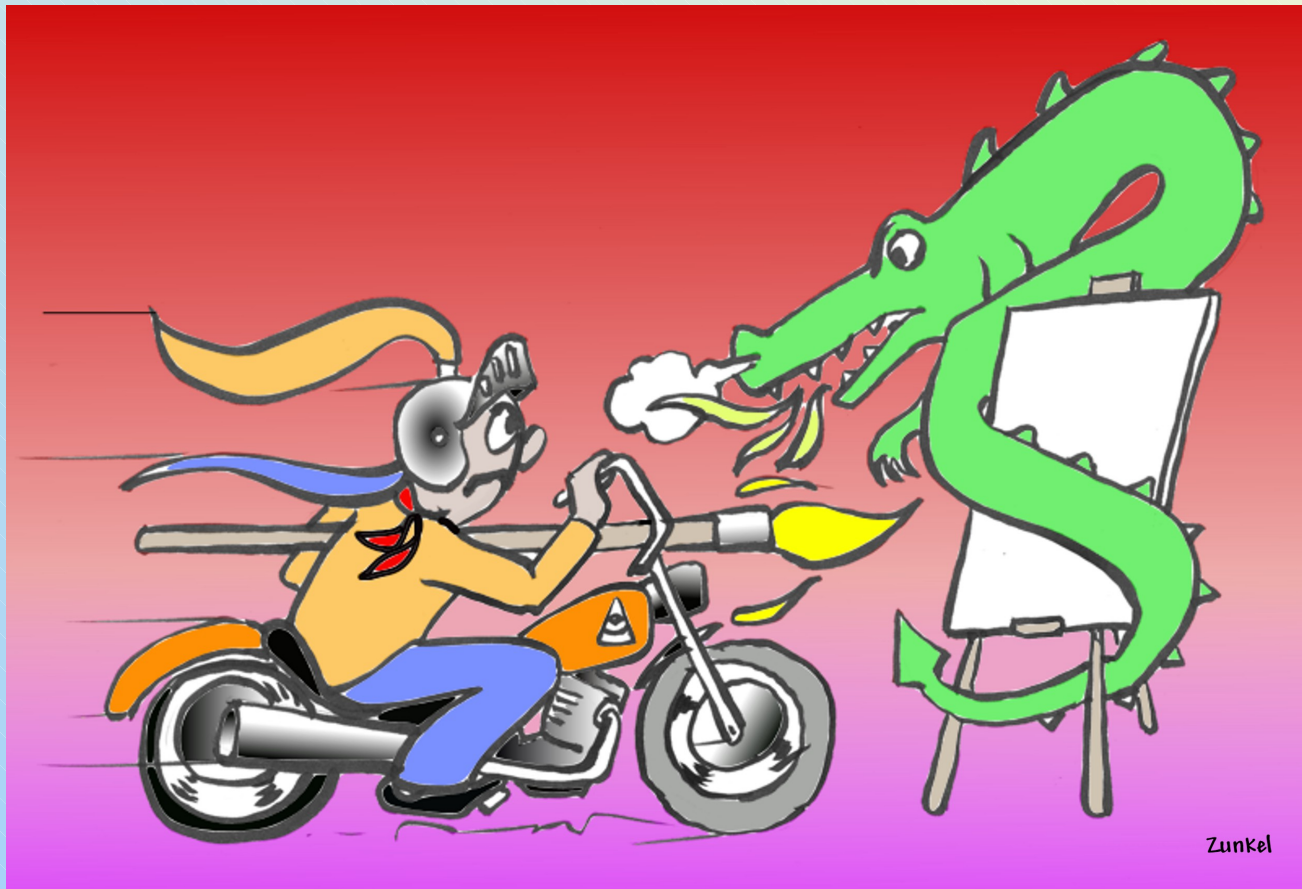


- Choose your focal point (Only one, please.)
- 25-75 Percent rule:
- 25% of your painting is important.
- 75% percent supports the 25%
- Move objects around for best composition.

Look for contrast opportunities.



READY TO PAINT?



Never fear a blank canvas!



PAINT SMALL
You can paint big later.

Sketch book painting Plein-air 6" x 9"



Studio painting, 10" x 14"

DESIGN YOUR PAINTING!



- Scale adjusted to emphasize old car
- Focal point: Car grille and headlights
- 25%-old car and wagon wheel
- 75%-just shapes and muted color
- Textured wall, sparse green with red glaze
- White panel & windows, harmonious shapes
- Green cactus 10% accent color



BE CREATIVE!



- Vignette style
- Forced perspective
- Rich wood color
- Reflections in windows
- Shadow across window
- Enlarged graphic (post office sign)





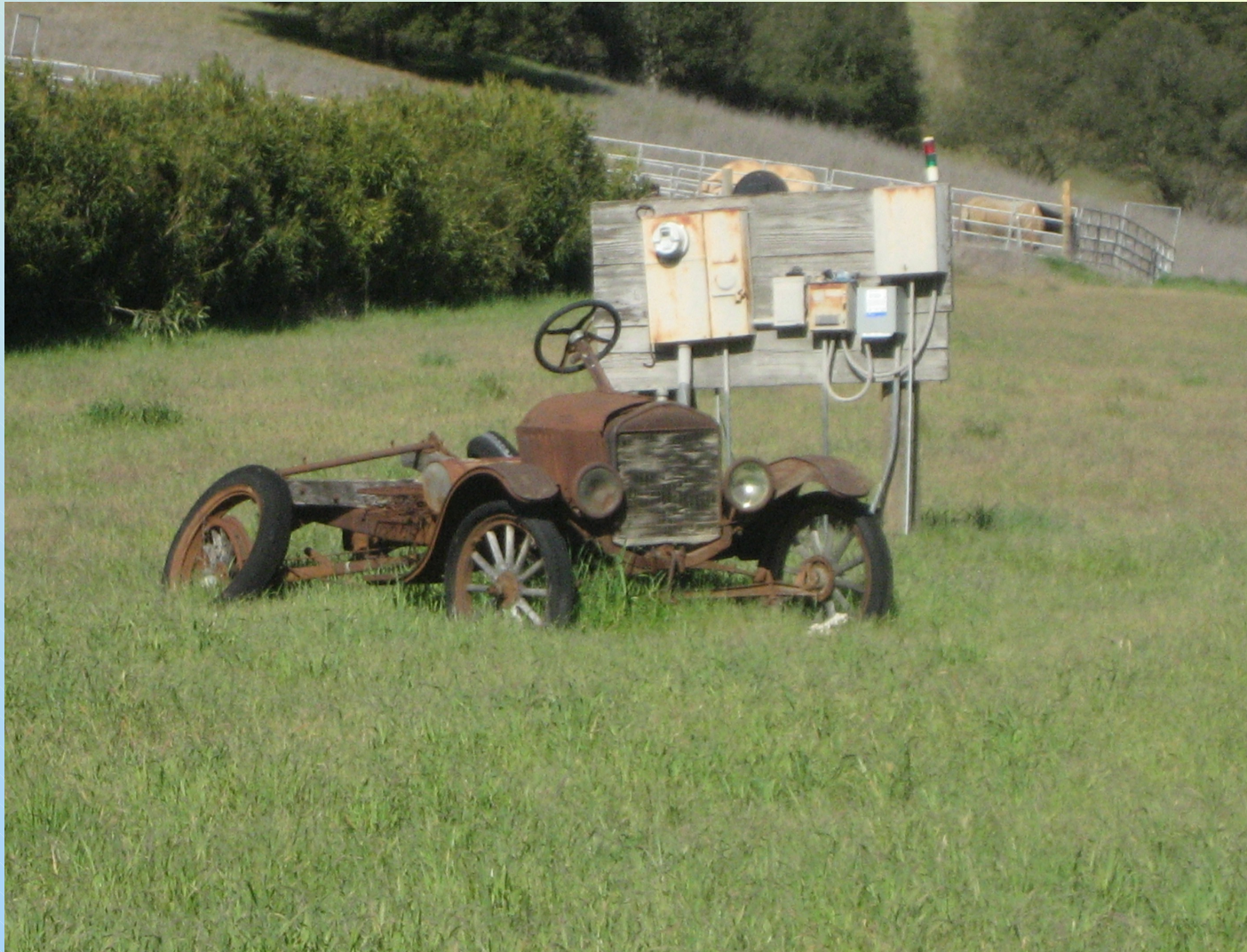
Take out distracting details.



Plein air version
9" x 12"



Studio version, 22" x 30"



Select an interesting subject, sketch, photograph.



Take it to your studio and make it interesting.



Focus!

SKETCH AND PAINT DURING TRAVEL.



The joy of painting while you travel.



"Hey, you're blocking my view!"

- Travel light
- Check airline restrictions
- Studio materials don't travel well
- Carry only what you need.
 - Sketch book
 - Compact paint set
 - One or two brushes
 - Inking device or palette knife
 - Digital camera (smart phone)
 - Protective hat and clothing

**PEN AND INK TECHNIQUE WITH WATERCOLOR WASH,
FAST AND EASY.**





Design your own color scheme; make it interesting.



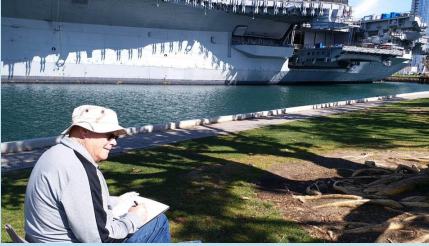


Waterproof ink with watercolor wash



Water soluble ink sketch with watercolor wash

TAKE SOMETHING BIG AND MAKE IT SMALL.



Detail a few objects, the rest are just shapes.

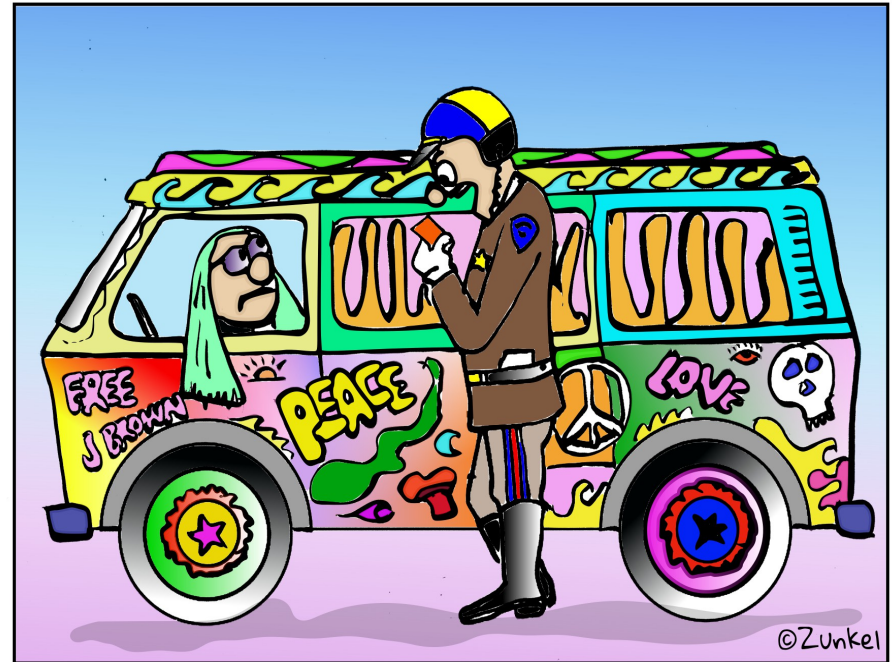


TAKE SOMETHING SMALL AND MAKE IT BIG.

TIPS FOR PLEIN AIR PAINTERS...

- You have an artistic license,,, use it freely.
- The view is just a guide. Paint what's interesting.
- You are in charge of the subject, not vice versa.
- Put some drama in your painting. People, clouds...
- Sketch less, paint more. Try "No Sketch" painting.

Plain Air



"Madam, this is an artistic license!"

DON'T BE SELF CONSCIOUS





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Rules for plein-air artists
Ignore onlookers and focus on painting!

People are
usually
interested in
your art and
supportive.

But there are
exceptions...



“Hey artist, paint my pitcher.”

YOU ARE AN ARTIST. GET OUT THERE AND PAINT!

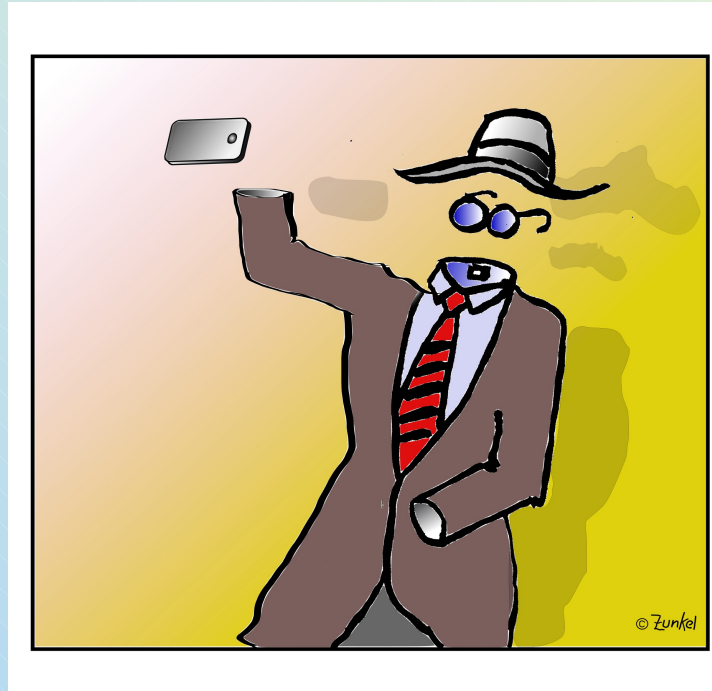


"I see by your clothing that you are an artist."

DON'T WORRY, THE ART FAIRY WILL COME IN THE NIGHT TO IMPROVE YOUR PAINTING!



THANK YOU FOR LOOKING!



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