

## How to Make a Series of Paintings

There are many ways to make a series of paintings. A series could consist of just a few paintings or an extended study of your subject for the rest of your life e.g John James Audubon, ornithologist and painter.

Here are some suggestions to get you started.

1. Choose one subject and crop it to make several different paintings, e.g a pueblo or birch forest.
2. Choose one subject, plan and explore how you could change the composition to fit different formats – square, horizontal and vertical.
3. Choose a format (square, vertical or horizontal) and then use this format to make a variety of paintings of the same subject, e.g, different lighthouses in a vertical format OR horizontal studies of different barns OR still life studies in a square format Archways, doors or windows with window boxes could also work as a series in this way.
4. Choose a size for your paintings and paint a selection of subjects in that size, e.g, ¼ sheet, miniatures, etc
5. Choose a color scheme that you like and use it to paint a variety of different subjects – effectively this works as a limited palette that you can use to change the original local color of the subjects.
6. Add the same element into each painting, e.g, still life studies with a few cherries in each one, or your favorite cup and saucer in each one – you can locate this repeated object anywhere (and any size) within the study each time.
7. Use a mirror – either behind or on the table below the set up – to paint a series of different still life objects.
8. Choose your favorite flowers and paint them as single studies in the same size on white paper – no background – or partially enclosed by a toned background box – as in the Calla lilies.
9. Use an under painting of light colors on your paper and then paint your subject on top of the colored background – in a similar way to the trees. Let the bears help you choose the colors from the color wheel.
10. Add pen lines to all of your paintings. For this, you might want to choose subjects that already have a linear quality – e.g old barns, buildings, street scenes, sports shoes etc.
11. Use the same watercolor technique in all of your paintings, e.g, painting wet-in-wet on soaking wet paper – as in the wave study.
12. Paint everything as a vignette and see how little paint you can add to the paper to make your subject recognizable and readable.