

COMPOSITION and PLANNING

THE FOCAL POINT

1. The Focal Point of any painting is generally the area that you would like to the viewer to see first.
2. It will often be where the lightest light and the darkest dark meet.
3. It is also the area of the painting that you can accentuate with the sharpest (found) edges
4. A good position for the focal point is around one of the sweet spots on the thirds division of the format.
5. Along with the focal point it is important to consider making two or three other visual 'stops' in different areas of the painting to lead the eye around the subject. You can make this happen this by using color, tone or edges in these places. Or by using shapes of elements within the chosen subject, e.g. fallen logs or fences that lead/direct the eye to a specific spot.
6. The Focal Point usually connects to the reason you wanted to paint the subject in the first place.
7. Suggestions for good focal points in landscapes could be buildings, trees, farm machinery, etc. These are all different elements in the landscape and therefore command more attention.
8. A figure in a landscape will likely be the focal point.
9. A face will always be the focal pointing a figurative image.
10. What are you going to use as the focal points in your chosen series?

Notes