



Landscape Painting Checklist

If you are ever stuck or feeling lost, run through this simple checklist to see if there is anything you have missed.

- What is your “big idea” for the painting? (Why do you want to paint this landscape?)
- Do you need any special brushes or colors to paint this landscape?
- What is the main light source? Where is it located?
- Are there any secondary light sources?
- What is the color temperature of the light?
- How strong is the light?
- What are the predominant colors?
- What is the most saturated color?
- What is the darkest dark?
- What is the lightest light?
- What is the value or notan structure?
- What areas can you simplify?
- What is your focal point?
- Where should you use thick paint? Where should you use thin paint?
- Can you visualize the painting process?
- Can you visualize the outcome?
- *(If painting from photos)* Do you have high-quality reference photos to paint from?
- *(If painting from life)* Do you have enough time to paint the landscape before conditions change?
- What techniques are you going to use?
- Will a palette knife be more suitable than a brush for any parts? (Palette knives can produce some fantastic and unique strokes that are not possible with a brush).
- How are you going to lead people into the painting and towards your focal point?
- Should I paint on a large or small canvas? (Complex scenes warrant painting on a larger canvas).