

# TOP TEN TIPS

## Painting from Photos

1. **PAINT like your EYE sees** - roughly 20% is in focus, the rest is slightly blurred. Paint like this. Keep the distant edges **soft** and save the hardest edges for the center of interest.



2. **CROP IN.** There's way too much information, concentrate on a smaller area- a **FOCAL POINT**. Make a strong simple statement from an image with a clear focal point. Tell the viewer where to look.



3. **WIDE ANGLE!** Watch those cell phone cameras. They tend to shoot wider with more **distortion** than what the eye sees.



4. **LIGHTS AND DARKS!** In most photos, the lights tend to flare out and the darks remove all the color. There's more color and light in the shadows. Add it back in.



5. **SQUINT!** Squint to eliminate detail, group and **simplify** the shapes. Try blurring your photo and paint that.



6. **CHECK VALUES!** Look for a strong dark light pattern in your photo. Try removing the color in a photos app. If it still holds together, it will make a stronger painting.



7. **PAINT FROM A MONITOR.** The color is truer than a printed image plus you can play with the settings to get more information from the photo as you paint.



8. **DROP THE PHOTO.** It's there for inspiration. Let it go mid-way through your painting. You're doing a Painting not **duplicating** a Photo.

9. **MAKE IT YOUR OWN.** Don't be afraid to use other elements from other photos to make a great composition. The photo is just there to get you started.



10. **USE YOUR OWN!** Do the right thing, use your own photos. Plus your own photos have already been pre-composed the way you like them. There are great royalty free sites - Unsplash, Shutterstock, Pexels.

