

Master Painters of the World United States Showcase

What Makes a Powerful Painting?



FLORIAN K LAWTON, Aurora, Ohio — Clearing Up, watercolor, 9 x 12" (23 x 31cm)

SENSATION

Winter is my favorite time of year. It always stimulates and recharges my creative focus, so I religiously plan outings to rural areas in winter, looking for a vista with immediate impact. Once I've painted numerous sketches and taken dozens of photos of my chosen subject, I return to my studio to plan. I've found that careful planning results in more accomplished paintings and enables me to capture the moment more accurately.

PROCESS

I began by drawing my subject on stretched, 300lb rough watercolor paper. Before picking up my brushes and paint, I carefully considered the mood and effect I wanted to achieve. Deciding a stormy sky should dominate the painting, I focused on this area first. I applied my colors to a dry surface, being conscious of values and softening edges as needed. Once I was satisfied with the sky, I built-up the rest of the image with more controlled layers of color, remaining conscious of the direction of the light.



Anthing can become great subject matter for an artist. But it's those subjects that we closely identify with that often result in the most memorable, intriguing paintings of all. In this showcase, you'll discover just how wide the range of inspiration can be. From an orchard in full bloom, a backyard bird, a close-up of fruit on a tree dedicated to a loved one, to an exotic location like China or a portrait of a Saharan nomad — every subject has potential if it's close to your heart. □