

Planning Your Painting...

Most of us painters can't wait to get past the planning stage of our paintings and begin throwing the paint around. I am a firm believer that in order to create a successful painting, a certain amount of planning needs to go into the preparation of it. Since my early paintings days, I have prepared my paper ahead of time by stretching it, (so it will lay flat when I paint) and then I complete my sketch on my paper. It is a very simple sketch. When sketching I try to see that which I want to paint in 3 values and 3 shapes. This helps me to keep it simple and not become detailed.

The thinking process then begins for me with such questions as, "What do I want this painting to say?" "What's the story I want to tell?" "Where is my light source?" By asking and answering these questions early on, I know where my values will be and often, even what colors I want to use. Then the rest is easy - I just start putting the paint on, instinctively using whatever it takes - whatever techniques I know - that will give my painting the look I want it to have.

When I am painting I don't want to have to think. I want to have fun painting! After all, "Isn't this what's it's all about?"