Objectives: Of all the subjects that artists deal with, landscape is probably the most popular and lucrative. Landscape paintings, however, make different demands upon an artist than still life subjects. If artists work plein air, they must either work very quickly due to the changing lighting conditions or they must be able to synthesize their experience into one unified composition. Also, organic subjects cannot be rendered in the same manner as vases and plastic subjects. For something to really seem organic, the technique must be loose and suggestive rather than heavily rendered and controlled.

Landscape painting is also a great way to learn about the relationship between mark making, color, and space. In really deep spaces there are exaggerated changes in color temperature and detail that can add new dimension, not only to landscape paintings, but to paintings of other subjects as well.

The following are the objectives for the assignment:

- Take digital photographs of a wide range of landscapes that are rich in color and high in contrast.
- Begin the painting with a loose, high-contrast, monochromatic block-in.
- Maintain a relatively loose, suggestive painting style throughout the painting process.
- Create a rich color/temperature range.
- Create believable, naturalistic colors.
- Address appropriate color complexity within the subjects.
- Carefully analyze and compare the values, colors, and edges in the landscape to those in the painting, adjusting the latter as needed.
- Accurately address variation in surface throughout the painting.
- Create a more believable sense of light and depth than in the studies through over-painting and glazing.
- Address reflected color in the subjects.
- Carefully analyze and compare your painting to examples provided in Lessons.
- Analyze value and color relationships by comparing them to adjacent values and colors.
- Develop colors on the ground plane and in the background to enhance the illusion of light and space.
- Create a well-unified, solid sense of light and form.
- Produce a highly polished, clear sense of light, form, and space.

Estimated time for the assignment: 25-35 hours

Medium: Full acrylic palette on a prepared masonite or MDF panel.

Size: 18” x 24” or 24” x 30”

Technique: Begin the painting with a loose, high contrast, monochromatic block-in of the landscape. Once a strong block-in has been established, begin addressing color variety within the landscape in terms of temperature and color intensity. Each successive layer of paint should
be thinner in consistency than the previous one and should address more specific information. Glazes should be reserved for the final layers in the painting.

**Design:** The painting should utilize an open composition and may be either horizontal or vertical in its orientation.

**Subjects:** You must use your own landscape photographs, not pictures from books or magazines, as the subject for this painting. Images may be pure landscapes or urban cityscapes.

![Additional instructions:](image1) Since we are working from photographic references, it is extremely important for the images to be rich in color, sharply focused, and high in contrast. It is usually best to photograph scenes either in the morning or in the evening so that the shadows are more defined.

![Additional instructions:](image2) It is also extremely important to remember that you must maintain an expressive style of mark making throughout the painting’s development. Too much control and attention to outlines will create a stylized, contrived version of the subject.