



SOME SERIOUS LOOKING

It's a beautiful passion but we can only expect to get back from our painting, what we put into it.!!

If we are half hearted about practicing and getting in lots of brush mileage, then we shouldn't be surprised when we fail. Again and again!

On the other hand, if you honestly can't find enough time to paint and you desperately want to be a painter, then you can be doing some 'serious looking' to store in your mind for when you DO have the time to paint.

Very often a 'painterly' subject is just outside your window. A burst of light on a flower or through leaves. Squint your eyes and see the very definite areas of tone where the highlight becomes mid tone and then becomes a dark tone.

Three very definite tones. Light, medium and dark. ON EVERYTHING OUT IN THE SUNLIGHT.

What we need to do is train the eye to see those three tones. (of course, in reality there might be 7 or 8 tones on an object out in the sunlight) but if we can find and paint just three, then we have a very good chance of painting sunshine.

Studying a pot plant in the sunlight can give almost as much information as driving miles to paint a fifty foot gum tree. Half close your eyes and see the areas of lightest light, the mid tone area and the dark areas. Be brutal. Break those tones down into broad masses. Don't be confused by all the little 'half tones' lurking in there. Learn to see everything in clean, broad masses of tone and colour.

So don't feel bad that you can't find enough time to paint. Keep storing up information by just LOOKING. When you CAN find time to paint, you will be able to 'see in your minds eye' those clean tonal changes that you have trained yourself to understand.

WE CAN ONLY LEARN TO PAINT WHAT WE SEE WHEN WE LEARN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE SEE.