



## **Picture This.**

I remember years ago, standing in the footprints of our tutor Allan Fizzell. We students figured if he had taken a photograph from that spot, then it was a good spot..! It was a damned good spot.

He would often be taking a photograph of a wide open vista. Distant hills shrouded in mist, some gum trees in the middle distance, a little farm house nestled beside a silver river.

Quite often, I would find myself looking the other way, drawn to a different subject. It might have been a little woolly corner of the landscape, simple and probably unexciting but I wanted to photograph it. But, of course, if our tutor wasn't photographing it.....then it wasn't worth photographing. And so, I wouldn't. Or, would, when no-one was looking.

Each painter is moved by different things. What is so exciting for one, leaves another cold. Let your subject matter choose you. You will feel it immediately if you love it and it will show in the painting. We all have very different preferences for subject matter. Some might need to hang precariously from a

mountain top to look down on a wide vista that stretches as far as the eye can see. Others paint happily looking up at the mountain while planted firmly on ground level.

Some look for the sunshine, others are searching for storm clouds, mist, fog, rain or the blanket of night to bathe their subject in.

There are painters who like to paint a cow as a cow looks, while others will change the colour and shape until only a faint resemblance of a cow remains.

Stretching, moulding, changing and creating.

**Picture this or picture that.....it is all art and it is all wonderful.**