

Summer 2015

Landscape Painting: A comprehensive study of en plein air and studio painting

Carly Brock
cabrock@pugetsound.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://soundideas.pugetsound.edu/summer_research



Part of the [Painting Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Brock, Carly, "Landscape Painting: A comprehensive study of en plein air and studio painting" (2015). *Summer Research*. Paper 234.
http://soundideas.pugetsound.edu/summer_research/234

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Sound Ideas. It has been accepted for inclusion in Summer Research by an authorized administrator of Sound Ideas. For more information, please contact soundideas@pugetsound.edu.

Landscape Painting: A comprehensive study of en-plein air and studio painting

Carly Brock

Landscape painting reflects humankind's perception of the world around it. During the 18th century, most landscapes were idealized scenes that enforced mankind's control over nature. It wasn't until the end of the 19th century that artists like Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot and JMW Turner began to stray from academic ideals and paint landscapes more subjectively. The individual experience with a landscape, including perspective, sensation, and personal context, influence the aesthetics of a painting. This summer, I was given the opportunity to further explore my own perception of landscape, while comparing the two methods of en plein air ("in the open air") and studio painting.

My research began at the end of a trip to Italy where I was able to see traditional 18th century landscape paintings and immerse myself in art history. My goal when I returned to Washington was to explore both plein air and in-studio methods and analyze how each experience influenced my painting process and the final product. The month of plein air painting taught me patience and discipline; weather, changing light, bodily necessities, etc. affect the painting experience. The results, however, are a spontaneous impression of the landscape that is captured in a short window of time. The skills needed for studio painting differ significantly from plein air painting. Working in a studio gave me the freedom to explore color and detail in a way that was less possible en plein air. Both methods enhanced my understanding of landscape painting by providing contrasting experiences that will help me further my intended career path and meaningfully contribute to the landscape painting genre.