



SWAN SONG SECRETS

Essential tips for UNIFIED, COMPELLING paintings

1. PLAN THE WASHES

- Create dominance and emphasis
- Create mood and atmosphere
- Create a PASSAGE OF LIGHT
- Set the stage for your SWEET SPOT*

2. INCLUDE VARIETY

- VALUES light • medium • dark
- EDGES hard • soft
- SHAPES large • medium • small
organic • geometric
- PLAY WITH POSITIVE VS. NEGATIVE

* Dramatic highlight
* darkest dark vs. lightest light
* figure - structure

3. LET THE WATER DO THE WORK

- Let colors mix on the paper
- create rich darks
- create passages of mingled colors

4. SIMPLIFY

- Think about what you can cut out and try it again

5. STOP BEFORE YOU'RE DONE