

Wet into Wet Skies

Firstly look for landscapes that are atmospheric in nature, without too much detail, mountains and moorlands would be ideal for this, or to the north of Telford is the Cheshire plain with interesting features like Lilleshall Hill. Skies set the scene or tone for a landscape. It can be restful or very dramatic.

Sketch-out a simple composition, remove the clutter. Look for a focal point in the landscape, like a building or silhouette. Decide whether to paint landscape or portrait

Skies

Three Quarters of your landscape could be the sky, so make sure that you take photos of various atmospheric effects. Try to show the lighting direction and intensity. Go for something a bit dramatic, with lights and darks, or interesting colours such as a sunset or sun rise!

Firstly decide on the type of sky you want to paint, look at the structure of the clouds and how they are affected by perspective.

Generally the further away the clouds the smaller they become

Look at the strata of the clouds, this is often horizontal in nature.

Next think of the colours you want to use. If you look at a sky you will notice a variation of warm and cool colours.

Often you may find that a pale yellow works well on the horizon or in the clouds for late afternoon

Remember to use some of the colours you have used in the sky in your landscape to create harmony in the painting.

Here are some colours to try in your skies

Blues: ultramarine blue, cobalt blue, Cerulem Blue and Manganese blue. Try out Prussian blue but beware as it is a stainer.

Reds: Alizarin Crimson, Rose madder, Quinacridone red,

Yellows: Lemon Yellow, Gamboge, Winsor lemon, Quinacridone Gold and Naples yellow

Practice wet into wet skies before you attempt painting a picture.

Attached are some skies with notes showing their structure, possible colours with simple compositions.