Episode 8 - Why Preparation Is Important

How much preparation do we need to do before painting?

Outdoor

1. Always look at the design first
2. Make sure if you are outdoors that you have all of your stuff before heading outside. Have a checklist in your pack.
3. Do a few thumbnails (small) before you start to simplify shapes and values.
4. Stand in an area where you know how the light travels.

Indoor

1. Spend time thinking about the shape that best fits your subject and how to best crop your subject to eliminate unnecessary details and shapes
2. Look at design - large mass, division of space
3. Do value studies to work out and simplify the values of large shapes.
4. If working larger than 12 x 16 paint a few small (5 x 7, 6 x 8) color studies. These are simple studies working only with large shapes, no detail
5. Use linseed oil to extend drying or liquid to shorten it.