

EASEL INSIGHT
PODCAST
“Easel Talk”
Show Notes



with
Gabor Svagrik & Phil Starke

When Should You Give Up On A Painting...Or Not?

- For beginners, take a painting as far as you can or get it blocked in, that's the most important part of the painting, and of your learning, the block-in. Trying to finish a painting where the block-in doesn't work will only develop bad habits.
- Make sure the composition works. Spending days on a painting that has a bad composition will lead to a bad painting.
- If I can decide that the composition is good and the values are good, then I can work out or change any color issues. I can always change color if the values work but if the values are wrong, messing with color won't help. It's a good idea to take a digital image of your painting, make a black and white image on the computer, and check the values.
- Step back and be critical about composition, value, color temperature and depth in the painting. Those areas are always where the problems are. If you're having trouble with color, 9 times out of 10 it's the value of the color, the color is just a choice, it's the value that makes it work.
- It helps to put a painting away for a few days, a week or a couple of months, when you can't figure out what's wrong.
- Working on several paintings at a time in the studio, helps to stay fresh with each painting.
- The minute your painting feels overworked, or you lose the values, put it away and come back to it later.
- Be careful not to throw a painting away too soon, put it away for awhile and look at it again.
- Remember, your paintings are practice and we learn more from the paintings that we struggle with and have to figure out what's wrong.