

The Composition Checklist:

Your thumbnail sketch or value study is a laboratory - a place for testing your theories about what will work in a composition. It's also the BEST time to make corrections or start over! **Before** moving on to your final painting, ask yourself:

- What is my focal point? Is it located at a “sweet spot?”
- Where is my strongest area of value contrast? Is it also my focal point, or is it detracting from it?
- Do I have an interesting variety of shapes in my negative space? Where am I cropping?
- Do I have any awkward intersections of objects (tangents), any objects touching the edge of the canvas, or lines exiting a corner?
- Do I have a variety of hard, soft, and lost edges? Where are my lost edges?

Once you have answered all these questions, you're ready to create a successful painting!