

## **PAINTING CHECKLIST**

*Questions to ask myself when evaluating my work:*

### **Composition**

- Do my eyes move around the composition?
- Look for Variety, contrast, color, shape, scale, detail
- Is it dualistic? Are you splitting the viewers focus?
- Equal amounts of contrast, color, shape, scale, & detail

### **Hierarchy**

- Did I establish a hierarchy of design?:
- Hierarchy of value (light or dark)
- Hierarchy of color
- Hierarchy of scale
- Hierarchy of subject
- Is there a hero?
- Is there too much variety? - Does the composition feel too busy? Frenetic?
- Is there enough variety? - Color, Shape, Spacing, Value, Scale?

### **Tonal Values**

- How have I grouped my values?
- Are the groups of light and dark values clearly defined?
- (can I define what is light and dark using a black and white design?)
- Is my painting too loud? (reduce the contrast)
- Is my painting too soft? (increase the contrast)
- Do the values demonstrate atmospheric perspective? (Relatively darker elements with more contrast in the foreground, lighter elements with less contrast in the background)
- Have I integrated the values in the playground in the final painting?

### **Color Choices**

- What color pallete did I opt for?
- Are all the primary colors represented? (green instead of blue? orange instead of red?)
- Does it contain warm and cool colors?
- Does it contain light and dark colors? (white works)

- Is there a dominant color temperature /color hero?
- Do the colors demonstrate atmospheric perspective (Relatively warmer elements with more saturation in the foreground, cooler elements with less saturation in the background)

### **Figures and forms**

- Does the painting contain figures or forms? (people, structures, trees, mountains)
- Have the rules of organic perspective been applied? (like shapes get smaller as they recede)
- Are the figures or forms hung or relating to the same horizon line?
- Have I checked for hierarchy and variety? (value, scale, spacing...)
- Can I group some of the figures into a larger value shape?

### **Light Source**

- Is there a light source in the painting?
- Does there need to be?
- Where is it coming from? (look for the angle of the shadows)

### **Narrative**

- Is my work part of a series?
- Does it explore a particular theme or concept? If so do the paintings visually relate to each other? (repetition of subject, color, size of panel, style of paint application)
- Is the narrative's intention obvious or subtle?
- Is the work open to interpretation?

### **Evaluation**

- Does it achieve the desired outcome?
- Has it remained true to the thumbnail design or original idea?
- Have I improved upon the original design?
- Have I learned something new through the process of painting it?
- What have I learned? (if nothing new has been learned, why?)
- Has it been critiqued by others? What have I learned from the critique? (A critique only reveals that something feels off, but it's up to me to decide how and what to resolve)
- Do I love it? Will I revisit it?
- Is it finished?