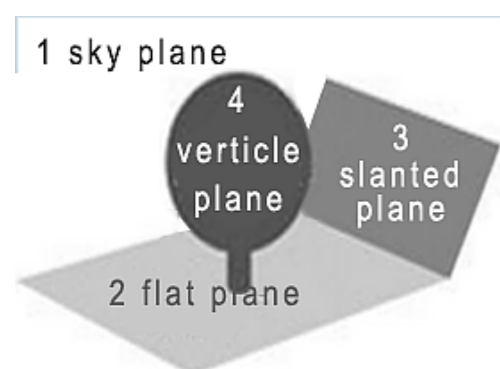


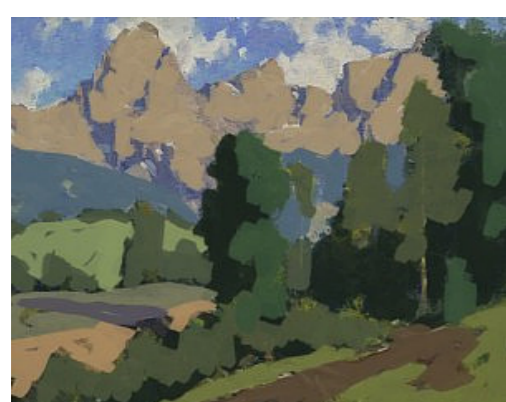
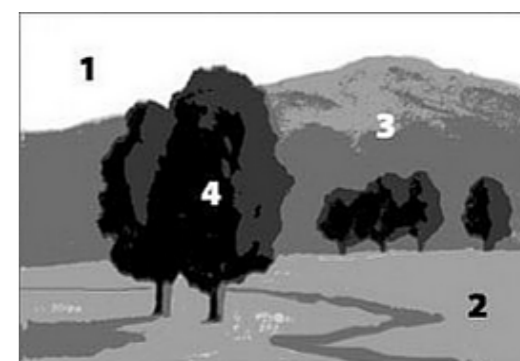
USE THIS CHECKLIST TO IMPROVE HOW YOU "SEE" PHOTO REFERENCES

When I'm working from photographs I want to remember to look for the areas in the photo that won't work in my painting. The list below contains common mistakes in photos that I have to be aware of so my paintings will look like a painting, not a photograph.



The Four Planes

Make sure there is a separation of values between the sky plane, the ground plane, the slanted plane and the vertical plane.



Simplify the Shapes

See through the clutter and detail to get simple shapes of objects, sometimes redesigning shapes that read better than the photo



Values

The camera will often focus on the light areas and as a result the darks become too dark, they lack any color, or it focuses on the shadows and the lights become too washed out, lacking any color.



Color Temperature

Photographs don't always show the warm and cool temperature contrast between sunlight and shadows



Photographic Color

The color in photographs can look dull and lack any life or punch to them. Mix colors that suggest the type of light you want to depict, don't just copy the photo



Composition

Spend time creating several thumbnail drawings where you are looking for a better composition, don't just take what the photograph gives you



Distance or Depth

Some photographs lack any depth, so don't hesitate to create lighter and cooler shapes in the background. You have to decide how much the distant objects recede.



Edges

The camera sees everything the same. Just as much detail in the background as the foreground and hard edges everywhere. As artists we want to create harder edges around the focal point and soften them as we move away from the focal point.

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