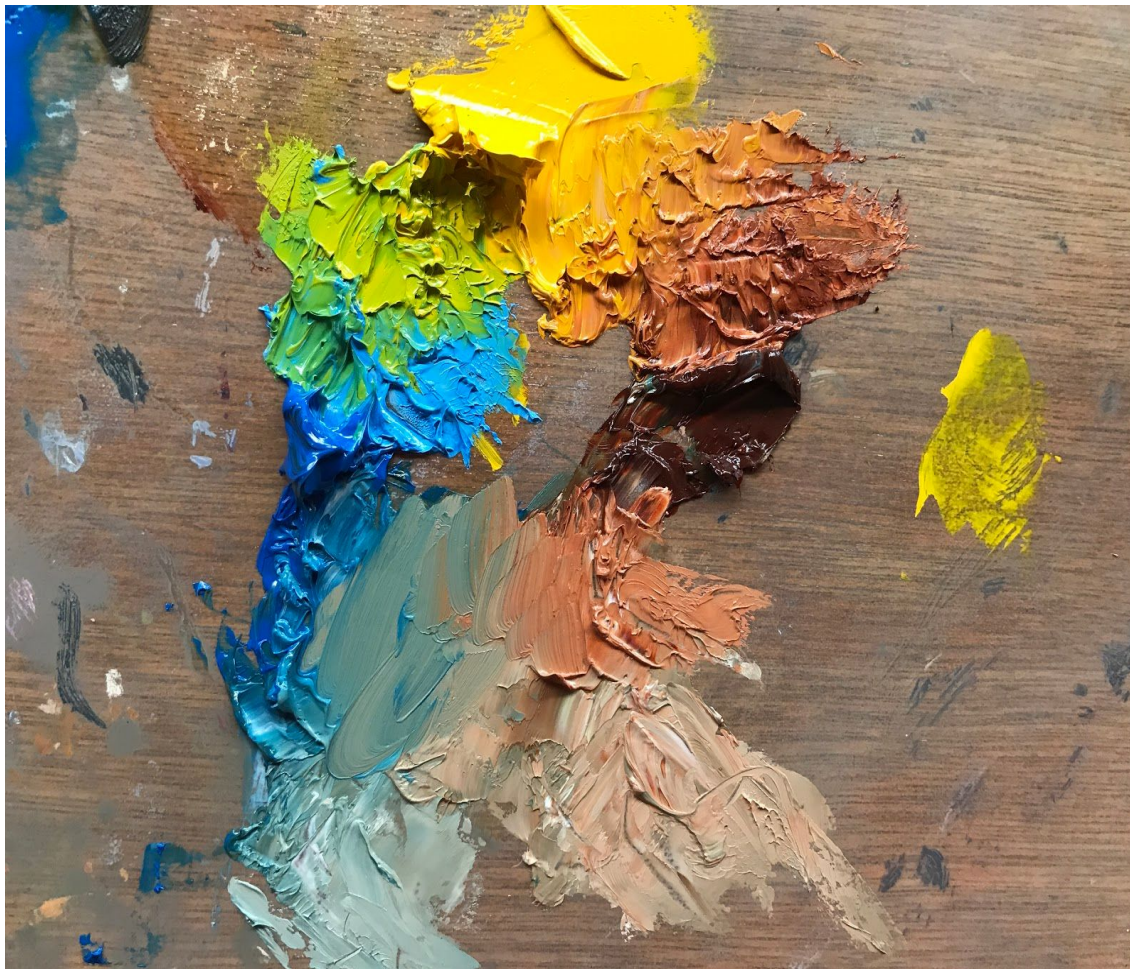


Benefits of a Limited Palette

There are many reasons to use a limited palette. One is to change up the color in the photo your painting from, another is to help you focus on brushwork and composition without being bothered with too many color choices. The two main reasons for me are to help me focus on the value changes, without color getting in the way and on color temperature, which, along with value is the key component to suggesting light.

In this painting I used a palette of cerulean blue, burnt sienna, cadmium yellow light and titanium white. I'm painting on a 6x8 piece of masonite that I coated with shellac (spray). The photo is from a painting trip to southern Utah, it's late afternoon with the setting sun hitting the cliffs against a stormy sky





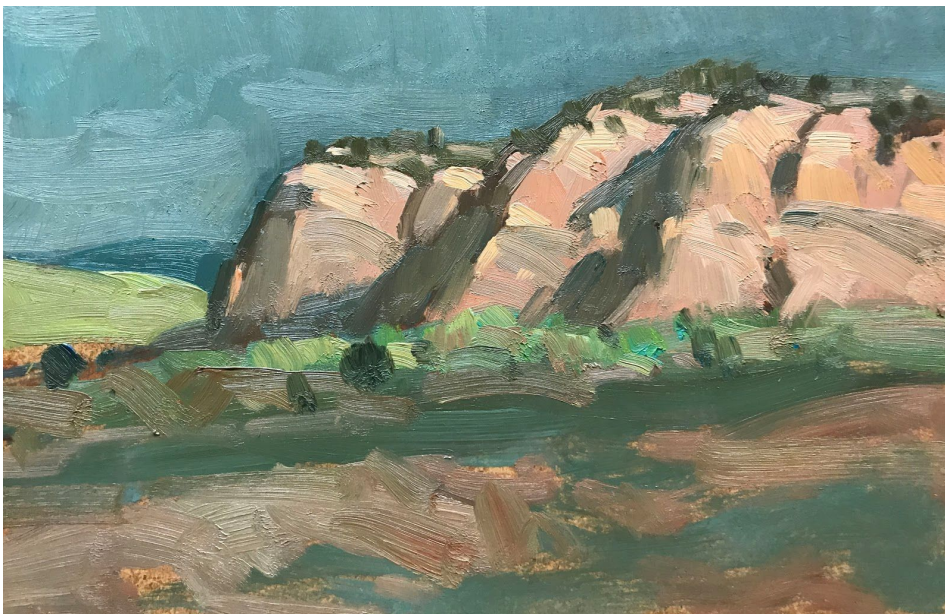
Above is the drawing, using a few lines to separate the 4 or 5 big shapes, keep this stage very simple, don't over draw.

The imaged below is the basic block in, I'm trying to keep the shapes big and simple, using extreme value changes not subtle changes. I'm thinking of dark and light value changes and the



temperature changes between the shadow and sunlight, with burnt sienna being the warmer and cerulean the cooler color.

Here I'm starting to break up the large dark and light shapes with subtle value changes but still keeping the sunlight and shadow separated. The problem we tend to make at this point is to get the shadows too light and light areas too dark with the subtle values. It's better to have less subtlety than to lose the contrast between the big dark and light shapes.



At the end of the painting I'm adding some details where I want to the viewer to look. Using the



dark bushes on the cliffs to create more contrast and the dark bushes in the foreground to pull the viewer's eye toward the cliffs. it's easy at this point to overwork the painting and add too much detail, decide on one or two places where you need detail to create interest then keep the rest of the painting simple, less is more.

Think of these as an exercise to focus on value and to learn from using certain colors that you wouldn't ordinarily use. Use them as color studies to learn from not finished paintings. Below are just a few of the limited color combinations you can use. The list is endless

1. Black, burnt sienna , yellow ochre
2. Ultramarine blue, cad red deep, yellow ochre
- 3 Ultramarine blue, indian red, cadmium yellow light
4. Black, alizarin crimson, cadmium yellow light
5. Ultramarine blue, burnt sienna, cadmium yellow light