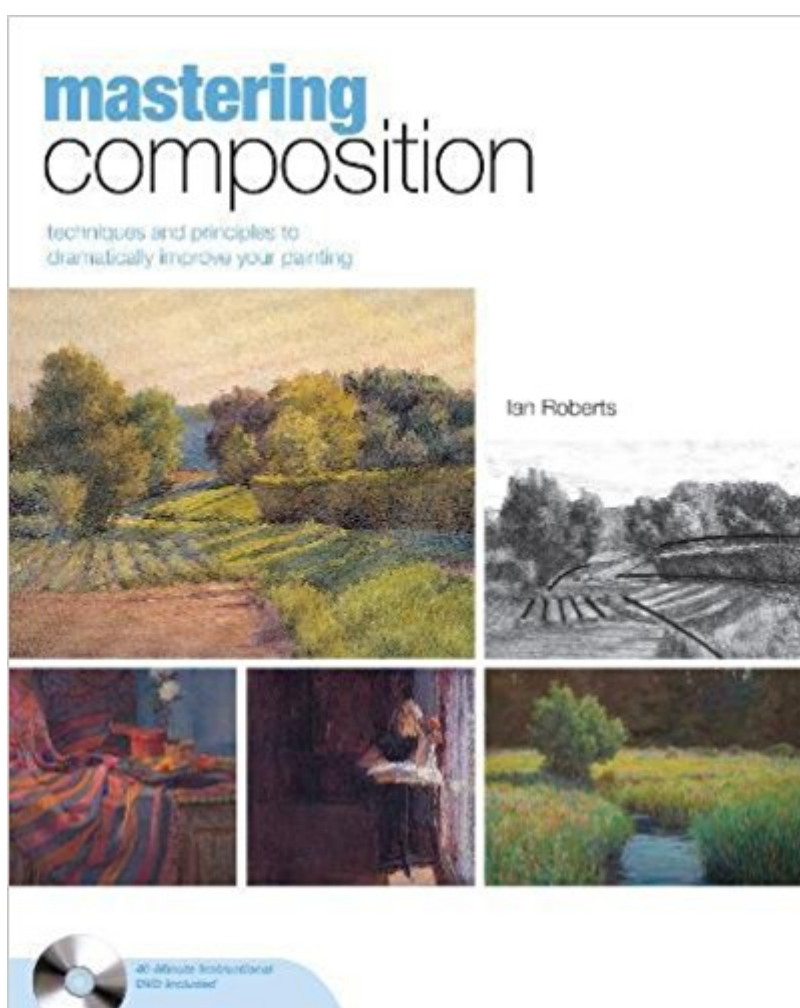


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# Mastering Composition: Techniques And Principles To Dramatically Improve Your Painting (Mastering (North Light Books))



## Synopsis

Create Better Compositions by Design The path to better painting begins with "Mastering Composition." This effective guide blends clear, visual instruction with 5 step-by-step demonstrations to show you how to plan and paint your best work yet. Composition is the key, and here you'll learn to design paintings with new skill and confidence. It all begins with the armature or structure of the picture plane. Every great painting has one, and you'll see through several famous examples exactly how the Old Masters used armatures to create movement, narrative, harmony and fluidity. Based on these examples, you'll practice what you've learned following a series of hands-on demonstrations. Once you understand the basic principles of design, you'll be amazed at how quickly and effectively your compositions come together. Soon you will be painting more boldly and confidently than ever before with less reworking and overworking. Whether you're a beginner looking for basic instruction or a more advanced painter troubleshooting a specific problem, the proven methods in this book will work for you. Ideal for all mediums, "Mastering Composition" gives you the knowledge you need to create powerful paintings out of every subject.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ian Roberts has been painting for over 40 years. His father was a painter and Ian accompanied him on painting trips from the time he was ten. He attended the New School of Art and the Ontario College of Art in Toronto. He studied figure painting in Florence, Italy. He has taught plein air painting in Provence, France and Tuscany, Italy, as well as in the U.S. through his school Atelier Saint-Luc, named after the patron saint of painters. Ian shows in the U.S. and Canada, is an artist

member of the California Art Club and a signature member of the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association. He is the author of the book Creative Authenticity and created two videos, "Mastering Composition" and "Plein Air Painting". He is a popular workshop instructor specializing in composition. He lives on Georgian Bay in Ontario Canada.

I love this book and have ordered copies for other artist friends. It comes with a DVD which my painting group viewed and discussed as we watched it. I have referred to it many times while working on a landscape. It is insightful and practical. I also love Mr. Roberts painting style, so that has obviously affected my opinion of his book, but the comments throughout on composition hold true in any style. I have struggled as an artist with composing rather than just copying a scene before me. His suggestions and instructions made sense to me.

This is one of those very rare books that we're always searching for - it lives up to, and exceeds, expectations. No need to rehash the praises here in the reviews except to say that this is most definitely a worthwhile addition to your art library. It's telling that most of the 'negative' reviews here address problems with delivery or purchases from used booksellers rather than the actual content!!Composition is so very important to what we do as representational artists, and this book is a solid foundation in that art within an art ~ and then some. Buy with confidence.

Many of us without a fine arts background struggle with composition .Ian's book and video are the clearest descriptions of issues involving that. It is also a great review for those of us who have taken classes to learn these elements.This info will assist you towards a good, well thought out painting . I am a pastel and acrylic artist, this book is applicable to any medium as the principles are the same.The book is beautifully illustrated and well organized. The video is well done and focuses on improving a painting helping you bring attention towards your center of interest with before and after corrections of color and shape.I am so glad I purchased this book I have read it from cover to cover and will use as a reference often.My opinion only ,it is one of the best books on color and composition I've read .

I believe this is a must have book if your goal is to improve your art skills. If you are looking for information on taking your art to the next level (assuming your beginner to intermediate) this book will help. I've been painting for years and staled out. I have good painterly skills but didn't know what to do with them. I took a class but the instructor wasn't very helpful. So I decided to try to self teach,

again and once again books don't disappoint! Mr. Roberts starts with explaining about armatures and moves the student from there into how people look at paintings and what works. I could go on but take a peak at the book yourself.

This book is written for painters, but it is also valuable for more advanced photographers who might shoot a beautiful object according to the "rule of thirds" and wonder why the resulting image is boring or cliched. Roberts provides practical tips on how to COMPOSE your image (set up your still life, frame your landscape shot) so that the background, foreground, object and lighting combine to create an image-as-a-whole that is striking. Don't expect simple formulae - you will have work hard to convert Roberts' comments for painters into insights for photographers - but learning to see (i) framing + (ii) armature + (iii) value masses will make a dramatic difference to your images. Not much content in the last 18 pages - the "gallery of greats" and "expressing your artistic voice" - but well worth it for the other 120-odd pages.

I learned from this book, even though I'm in my 70's, majored in art at a major university, have been painting all my life and still haven't figured it all out. This book helped me to see that composition isn't all about placement - color and value also help the eye move around the picture.

I'm a photographer not a painter. This is fortunate for canvasses, paints, and brushes which would suffer greatly from my abuse. That said, the end results, whether a photograph or a painting, are the same. Ian Roberts' book is the best I've seen on building a great two dimensional work. Armature or principal lines, supporting lines, value and color masses, composition basics, sketches and their importance are all covered in a clear understandable manner. And his chapter and supporting video on Guiding the Eye Through the Picture Plane, where slight variations in contrast can make or destroy a picture, is a God-send to those wanting their work to succeed. Thank you Ian Roberts for writing this book.

Do any 2,3,4,5 things that Ian Roberts tells you in his book and you'll be greatly surprised by the improvement in your work. I did. Although I had regressed to my old habits of being "faithful to the scene" I woke up this week and returned to just one of his early tips (find strong abstract shapes) to see an immediate improvement in my plein air painting, where you're surrounded by 360 degrees of subject and you hone in on seven or so degrees, still doing the scene justice. Ammaaazzzinggg doll! There are many self-help books out there but the Roberts one is the most crunchy-get-to-it one

I've seen. I love Edgar Payne (Composition of Outdoor Painting) and John Carlson's Guide to Outdoor Painting - they're both excellent but if you don't want to spend time reading and reading and reading and you want some direct improvement to your work NOW, get Roberts. I'm going back to his precepts and will internalize more of his teachings to make them my own so that I too can own the podium. Lookout world, I'm back. I surprised myself thanks to Ian.

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