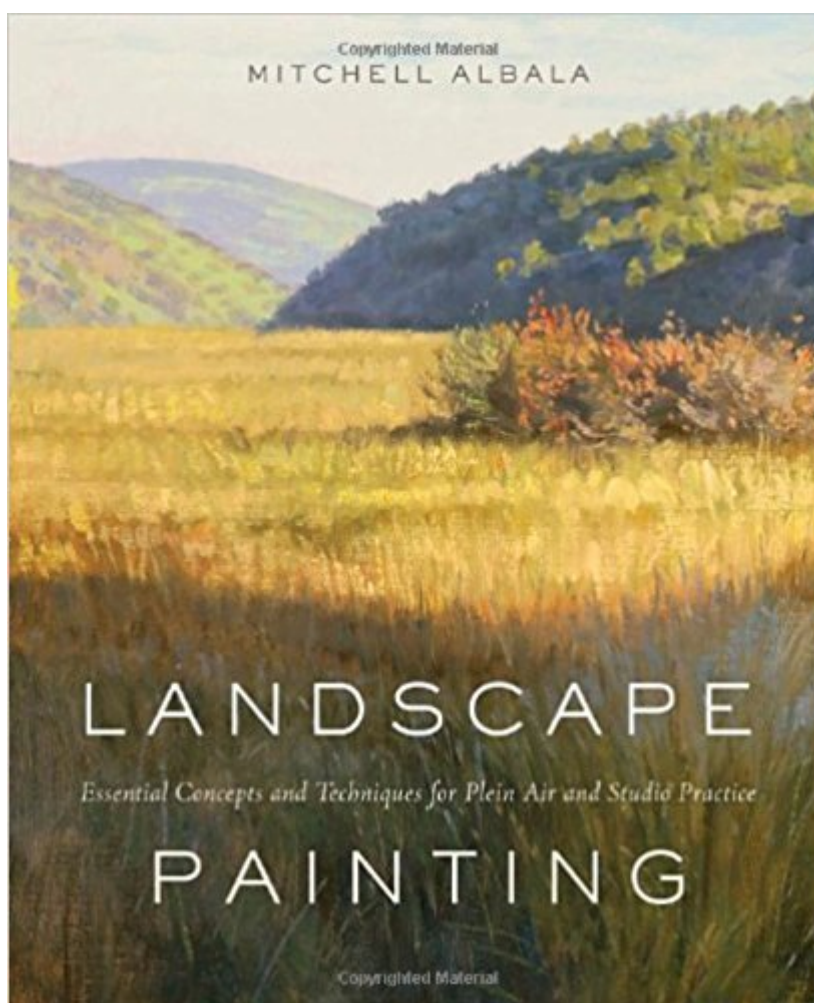


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# Landscape Painting: Essential Concepts And Techniques For Plein Air And Studio Practice



## Synopsis

Because nature is so expansive and complex, so varied in its range of light, landscape painters often have to look further and more deeply to find form and structure, value patterns, and an organized arrangement of shapes. In *Landscape Painting*, Mitchell Albala shares his concepts and practices for translating nature's grandeur, complexity, and color dynamics into convincing representations of space and light. Concise, practical, and inspirational, *Landscape Painting* focuses on the greatest challenges for the landscape artist, such as:

- **Simplification and Massing:** Learn to reduce nature's complexity by looking beneath the surface of a subject to discover the form's basic masses and shapes.
- **Color and Light:** Explore color theory as it specifically applies to the landscape, and learn the various strategies painters use to capture the illusion of natural light.
- **Selection and Composition:** Learn to select wisely from nature's vast panorama. Albala shows you the essential cues to look for and how to find the most promising subject from a world of possibilities.

The lessons in *Landscape Painting* are based on observation rather than imitation and applicable to both plein air and studio practice. They are accompanied by painting examples, demonstrations, photographs, and diagrams. Illustrations draw from the work of more than 40 contemporary artists and such masters of landscape painting as John Constable, Sanford Gifford, and Claude Monet. Based on Albala's 25 years of experience and the proven methods taught at his successful plein air workshops, this in-depth guide to all aspects of landscape painting is a must-have for anyone getting started in the genre, as well as more experienced practitioners who want to hone their skills or learn new perspectives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

MITCHELL ALBALA teaches landscape painting at the Gage Academy of Art in Seattle. A respected and dedicated teaching artist for more than 20 years, he is best known for his atmospheric and semiabstract landscapes of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. He has lectured on impressionism at the Seattle Art Museum, has written about landscape painting for American Artist magazine, and hosts an educational website at [mitchellalbala.com](http://mitchellalbala.com). He has exhibited nationally and is represented by the Lisa Harris Gallery in Seattle

An excellent instruction book that covers all the basics, as well as discussing more advanced painting techniques in later chapters. From the start the author acknowledges that there is more than one way to make a successful painting, unlike many art books which use a "my-way-or-the-highway" approach to art instruction. The book also provides the best explanation I have read on how different artists approach color and the many different strategies employed to use color to create the desired effect. Using artwork examples by many different artists to highlight the concept or technique being discussed is much better than if the author had tried to "fit" something of his own or created something simply to illustrate the point being made. Excellent quotes from many artists and creative thinkers, as well as the author's insightful margin notes, are helpful and inspiring. The chapter on working with photographs and using digital effects as a tool for creating better paintings is refreshing. However, the book also acknowledges that photos and the computer are not replacements for painting outdoors, directly from nature, but provide a way to learn and grow as an artist using the tools currently available. The chapter on abstracting nature will be helpful to anyone who has yet to try pushing their paintings in this direction. One thing that would have made the book even better would have been to include more painting exercises, like the three on massing. However, this is a minor point. There is enough information for painters at any skill level, beginner to advanced, to study and then try out on their own.

I purchased Landscape Painting by Albala in December 2015 and have been studying it for about a week. This has been far and away the most helpful, most organized, most articulate approach to becoming a more skilled landscape painter that I have ever read - and I've read 6 painting books

just in the last year. I highly recommend it, even for artists who don't necessarily paint landscapes, and whether you are just getting under way or have been painting for a long time. Finally, here is someone who can actually convey the concepts clearly and help you organize your approach to a new work (and your materials). Thank you, Mr. Albala. Just what I have been looking for.

I am a professional artist, specializing mostly in oils. I am always looking for information to enhance my knowledge of the medium, but I also love finding inspiration in other artists and works. Albala definitely put together a gem in this instructional book. Not only is he a fantastic artist himself and shows step-by-step instructions and explanations to his process, but he showcases dozens of other experienced artists and their processes. I actually saw this book first at Blick Art, was intrigued by it and bought it on since it was much cheaper. I highly recommend this book for every artist, beginner to advanced. It is a wealth of knowledge as well as a beautiful collection of artworks.

[cbstewart.myshopify.com](http://cbstewart.myshopify.com)

This book is extremely helpful to the student of landscape painting although not a replacement for having a good teacher. It presented practical issues such as how to prepare for plein air painting as well as dealing with the simplification necessary to achieve a pleasing result. It could also be a good review for the experienced painter and encourages trying new ways to solve problems. The section on digital photography was an interesting one and I was glad the author does not advocate painting from photos but has found ways to use photography to enhance the landscape painting experience and to define values rather than for slavish copying. The illustrations alone make this book worth buying. Each one beautifully illustrates a point made in the text but they are all lovely and inspires one to go out and paint.

Painter/educator Mitch Albala has put together a terrific book for the landscape painter which is destined to become a standard in the field. As an amateur painter, I am in constant struggle on how to organize, simplify and avoid literal representation. Albala addresses all of this head on in a way that I can connect with. Somehow, he just does it better than others who have published similar books. Every chapter of the book has been useful in some way to me. The book has a lot to say to anyone trying to move away from strict representation and toward looser, more open painting. It includes a great chapter on abstracting nature which has been particularly useful to me. And Albala's several sections on color are also insightful, clearly presented and valuable. Finally, Albala has included in his book not only a number of his own landscape/skyscape/waterscape paintings as

illustrations, but has put in even more paintings by other, mostly contemporary, painters that serve as wonderful examples of the techniques and concepts that he's writing about. Generously, he has included web contacts for all of these artists among the book's several indexes. Great book that will get a lot of use from this reader.

This book rocks!! From plein air to studio you will learn fantastic tidbits of information that he just throws in. I was amazed at what I learned even though I've been painting a long time

This book is beautifully written, organized and printed. It is a pleasure to read even if you aren't a painter but merely someone wanting to know more about landscape painting. Mitch Albala has reduced the art of landscape composition and painting to their very essence. The writing is pristine, the illustrations and instruction are very clear. The large number of contemporary landscape painters used throughout the book as illustration introduce the reader to many contemporary landscape painters. I highly recommend this book.

Love it, great resource for the beginner. I believe this book may help the more advanced painters as well.

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