

# Don't Panic!

How to alter your photos with confidence  
and make it your own interpretation

November 13, 2021

## Photo Reference



Flipped image

Sometimes I flip an image to see if I can get a more pleasing composition. Take a look at the original photo to the right. I felt flipping it creating more interest for the viewer.





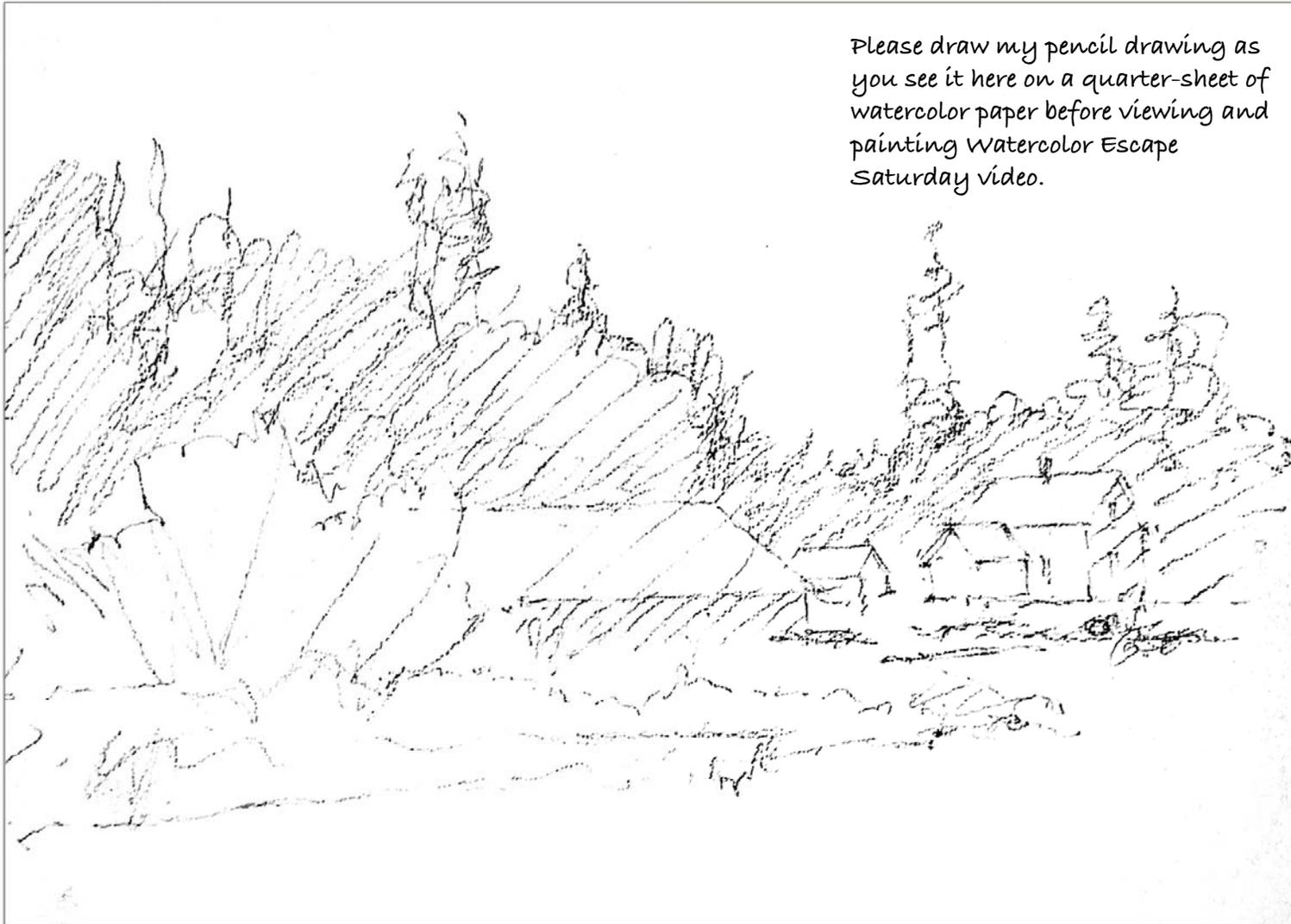
# Don't Panic!

How to alter your photos with confidence  
and make it your own interpretation

November 13, 2021



## Sketch on the Watercolor Paper



## Don't Panic!

How to alter your photos with confidence  
and make it your own interpretation

November 13, 2021

October 16, 2021

## Value Study

### VALUES

I found an app to help you understand values called Notanizer.



Sometimes a scene can be so colorful with textures you lose sight of value. Well, this app will help you see and understand values better. Whether you are in the studio or out doing a day of plein air painting. Easy to use on the fly, sitting at the doctor's office, or at your drawing table. I like it because it gives you flexibility allowing you to save your options in your camera roll. The app costs \$1.99.

Here's a video link by *Inspired To Paint*. They share a simple way to use this great app. <http://bit.ly/popovich-Notanizer>

Any artist will benefit from seeing their work in a different light. Notanizer is that light.

The app is available for iOS and Android operating systems.

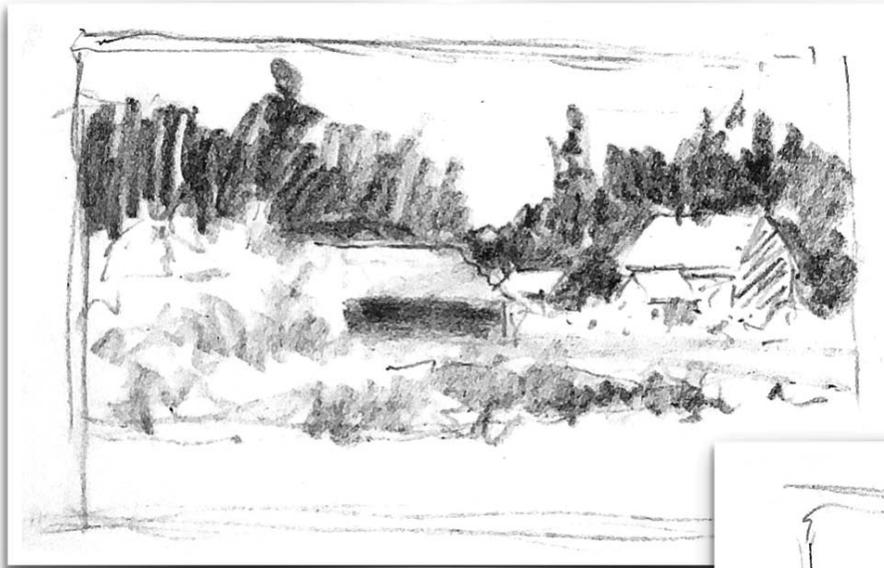


# Don't Panic!

How to alter your photos with confidence  
and make it your own interpretation

November 13, 2021

## Sketches



Brought the house forward, made the buildings bigger, altered the background tree masses, and emphasized the grasses in background. I will be using this sketch for the demo.



I pushed the buildings back further and played with the tree masses in the background.



# Don't Panic!

How to alter your photos with confidence  
and make it your own interpretation

November 13, 2021

## Materials

Here are the paints, paper, and brushes I am going to use in this watercolor paint-along demonstration. For your convenience, I have linked them to Amazon, DickBlicks, and Cheap Joe's. You can find more in-depth information on my tried and true art supplies along with direct links to products at my website.

## Supplies

- 300 lb Indigo cold press watercolor paper
- Medium or Hard Toothbrush
- Natural Sponge
- Toweling Paper

## Paints (tube paints only)

Please Note: I used QoR Modern Watercolors for all of the below color swatches. I also recommend these brands: Holbein, Winsor & Newton Professional (NOT Cotman), Blick Artists' Watercolors, or Royal Talens: Van Gogh, or Rembrandt.



Sap Green



Ultramarine Blue



Burnt Sienna or  
Trans. Brown Oxide



Cobalt Blue



Raw Sienna

**Note about copyright:** You have permission to use and paint with these reference materials, videos, and tools. But you don't have permission to use this as a teaching tool to instruct others – paid or free. Materials are not for resell. All content is copyright protected and may not be used for any purpose without the written consent of Dale L Popovich. If you would like to use the content for commercial purposes, whether for print, education, or on the web, please contact PopovichDale@gmail.com. Your finished painting cannot be used in an art competition or show. This is solely used as a learning tool. **AFFILIATE DISCLOSURES** - Amazon: As an Amazon Associate, I earn from qualifying purchases.



## Key Learnings

### Subject

This particular scene is from just south of Eagle River, Wisconsin taken last year around Thanksgiving week. The dark blue sky in the distance was a small snowstorm but we were in late afternoon sunshine. It was starting to set in the west illuminating the trees and the buildings.

I did two pencil studies for this particular scene (see page 4):

- One was pushing the buildings back a little further
- The second one brought them forward a little bit more and I played with the tree masses in the background.

Actually, the original photo was flipped on my iPad. Why? I wanted to see how the composition would weigh in masses. The buildings were originally on the left side and not the right. Sometimes I do this just to see what it may look like it and whether it is usable or not.

### What You Will Walk Away With

1. Understanding how to recompose your subject matter.
2. Get a grasp of handling the background in a very abstract way to describe the mass of trees.
3. Don't over mix—instead, let the paints blend on the paper and work their magic. This teaches you patience.
4. Understand the timing in applying the watercolor.
5. Learn the dynamic color range you can achieve with a 5-color palette.

*"You are painting a painting not the photograph."*

—Dale L Popovich IWS  
American Watercolor Artist