

**Recipe for an Abstract Close-Up,
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Painting #1. Source Painting

1. Paint a painting,
 Something you like, something that speaks to you.
 Paint outside, use a photo, still life etc.
 Check the assessment questions* to critique your painting.
 This will be the 'source' of your close-up abstract.
 Let it marinate, go back and see what it says to you.

2. Photo your *source* painting

3. Crop, adjust geometry, lens aberrations, color, exposure, etc.

4. Hang on to your pastels, this is the beauty of pastels, you can save your palette.

Painting #2 Close-up Find the Jewels!

1. Decide your preferred aspect

2. Use the crop tool on your photo editing software or your phone and look for a place on your *source* painting that answers your questions, apply everything you know, as many of those elements that you know make a good painting.
 Assess: SHAPE/VALUE/EDGES/COLOR/PURPOSE
 What do you like?
 Try more than one option
 Use overlay tool, golden spiral, triangle etc. to see where the focal point might be.

3. Crop your *jewel* image from your source painting and save it

4. Open up Notanizer App use your cropped *jewel* image to check your composition based on the Notan. Do you like your image in just black and white? Does the composition work?

5. Save Notan image and print if you find that useful

6. Prepare your preferred surface and map out your painting based on your Notan

7. This is the hardest part!!!!

Go for it. Work to capture the feeling and meaning of your *source* painting in your *jewel* close-up

Additional assessment questions for abstract

- Shapes not things
- Shapes simple and strong
- Each shape different but in tune with each other
- Widen the value range but not the number of values
- Focal area
- Flow of light and dark
- Variety of edges
- Texture

Books

The Landscape Painters Workbook, Michael Albala

The Practice and Science of Drawing, Harold Speed

Abstract Painting for Today's Contemporary Artist, Kate Ashton

Creative Illustration, Andrew Loomis

Composition of Outdoor Painting, Edger Payne

Composition, an Understanding of Notan, Line, Color,

Arthur Wesley Dow

Carlson's Guide to Landscape Painting, John Carlson

Self Critique Questions for Source or Jewel Painting:

What problem are you trying to solve?

What is your favorite part of the painting? Why?

What is the controlling idea that helped you make decisions?

When I try it again what will I do differently?

Is my painting describing something new or unexpected?

Is my painting telling a story?

Is there a dominant element, is there support for it?

Is there eye movement?

Is there variability in all the elements?

Did you bring promising elements to completion?

Are you being fearless?