

“For a painting to be successful you must put a part of your soul into it.”

—SUSAN M. STULLER



But Is It Art | Susan M. Stuller
21" x 29" (53cm x 74cm)
Transparent watercolor on 300-lb. (640gsm) cold-pressed paper

Large Values Must Be Correct Before Detail

On a recent trip to London, my husband and I were out exploring when we stumbled upon this skateboard park by the Thames. The light was so poor—all gray and muted—but the scene begged to be painted, and I took several quick photos. I worked up several sketches upon my return, eliminating the skateboarders and adding the three figures, thus creating the “gallery” mood. Value and color were built up gradually as all of the large areas needed to have their values correct before the graffiti detail was painted. The light beam and foreground was a moment of divine inspiration that pulled the painting together in the end.

Burrard St. Vancouver, BC | Ron Stocke
21" x 14" (53cm x 36cm)
Watercolor on 140-lb. (300gsm) cold-pressed paper

Shadows Pull You Into the Painting

This painting was done on a trip to Vancouver, Canada. Vancouver is all about the light here, and it was one of those great warm days in late fall. With a limited palette of Cobalt Blue and a yellow-orange, I kept the distant building simple and cool in temperature so it wouldn't compete with the light breaking through the trees on the right. These I handled with a combination of wet and dry brushstrokes making this area of the painting more dimensional. The shadows bring the viewer's eye into the composition and add mystery and lost areas to the painting.