

Hi there,

Thank you so much for attending last night's live demo on painting dunes. Here you'll find the final painting image, along with a few notes on what I did to finish up. In addition, I've included my thumbnail and reference photo, and my palette—both right after painting, and after cleaning my pastels, before replacing them in their trays. I hope this demo expands your sense of possibilities for painting dunes and inspires you to find some great dunes to paint this summer!

Also if you enjoyed this one, please join me for my NEXT DEMO: Painting TREES, Sept 10 6-8pm.

See more info below!

Time for a Walk, 12x16.



### Finishing up:

The finishing stages of a painting are generally about refining and redefining the focus and the visual impact I want the painting to have. After letting the painting sit for a bit I determined the most important idea I want to get across is the vivid warm/cool contrast along the sun/shade line, and the way that line works to draw us in deeply to this scene. The foreground necessarily needs to stay soft, quiet and neutral while still having subtle plane shifts, and the detail and contrast (rather unusually) needed to be heightened here and there along the sunny edge all the way back. Unusual, because usually a focal area is not in the distance—but the composition here works to pull us way back to the light at the bend.

To accomplish these goals, in the foreground I layered a warmer pink-purple in a similar value to unify much of the sand, and added an even warmer orangey neutral over the planes which tilt up toward the setting sun. **Special sunset/dawn sky tip:** It's really key to keep the sky tones in mind in a dune painting as sky colors bounce everywhere off the

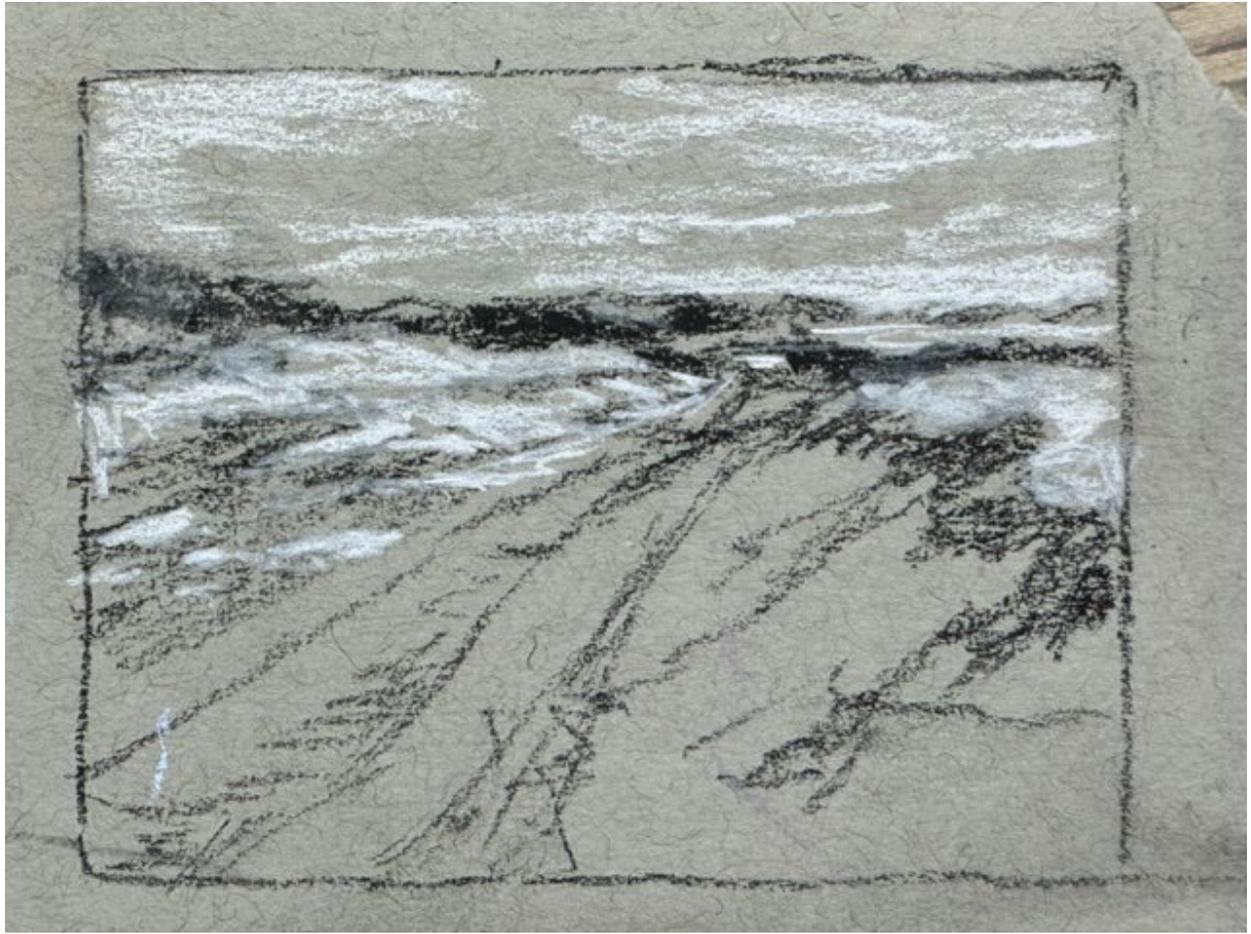
sand's reflective surface. At sunrise and sunset, that means there will be more pinks and/or oranges cast over the whole scene—sometimes these are hard to see as our brain filters them out, so keep checking back from a distance. Along the sunlit edge, I did three things. 1. I warmed the sand hit by light with a more yellow/orange light tone, to increase the contrast with the shadow and to 'turn up' the sunlight and increase the impact. 2. I added actual orange along the edges here and there—see the bend in the distance. 3. With a warm brown nupastel I added a few strokes along the grass line in the sunlit dunes. It may seem counterintuitive but these added darks helped the lights to sing. By the way, I didn't really do much of anything to the sky. I decided the loosely painted sky worked well—it provides enough action while keeping the focus on the land. I think if I had continued to refine the sky, it would have taken away from the focus and made the painting a little visually overwhelming, so decided to keep it loose.

Palette at the end of the night



Palette, reorganized to put back into trays







And coming up next:

**September 10 LIVE DEMO: Trees**

To paint trees convincingly we need lots of great strategies. In this live demo Jeanne covers several different approaches to enlivening your trees, giving them movement, air, space, and shape without overdescribing every leaf.



I plan to do a scene with some fall color... to get us prepped for the fall season!

Jeanne