

Thanks so much for attending Looking Up! Light and Perspective in the Sky on Wednesday evening.

Below is the final version of the painting, my thumbnail sketch, my palette, and the original reference photo.

Final steps to completion:

Most of my time was spent modeling the clouds, choosing a few areas to soften and blend, adding a little body to the 'bellies' of some of the larger cloud formations, and defining the light patterns with yellow and white. It is a continual give and take process in the sky, putting in lights, observing, and sometimes adding a little sky color, or using a dry brush to adjust the negative space between the clouds.

Since my main goal for this piece was to get a sense of light and expansion in the sky and make you want to look up, I worked to make the most intense color and contrast in the center area of the sky and then draw the eye up and out with softer whites. Having a visual idea or a goal in mind for the impression you are aiming for helps with decision making as far as edges and contrasts are concerned.

For the coastline, I nudged the wave lines a bit to create a bit more diagonal movement, as I felt the horizontal lines in the reference were too static. I also added the hint of a reflection of the light on the low clouds on the right, in the wet sand. I knew they were just outside the cropped area of the photo so I brought them in to add interest (one reason working from your own photos is the best choice!)

Thanks again, and please join me next time, for Still Water: Pond Reflections on June 11!









Jeanne