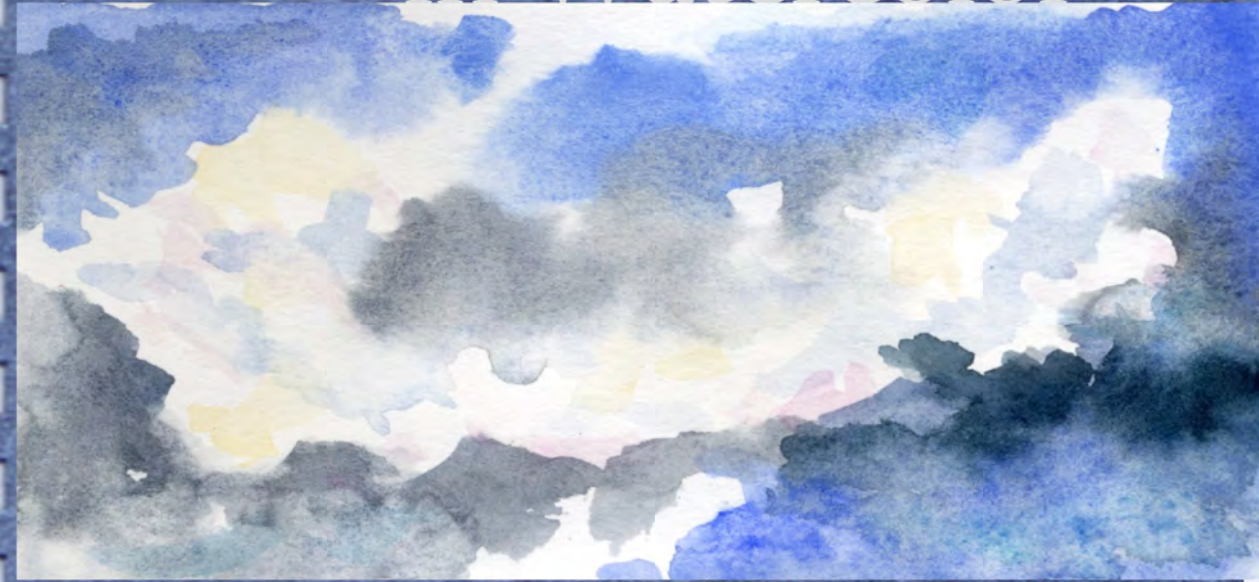


# Sketching Your World in Watercolor



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## Landscape Elements I Skies and Vegetation





# Four main landscape elements -

- Sky
- Vegetation
- Water
- Stone





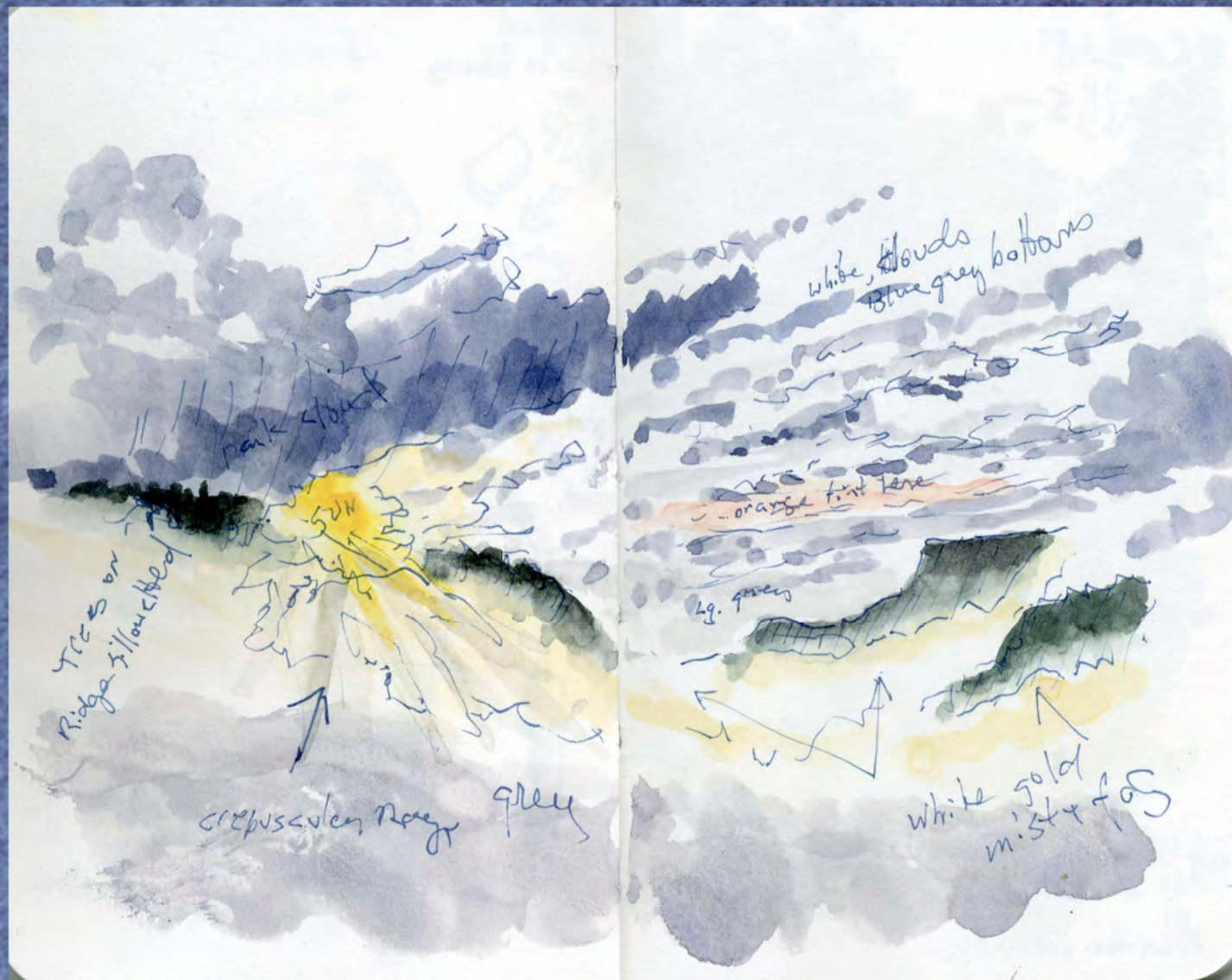
# What's up today? Sky and Clouds-

Sky always sets the mood!





# Make sky notes when out sketching





# Let's look at Blues





# Other useful sky colors





# Useful brushes for common skies

- Mop brush



- Flat hog bristle brush



- Large, flat water brush

Brush size required depends on the size and quality of the paper and the amount of water you expect to need.

Generally – **the bigger the better.**



**Cloud edges facing sun  
can be tinged with yellow.**

**Clouds puff and boil  
in continual motion.**

**Apply shadows  
throughout cloud  
on the underneath side of "boils".**

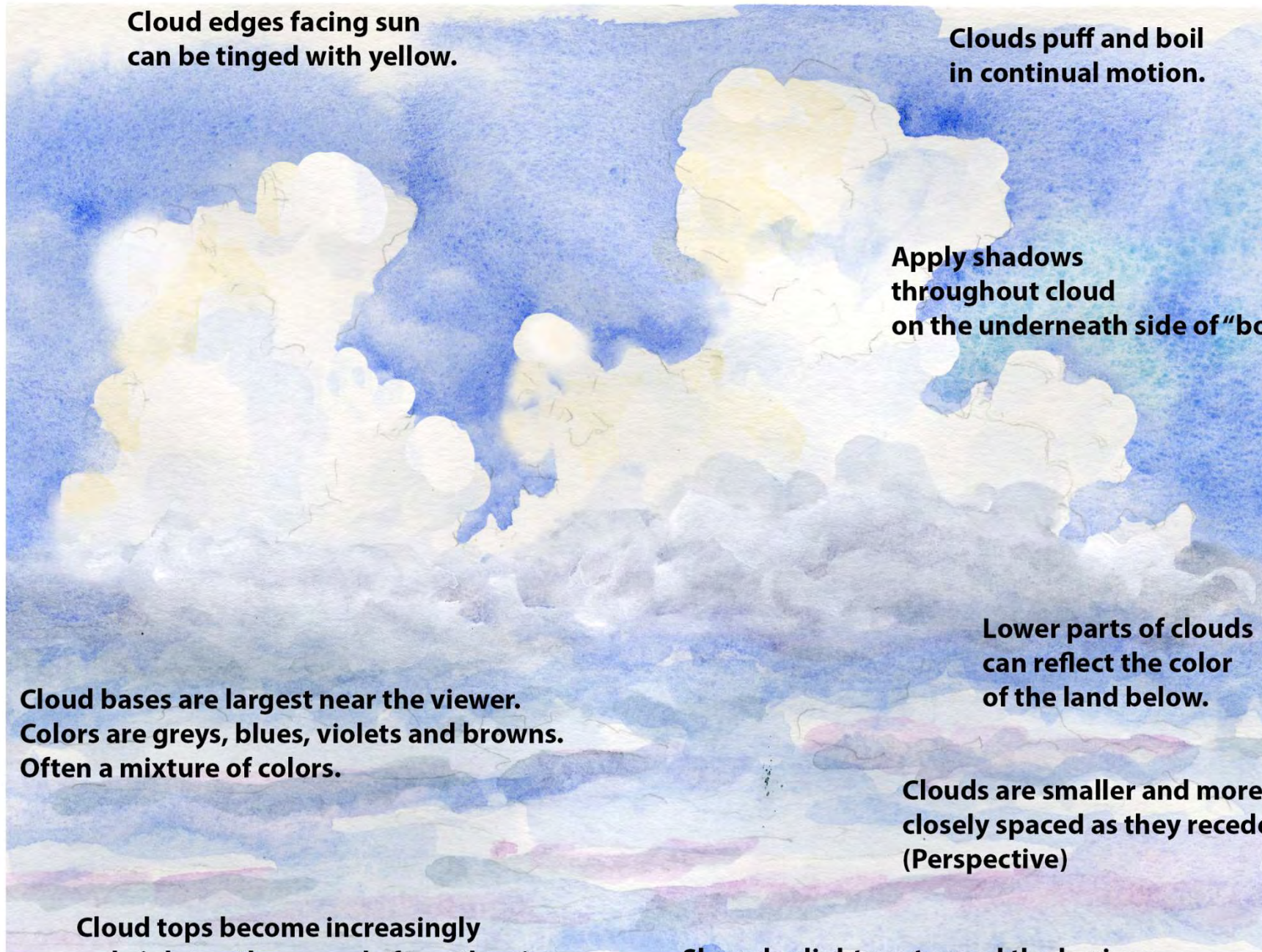
**Cloud bases are largest near the viewer.  
Colors are greys, blues, violets and browns.  
Often a mixture of colors.**

**Lower parts of clouds  
can reflect the color  
of the land below.**

**Clouds are smaller and more  
closely spaced as they recede.  
(Perspective)**

**Cloud tops become increasingly  
red violet as they recede from the viewer.**

**Sky color lightens toward the horizon.**





# Clouds – Flat bases





# Clouds – receding to the horizon

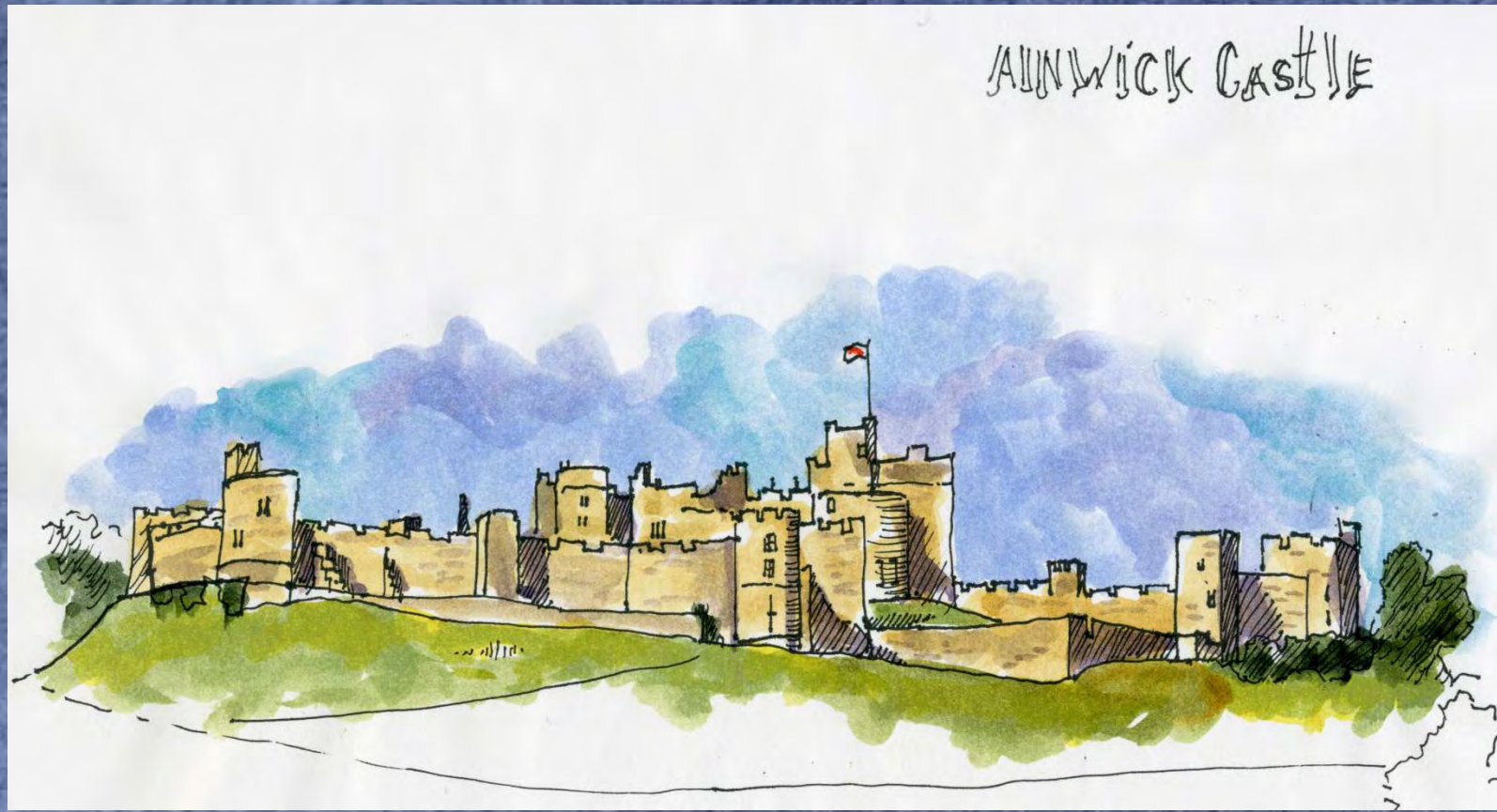
Clouds in perspective are like waves of water upside down.





# Interesting fact -

- Clouds become more red (violet or pinkish) as they recede toward the horizon.
- This is unlike objects on land which become bluer as they recede in the distance.





# Clouds- red violet shift

Where is red most prominent? Where is white?





# Clouds- Color tints

Where is the yellow most visible?





# Clouds - backlit





**Intensify the blue to emphasize contrast with the white cloud.**

**Usually hard edges face the sun,**

**Soft edge.**

**Make ragged edges on bottom of cloud base.**

**Soften and blend upper edge of cloud base.**

**Emphasis on warm, light tones and colors.**

**Fair weather sky**





# Sky -



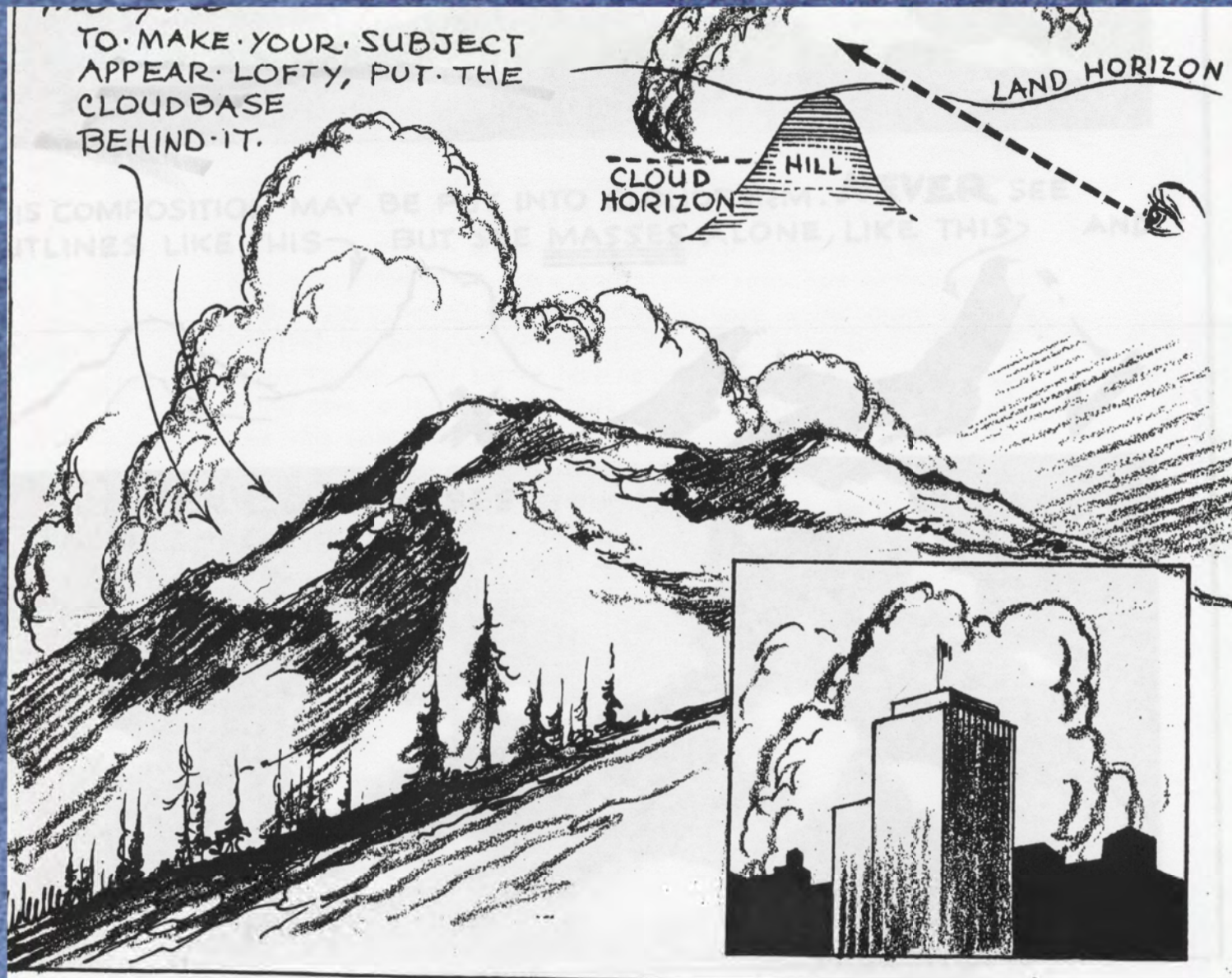
Cirrus clouds made by wiping a wet wash with a tissue.



Cumulus clouds made by blotting tissue into wet paint.

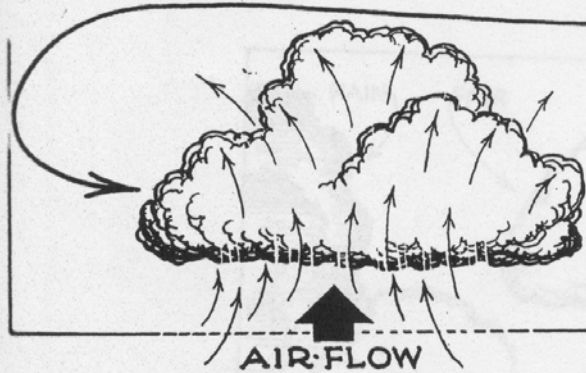


# Sky – Black and white cloud drawings - "Skies and the Artist" by Eric Sloane



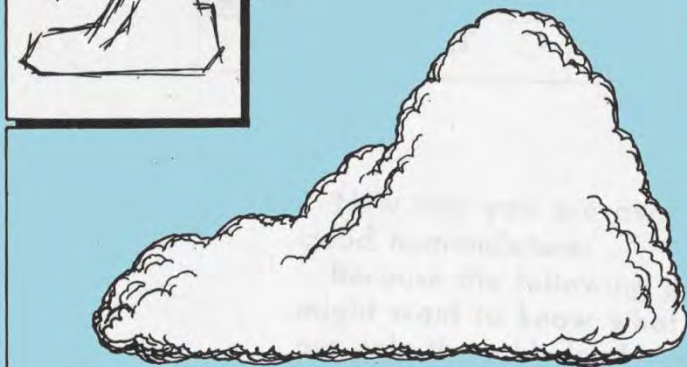
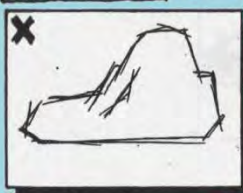


ALTHOUGH CLOUDS APPEAR MOTIONLESS, THEY *are* REALLY SLOW EXPLOSIONS. WHETHER SINGLE (CUMULUS PUFFS) OR SOLID FLAT LAYERS (STRATOFORM), THEY PUFF *and* BOIL CONTINUALLY.



Sky -

.....THEREFORE DON'T MAKE CLOUD MASSES LOOK LIKE MELTING MOUNDS OF ICE CREAM BUT LIKE LIVING SHAPES *in* GRACEFUL ACTION



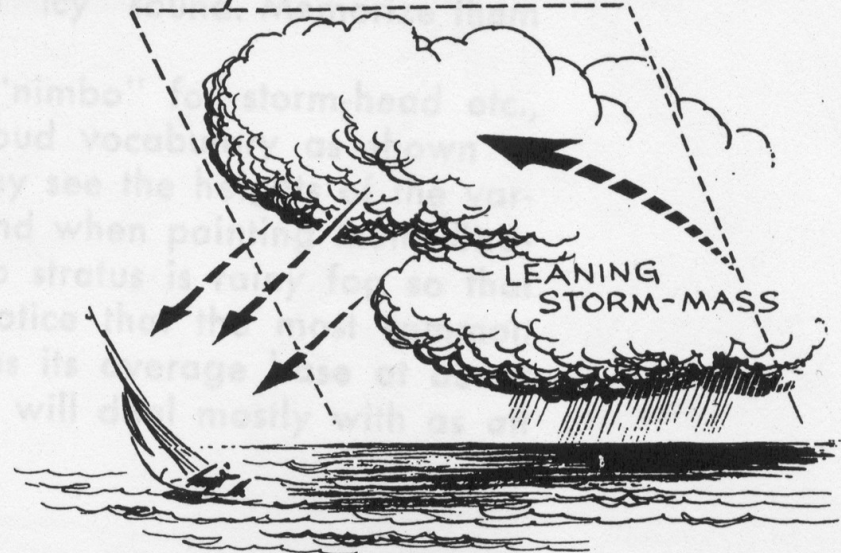
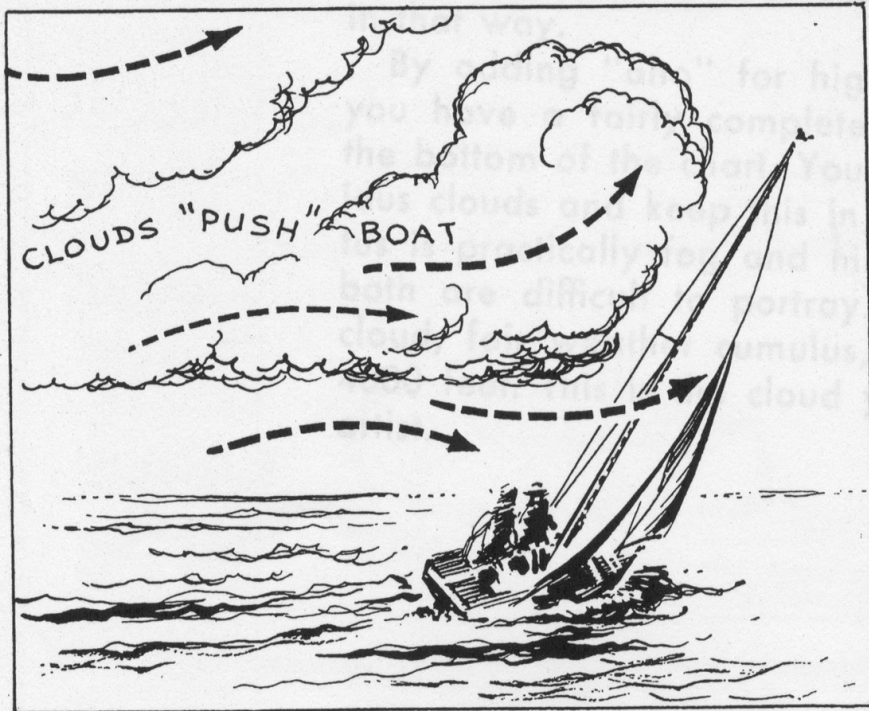
Black and white cloud drawings - "Skies and the Artist" by Eric Sloane



# Sky -

Black and white cloud drawings - "Skies and the Artist"  
by Eric Sloane

DO THINK OF CLOUD ACTION FIRST, THEN THINK OF CLOUD SHAPE *and* OUTLINE,  
BECAUSE SHAPE DEPENDS *upon* MOVEMENT



CLOUDS LEAN or "EXPLODE" WITH  
THE GENERAL ACTION OF YOUR  
PICTURE'S COMPOSITION



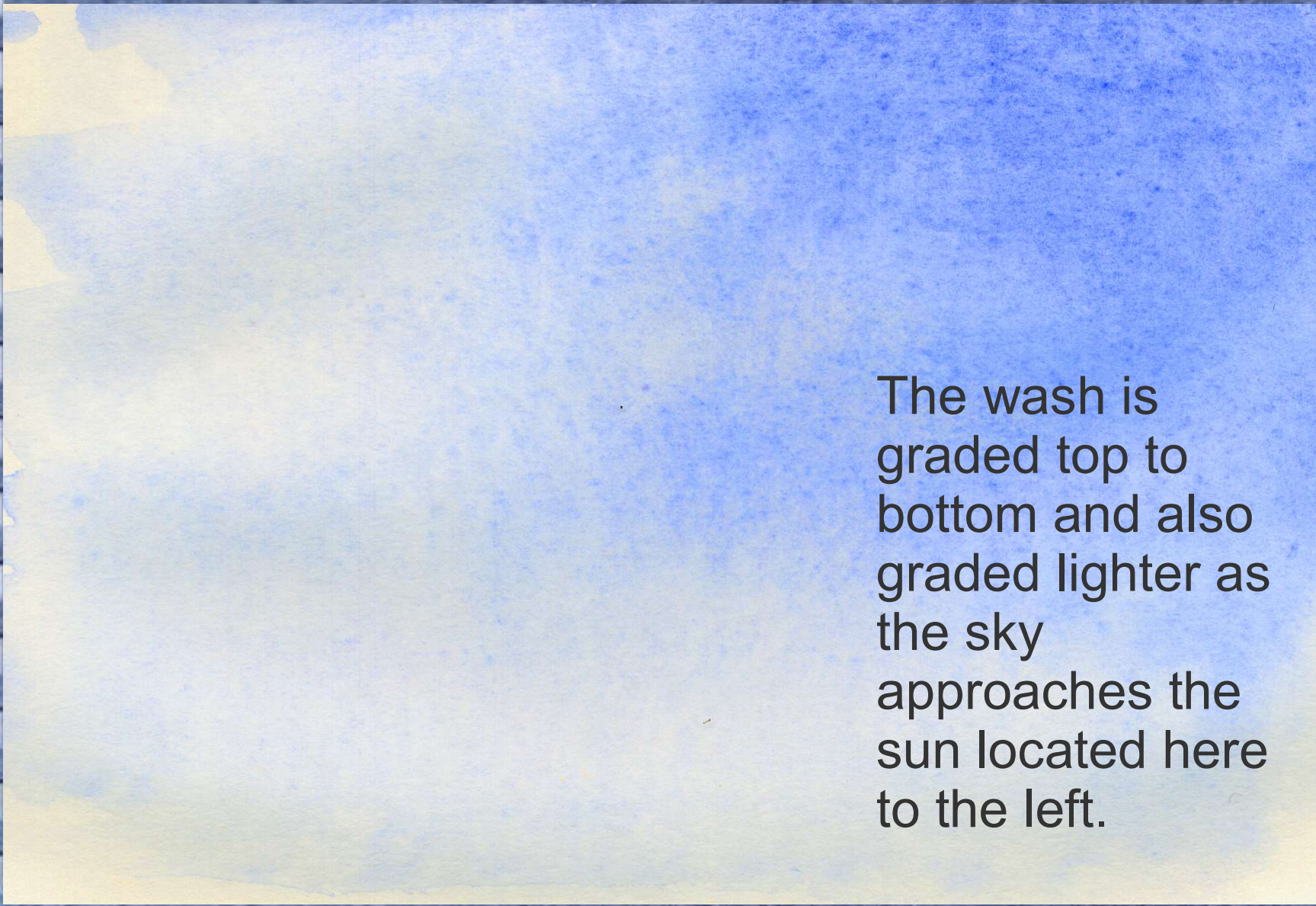
# The basic sky washes

The wash is graded from top to bottom. Darkest at the top.

You can darken the upper corners more to hold the viewers eye in the picture.



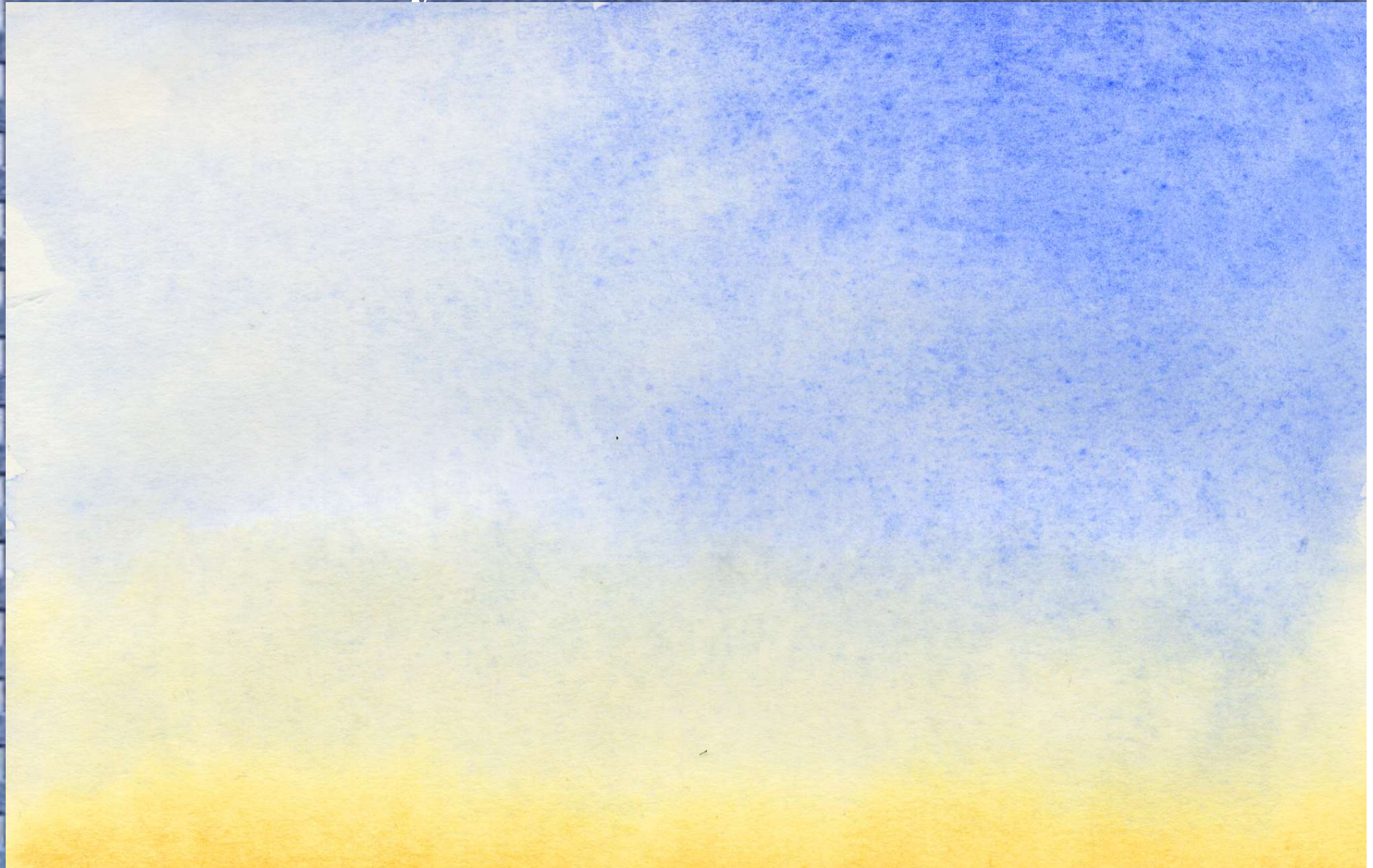
# Basic sky washes – more realistic



The wash is graded top to bottom and also graded lighter as the sky approaches the sun located here to the left.



**A warm sky at the horizon is often seen.**





# Painting a simple cloud





A hint of sky can be enough.





More hints of sky.





# Sky -

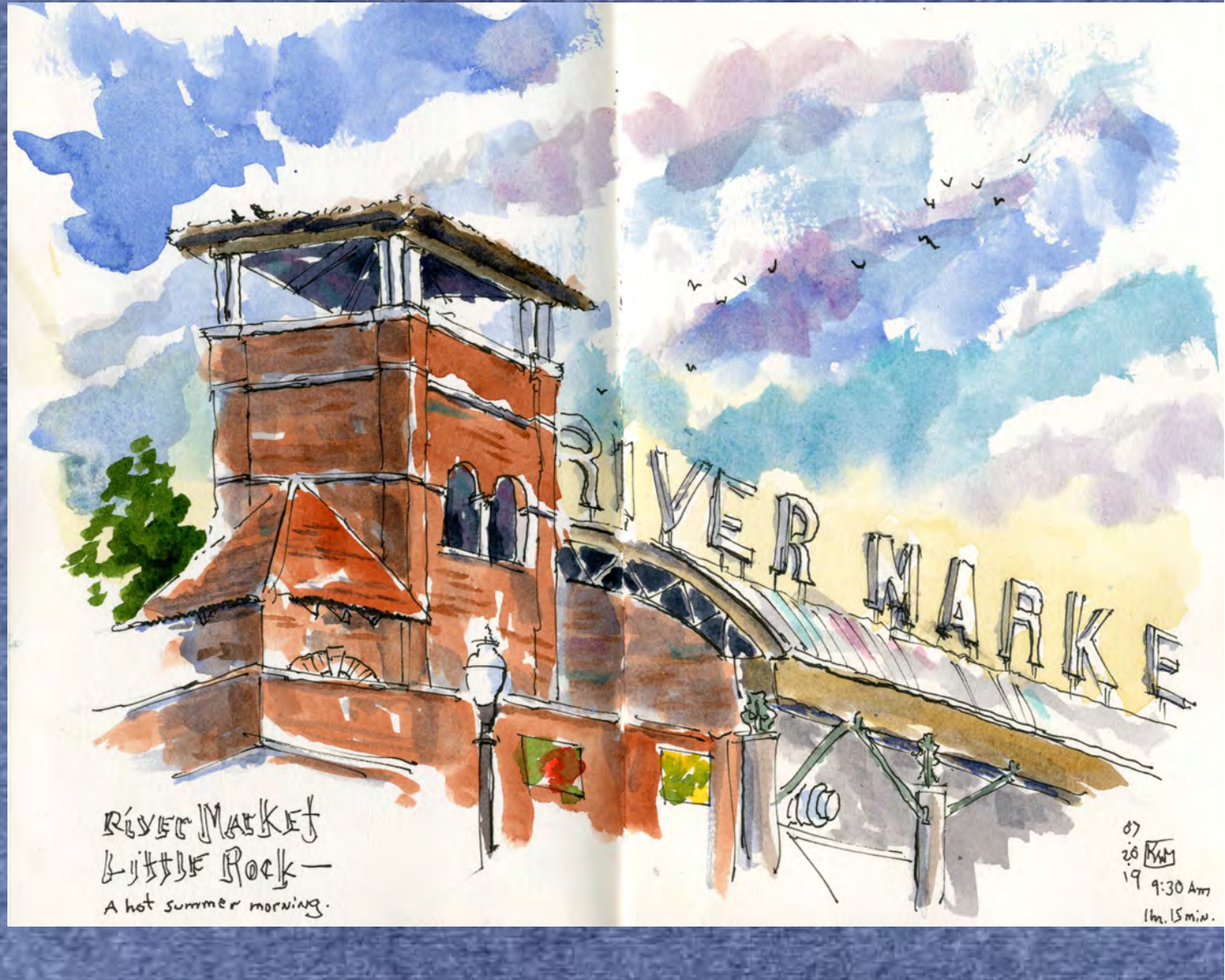
- Intense sky color emphasizes the white of buildings.
- Clouds in this sketch are just hinted at.





# Varieties of sky – Sunny summer skies

Use a mixture of sky colors that emphasize warm colors.





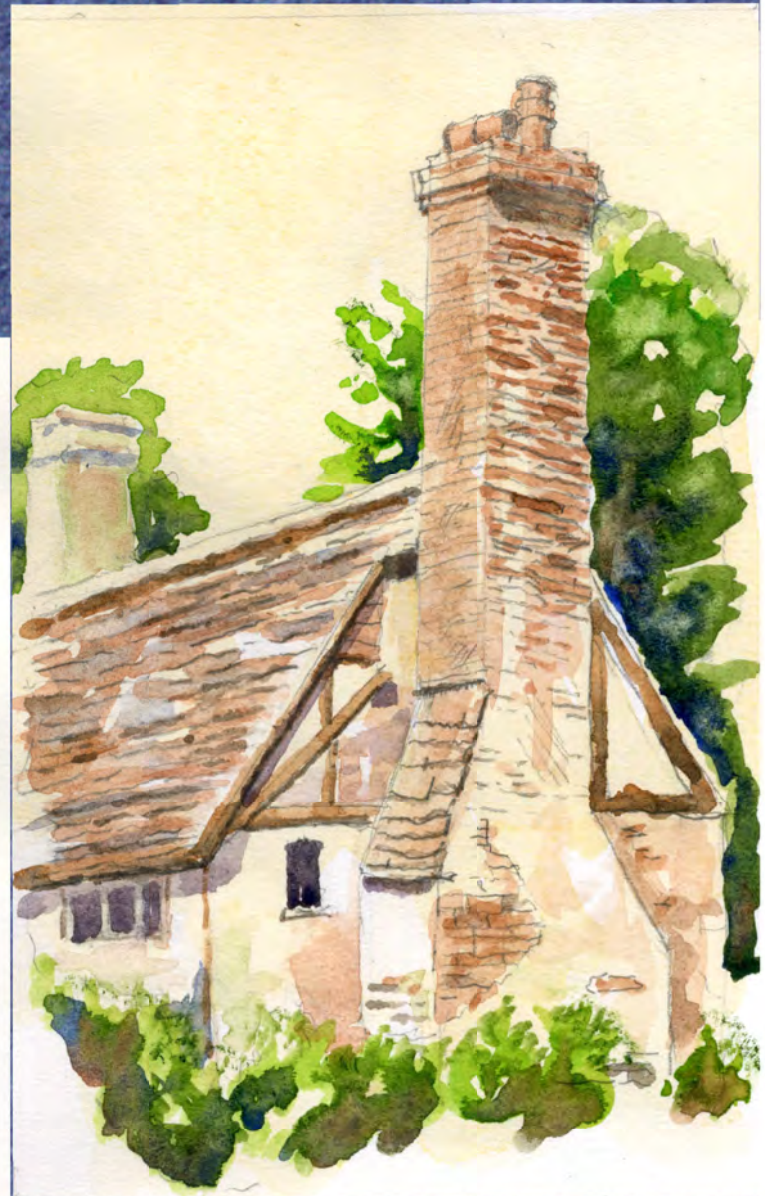
# Varieties of sky – cloudy winter skies

The clouds are usually stratiform, suggesting all day rains. Use mostly cool colors but add some warm colors to both reflect ground color and unite the sky with the rest of the picture.





# Yellow skies for warmth and friendliness -





# Varieties of sky – Sunny skies

- You do not have to paint the whole sky in a sketch.
- A vignette around the main subject can be enough.
- Colors are -
  - Cerulean blue
  - Cobalt teal
  - Cobalt violet





# Varieties of sky – cloudy skies

Cloud shadows narrow as they recede towards the horizon.  
Small sketches often do not have room to show this.

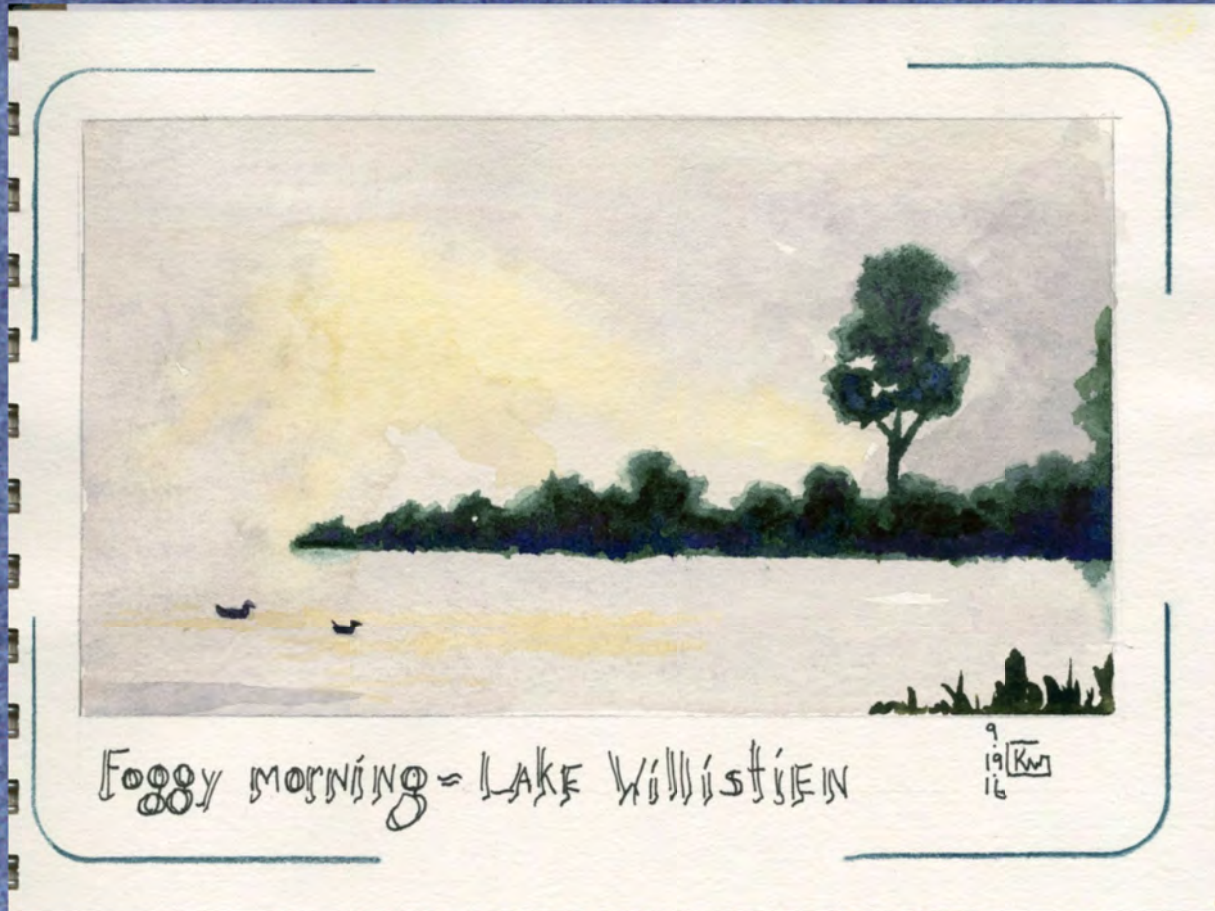
- Horizontal clouds suggest stability and calm.





# Varieties of sky - Fog

Fog and mist diffuse color and light. Edges blur as distance increases, depending on the density of the moisture in the atmosphere.





# Varieties of sky - Fog

Contrast and color are quickly lost in the fog.





# Varieties of sky – Morning skies

Morning skies can be similar to sunsets. However there is usually more mist and the clouds and sky colors seem softer and less intense.





# Varieties of sky – Sunsets

It can be better to not draw the sun itself.

It can be placed below the horizon or behind clouds.



SUNSET AT  
MATHER LODGE

Fog and mist  
in the valleys.

9  
21  
14



10  
06  
18

NEW YORK CITY  
SKYLINE



VIEW FROM NEWARK, NJ AIRPORT

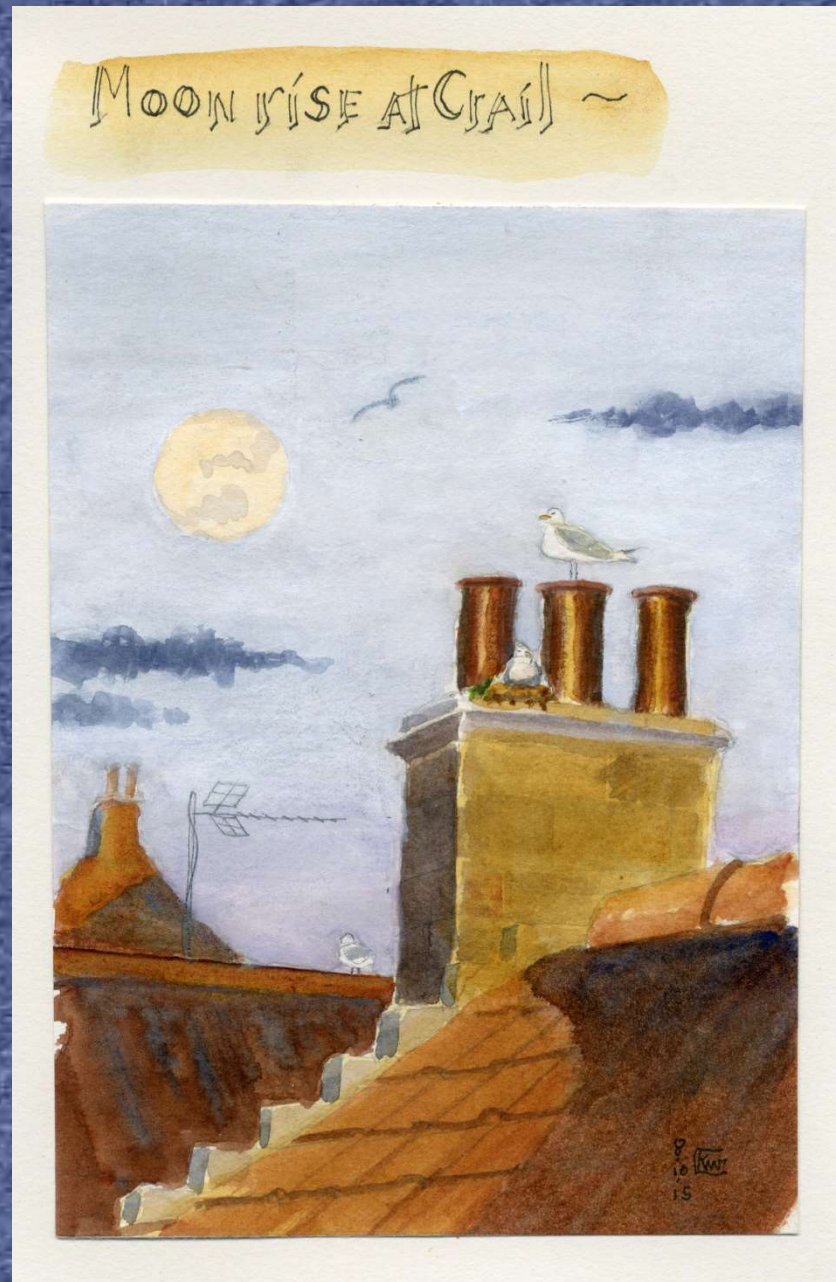
3  
10  
16



# Varieties of sky

## – Moon rise

Warm yellows from a setting sun behind the painter.





# Storms and Rain

Colors –

Ultramarine blue

Burnt sienna

Payne's grey

Cobalt violet

Naples yellow

Cerulean blue

Perylene green





# Varieties of sky – Storms and Rain

Colors are muted and subdued in dark, cloudy weather.



"Approaching Storm" 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist and Cathedral of St Andrew churches, Little Rock, AR



Compare tonal differences between the two views of the church.



# Varieties of sky – Wind

Lines in the atmosphere have been used to indicate wind.

This technique is most often used with ink, etching, lithograph or pencil drawings.





# Varieties of sky

## – Night skies

Colors of the night sky –

Indigo

Prussian blue

Payne's grey

Perylene green

Dioxazine violet

Other yellow and greens near  
light sources





# Night Skies



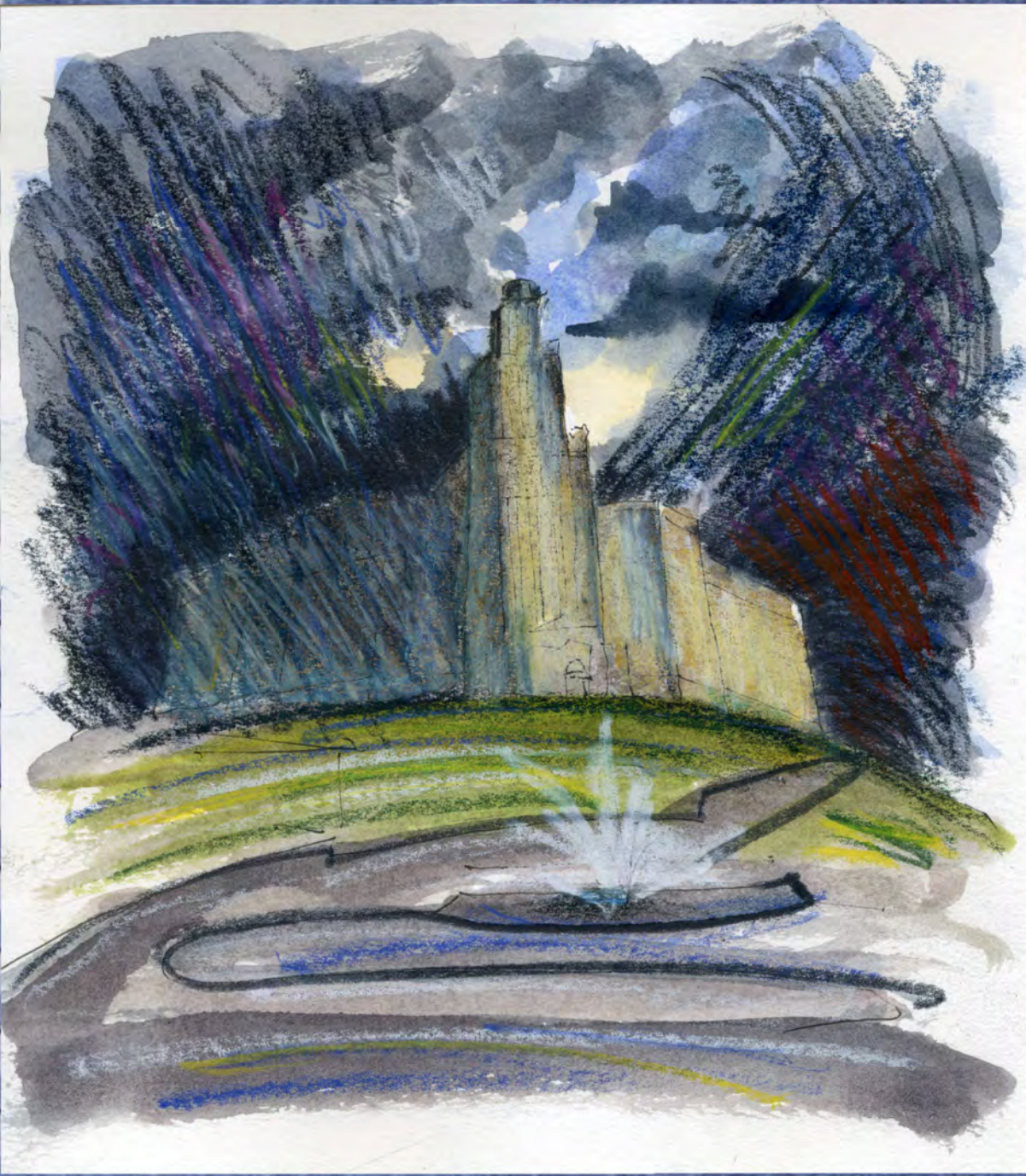


# Busy skies





# Dynamic skies





Birds! – Birds are always good in the sky.





# Keep Sketching!

- Concentrate your sketching on the landscape elements.
- Try one sketch of each element that we have discussed.
- Interpret the materials in your own idiom.

