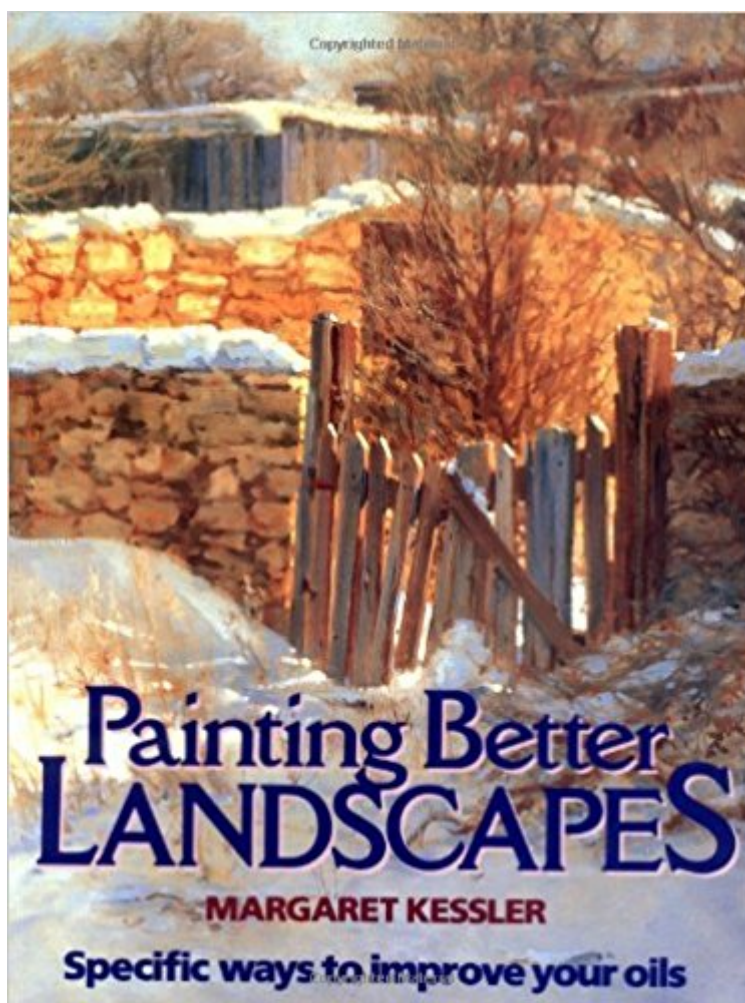


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# Painting Better Landscapes: Specific Ways To Improve Your Oils



## Synopsis

In fifteen easy-to-follow lessons from renowned art instructor Margaret Kessler, learn what contributes to good landscape painting and how to critique your own work. Learn about visualizing and planning the scene, creating depth, overall tonality and more! Kessler brings tips and tricks from her nationwide workshops to this easily accessible workbook, designed to help artists at all levels – from beginner to intermediate – further their craft.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Margaret Kessler conducts workshops nationwide. She emphasizes capturing mood through the use of compositional design, values, and color harmony. Kessler's work has been in such publications as Southwest Art and the Artist's Magazine. Her landscapes have won several awards, including the Grumbacher Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals, and she was selected in the "Top 100" Arts for the Parks show, a national competition. Kessler has won Best of Show at the Artists and Craftsmen Associated awards show (Dallas), of which she is a past president and signature member. She is included in Who's Who in American Art and Who's Who of American Woman. Kessler is represented by Southwest Gallery in Dallas, where she lives with her husband, Jere.

This book contains a lot of worthy hints for painting landscapes concerning the composition, format, perspective and so on. What I do not always like is the choice of demonstration paintings. Some show uninteresting or nasty motifs, many are painted in muddy or too dark colors and some are too

expressive showing only the basics. So this is a teaching book for the beginner, but you do not learn the finishing touches.

Decades ago, I earned a degree in art and have only recently taken up landscape painting. I have found this book to be quite useful and informative. It covers much of what I've learned in school and much of what I didn't. Let's face it, there are an awful lot of bad landscape paintings out there and we can all improve. Kessler's best paintings, and there are many, have genius qualities. Every landscape painter can learn something from Margaret Kessler. Highly recommend this book.

A great training book that was recommended I try from an established artist! The exercises are great and learning comes naturally--don't take a lot of notes or over think it--just paint it!

There are many books that talk about composition, but Margaret Kessler goes one step further. She explains how lines and compositional movement, as well as the SPEED of the movement affect your viewer. She puts you in control as an artist by teaching you how to guide the viewer to see what YOU want the viewer to see, and at what speed YOU want him to see it. This is just one chapter of many that are informative, easy to comprehend, and well written. I love the way she doesn't just use terms, she uses painted lines to emphasize her point of view. Her chapter on things to avoid had me running around my house looking at my paintings hoping that I hadn't made any of the fatal errors. When I buy clothing, I remember what I saw on the television show, "What NOT to wear". From now on whenever I paint I will think of her chapter on WHAT TO AVOID. Excellent book. Beautiful color plates of her paintings. High quality paper and print.

This book is wonderful. It covers division of space, composition, perspective, depth, tone and atmosphere, value, negative shapes, color harmony, brushwork and more. It is well rounded in all the main things you need to know to paint good landscapes. If you want one book that will help you in a lot of areas this is it. I have already read it twice and will read it again. There is so much to absorb it will take several readings but it doesn't get old. Buy and enjoy. If you want some additional information on color to go with it, I highly recommend Color Choices, Making Color Sense Out of Color Theory by Stephen Quiller and Color Is Everything by Dan Bartges.

Lots of good practical advice and some really nice examples of her work including some step by step insight in to her methods.

I bought this book a few years ago. It had a lot of good information. But I loaned it to someone and never got it back so I have just purchased it again. It has information on doing thumbnail sketches for establishing composition. Lots about composition and what you are trying to accomplish when you set out to paint a landscape. Sorry I'm not doing a good job of description. But I would say it is helpful for beginner and intermediate painters.

Whether you paint as a hobby or professional artist, this is the best book on oil painting that I've read. Even though the book is for oil painting, most of the subject matter is valuable for all media as well. Although I believe the chapters should be rearranged in the order of a normal painting process, the information is most valuable and useful. I find myself reading it over and over again when my paintings are lacking that certain pop.

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