

Diary of a painting: February 21st-25th, 2005 David W. Jones at Elmdale Public School

“For a really healthy development of all the arts, you need an educated audience as well as performers.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Monday morning, 11:15 a.m. - David has assembled a panoramic photo of a field in winter, taken not far from Ottawa. Before starting the painting, he prepared a quick thumbnail sketch to make sure the composition will fit the proportions of the large rectangular canvas.

David has finished 'sketching' his composition onto the stained (coloured) canvas with dark blue paint and a paintbrush. This technique is called 'alla prima' or 'in the primary', meaning that you start painting immediately. Now he is beginning to add colour to the sky of the painting. He stains his canvases a burnt sienna shade because it resembles the colour of his palette. This way, when he is mixing paint on the palette, he knows how it will look on the canvas.



Monday afternoon, 2:00 p.m. - Colour has been 'roughed in' on much of the canvas and David is beginning to add details, as well as lightening the area in the middle that is the snow covered field. Note the many colours in the sky. You can see the photograph he is working from resting on the easel above the canvas.



Tuesday morning, 10:40 a.m. - David is adding some detail in the foreground. The centre portion of the canvas is now looking much lighter than yesterday afternoon. David is continuing to apply new layers of paint, blending them carefully with the paint underneath that is still wet.



Tuesday afternoon, 3:23 p.m. - David has been working very hard on the trees and hay bales, adding small brushstrokes of colour. While he appears to be working very carefully on one area at a time, he is always considering the whole picture. This ensures the painting progresses simultaneously and harmoniously.



Wednesday afternoon, 12:37 p.m. - David's progress might appear slower than before but it actually isn't! Notice the fence in the foreground taking shape as David adds strokes of pale colour to let the light through, opening up the painting. The field where the hay bales rest is also getting lighter.



Thursday afternoon, 3:21 p.m. - David is putting the finishing touches on the fence slats and the light shining between them. He steadies his brush hand against another paintbrush which rests against the lower edge of the canvas.



Friday afternoon, 3:19 p.m. - David is almost finished the painting. Notice how he's added shafts of light to the shadows in the foreground, to correspond to the sunlight shining through the fence. The snowy field retains a yellow hue, reflecting the sun's light throughout the painting.

