

The Living Experience

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“Why not just take a photo?”

All of us have heard that question while painting outdoors. The fact is that even the finest photo will never be a just substitute for the *Living Experience* of painting on location.

The Living Experience is first about *connection*. Being enveloped by nature affords the artist an opportunity to radiate all of our senses outward and creates multiple points of contact with a particular experience. The more senses the artist engages, the more potent the encounter.

The Living Experience is also being subject to an environment we cannot control, giving us a healthy sense of our place in the world and a measure of *humility*. Through humility the universe reveals itself.

On a very practical level, the Living Experience gives us the chance to have *friction* imposed upon us. Friction forces the artist out of numb comfort into a wakeful appreciation of the moment.

The Living Experience necessitates working quickly, allowing the artist to access intuition and to experience *risk*. Clarity and economy are the poetry of risk, and through them the artist opens the door for a chance to experience spirit.

So, to those who reject the values of connection, humility, friction, and risk in experiencing spirit, I say, “Yes, just take a photo.”