

# Welcome



## Watercolor Workshop: Chimney Rock and Box Canyon

with Antonio Darden  
G24060103  
June 2-6, 2024

These notes and guidelines will help you understand how I approach a painting and what to expect from my workshop. I will provide reference photos of Chimney Rock and Box Canyon. Please look at my website (<https://www.antoniodardenstudio.com/>) and see what I paint.

### WORKSHOP GENERAL OUTLINE:

Intros and guidelines  
Preparing a Value Sketch,  
Discussion of correct Linear Perspective  
Demonstration (I will be painting throughout the workshop).  
Focal Point importance  
Lightest lights, Mid-tones, darkest darks  
One-on one instruction

### RESEARCH PHOTOGRAPHS:

I tend to paint urban landscapes and southwest landscapes. Research should be mostly of landscape subjects. Be aware of too many trees or too much sky, if you are providing your own reference photos. Keep in mind, I am using a southwest palette. It will not work as well for other non-southwest landscapes.

Also be aware of photos that look GREAT as a photo (sunsets, night scenes, lots of reflections, 'photo effects' like blurring, burn-outs, etc.).

Ask yourself: How can I make this a much more exciting painting than a photo?

If you're not sure how to answer this, then this workshop is perfect for you.

\* Please remember: We are not here to duplicate photographs.\*

If you paint fast, have a second painting ready and drawn out on paper.

If you are unsure of any of these following notes, please feel free to email me:

[artist@antoniodardenstudio.com](mailto:artist@antoniodardenstudio.com)

- You should find excitement in Ghost Ranch scenery to paint
- Find an image with a strong composition. Foreground, middle ground, and background details are important. (if you have a photo of Ghost ranch landscape please use it)
- There should be a strong sense of light direction (sunlight & shadow) -- good highlights and shadow areas. Hint: The shadow shape and light shapes are the most important aspect of your composition – not the details. If you are unsure, look at your research with your eyes squinted. This will take out the details and show you're the broad shadow and light shapes. If you don't see these shapes, then your research does not have a very good VALUE RANGE (or Value Pattern).
- Not too much sky – 20% or less is good.

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Note: If you plan to submit your painting to ANY art show, your research image must be your own photograph. If you are not planning on submitting, then go search the web for a photo, but be aware that someone holds the copyright to that image.

- All students must come to the first class prepared half hour early to set up with 11x15" (quarter sheet) Arches ROUGH or COLD PRESS watercolor paper (either 140 lb. or 200 lb. paper). I use 200lb Suanders rough.
- Your painting may be completed during the workshop, so if you paint fast, plan ahead with others drawn out on paper. I typically like to paint two paintings a day. I use minimal line work for my landscapes, you can wait until the class to see this in person before drawing out on paper.