

OIL

A FIELD GUIDE TO PAINTING // WINTER 2018





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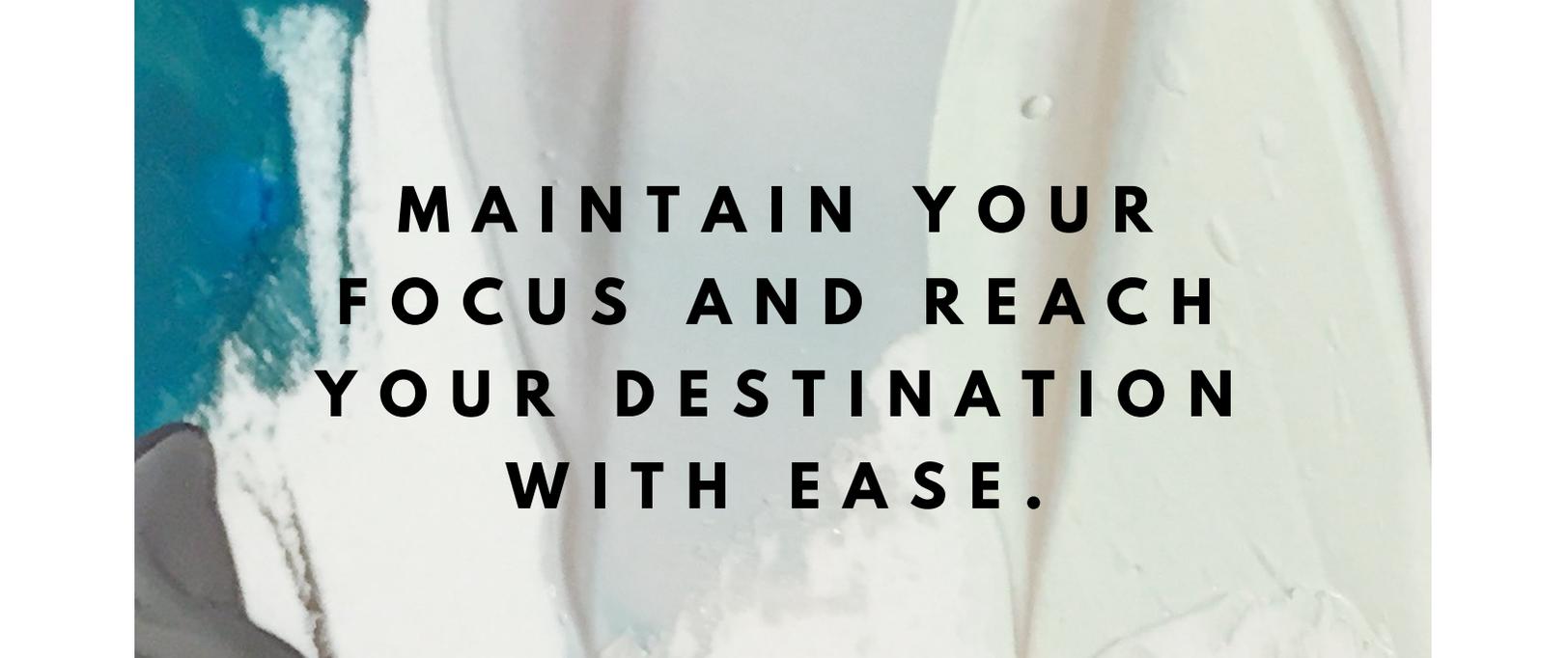
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MAINTAIN YOUR FOCUS AND REACH YOUR DESTINATION WITH EASE.

NEW YEAR, NEW ART

Ingrid V. Wells

In conversations with other artists I find that we are all focused on future endeavors such as the next painting. We rarely take time to reflect. Before going full steam ahead into the New Year, it's helpful to look back on what you have achieved, and how you would like your studio practice to grow.

A good first step is to take a look at your prior year's studio data. I recommend keeping a journal that you revisit throughout the year for the following exercise. Begin by asking yourself analytical questions such as: How many items and what exactly (list it out) have I accomplished this year? How many exhibitions was my work featured in? How many studio visits did I host? How many hours did I spend in the studio? How many classes did I take? What does my workload look like currently?

Delve deeper into these areas by applying more reflective questions, such as: How did my studio experiments work out? What part of my work do I find the most thrilling? What format (size/ medium, etc) do I prefer to work in? What have I learned this year?

Finally orient yourself towards the new year by considering your future studio practice. What do I want my workload to be this year? How can I have more fun in the studio? What are three ways that can I improve as an artist? What would make my studio space more comfortable and inviting? Where do I want to develop my skill-set? In what ways do I want to become a more polished/ professional artist?

Reading your responses a year later is a joy, and even sometimes hilarious. Taking a moment to reflect on your work is key to formulating your goals. Keeping a goal in mind throughout the year will help maintain your focus and reach your destination with ease.

STUDIO TIPS

1

Prep Surfaces. Now is the best time of year to start off with a blank slate. While you're figuring out your next steps with image development, keep your hands moving and lay down some fresh gessoed surfaces. Put away the majority of your work from the prior year and clear out your visual space.



2

Re-invest. Equip yourself for success. This might mean investing in a new set of brushes or enrolling in a series of courses. Maybe to you this means taking a look at your schedule and committing a certain number of studio hours per month. Think about what will make you feel ready and excited for the new year. Keep it fun!

3

Create an Inviting Space. My guess is that you hope to spend a lot of time in your studio, so think about ways that you can make it inviting! Having a good studio chair for visitors, making sure all of your light bulbs work, general dusting, etc. will help your mood and comfort level.

STUDIO FAVORITES

WINTER 2018

Every painter needs tools and resources they can count on. The following are a few of my favorite items for the studio. What are yours?

Rosemary & Co. Brushes- Rosemary's brushes are on every painter's holiday gift list this year. I am particularly excited to try their master's filbert line. Each brush is handmade in the UK. Rosemary & Co. sell directly to the customer, bypassing the Dick Blinks of the world, and with that they pass on some savings. Very high quality product.

The Savvy Painter Podcast- This podcast is a sheer delight to listen to in the studio. Host Antrese Wood interviews exclusively painters. Wood is based in the Bay Area which is another point of interest for those local to San Francisco.

Big Magic by Elizabeth Gilbert- This fabulous book walks artists through many issues that we frequently encounter. Gilbert addresses these issues from a writer's perspective and shares her experiences in a charming way. A quick read, this lovely book acts as a great guide.



An abstract painting featuring bold, expressive brushstrokes in a variety of colors including lime green, black, orange, red, and pink. A paintbrush with a wooden handle and bristles is visible in the lower right corner, resting on the canvas. The overall style is gestural and vibrant.

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WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE WINTERTIME STUDIO TOOLS AND TIPS?

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