

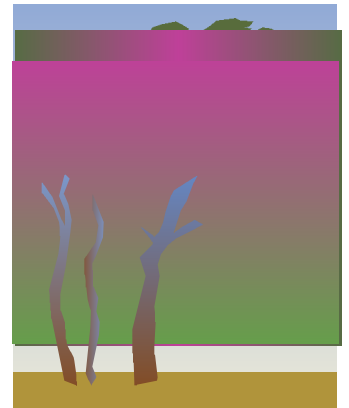
detail by Bryan Atyeo

## A descriptive silhouette with color change in the interior

We can quickly identify objects simply by their silhouette. For example, we don't need to see any interior detail to help us distinguish a tree from a barn or a rooster from a Volkswagen. Their silhouettes are very different.

You can create an effective symbol for any tree by replicating its characteristic edge and then filling the interior area with color change. The viewer's mind will unconsciously fill in the details. In this way you can flatten the forms of your subject to create a more abstract design.

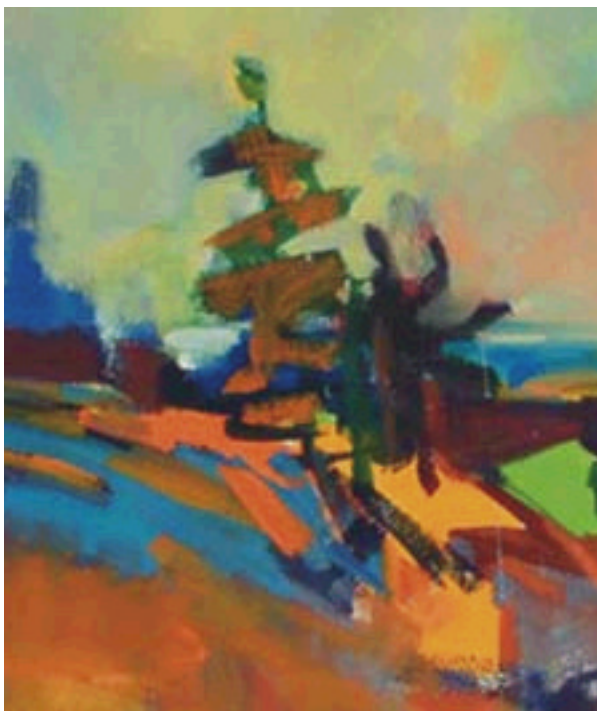
Note in the detail to the left how Canadian artist Bryan Atyeo suggests dense, impenetrable woods by his use of a varied silhouette. He has not modeled any element with dark and light.




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*You can create an effective symbol for any tree by replicating its characteristic edge.....*

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detail by Skip Lawrence (see front cover)

## Reduce a subject to blocks of color

A realist will complete a painting with small details and texture, but you don't need to add these embellishments to create a recognizable image. Often, casually applied blocks of color provide the viewer with enough clues as to subject, place, and mood. For example, although we see no realistic detail, we sense immediately the subject and mood in the detail to the left.

As you continue to edit and abstract a tree, simplifying its shape and eliminating unimportant detail, the viewer becomes less interested in specific identification—what kind of tree? where? how tall?—and more interested in your emotional response.

