

WHEN YOU'RE
IN A RUT, TRY
SOME...

CREATIVE VARIATIONS

by William Lawrence



The original scene



The same scene with different weather conditions



Thinking about Fall



An expression of enthusiasm



A portrait of energy



A simplification



closer view emphasizing rhythm



An expression of strength



A search for the essence

My creative exercise

By taping off 9 rectangles on a 22"x 30" piece of watercolor paper and treating each rectangle as a separate painting with a new concept, I am able to explore creative variations of a single subject. Give it a try. It is freeing and it takes only minutes to explore each approach.

Try something new

If you are stuck or feel bored with your present painting approach, here is an exercise that will help you get moving. Take any subject and paint it in your present personal style; then, immediately do eight more variations of the same subject. As you work, note which of the images was the most meaningful or fun. Let your imagination run free and keep asking the question *what if?*

I feel anything that will get me unstuck and looking at possibilities is a positive move. There are no rules to follow. You are not looking for answers only questions.

Some questions you might ask

What if I:

- change the light or the color of light?
- take a lady bug's view of the subject?
- flatten the space?
- use crazy colors?
- identify the essence of the subject?
- paint in the style of another artist?
- paint in opposites?
- close my eyes while painting?
- paint to music?
- paint naked?