Landscape Painting: Plein Air Painting

By Hester Berry

Plein Air painting is the practice of painting outside, normally in front of one's subject. Artists have always made studies and drawings of and within nature, as an aide memoire for work created in the studio. Time spent experiencing, observing, processing and recording all adds to the authenticity of a piece created in the studio. But the distance between subject and painting is reduced further when the finished work is created outside. This is to say that the 'experience' is still with the painter, and so can be instantly recalled, as well as the visual information, so less of the essence of the subject is lost to memory.

'Bear Road', oil on board by Hester Berry

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