

# Moving Toward Abstraction

NOW our subject is often not an OBJECT or a SCENE. Our viewers can't fall back on "Oh, that's a horse!" But they can respond to our COLORS, SHAPES and VALUES

We don't need to know what a painting IS if we know how it makes us feel.

## Ideas for Loosening Up

- 1 LITTLE STUDIES: Take notes on your visual world
  - trips • dining room table • other artists • hikes
- 2 BE A COLLECTOR of images you love
  - keep an image scrapbook
- 3 WARM YOURSELF UP
  - "What ifs" fun, quick, relaxing
  - Juicy color studies
  - Black and white ("loose calligraphy")
- 4 TAKE IT IN PIECES: save scraps of what you love
  - unfinished • small • part of a series
  - part of an experiment • childlike • risky



It's called "risk-taking" because it includes the possibility of failure. Otherwise we'd call it "sure-thing taking!"

**Keep going!** your best painting tends to come unannounced if you go a bit further.