

Caroline Jasper
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Review by Adele Greenfield

Her paintings are fresh and her colors are clean and vibrant so it looks like she spontaneously dashed them off. But don't be fooled. You'll soon see that careful studies based on her photographs and the use of various exposures through Photoshop (you can do the same with a camera) go into planning each painting. Well before she touches the canvas, she considers color, value, and composition.

Whether you paint water or not, you will learn about making decisions up front, sketching the placement of your shapes, tonal contrast, and what color goes against which to give you crisp, brilliant hues. Caroline will teach you everything you've ever wanted (or needed) to know about color theory and ways to make your hues come alive. Including information on dual primary palette and opacity, she throws out tidbits like for better bounce or vibration between colors, hues need to be opposite. Values, however, need to be the same. This is true even for dull colors.

She shows us what happens when one color is placed next to or inside another. It may appear darker or lighter, more vibrant or duller, closer or further back. And it could take on a different hue. You'll understand how to get intense vibrating hues that create dynamic visual movement.

For movement, the direction of her brushstroke matters. It can create changes depending on the condition of the water. The shimmer action is vibrant – the more sparkle in the water, the more she paints white surrounded by red. You'll see how white next to red, next to color contrast (mostly blue) gives the effect of light dancing on the water. Still water, on the other hand, tends to have sharp reflections with darker values and maximum light/dark contrast.

She does not hold back. With value and color contrast of mostly blues, reds, and white, she tells us, "Strong highlights indicate strong shadows." And, regarding edges, she lets us know that sharp edges cause a painting to look flat.

"It's all about light," she says so Caroline always starts by recording sunlight. That's why she uses a red, orange or a combination of red and orange for her ground. For greenish water, she uses a red ground, the complement. It helps portray a sense of action or movement.

By showing us an extensive gallery of her finished paintings and hearing her detailed analysis of each one, we see that she focuses on composition or placement of shapes and various values, not the identity of the objects. Here's where you'll get extra pointers on design, a valuable feature on this DVD. She points out ways colors interact when layered one on top of another or placed beside each other, considering opacity and transparency. Many painters pay attention to the color of the water. Caroline looks at the colors of everything else since water reflects their hues. This, along with the time of day, determines her palette.

The actual painting begins against an intense red ground. In the middle, she stops to step back and analyze her work. The dialog she has with herself is very informative, showing what she considered while painting and what she needs to adjust when she goes back to it. Picking up her brush once again, Caroline completes the piece. It looks as if she did it on the spur of the moment.

But . . . we know better!

Adele Greenfield, an artist as well as workshop leader who spent years on the international lecture circuit, is author of over 100 articles published in magazines such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Woman's Day*, and *The Writer*. Also author of a downloadable handbook, *Unleash Your Creative Genius*, and several recorded programs, her current work as a consultant/coach supports people in two areas:

- meditations for artists: coping with stress and ways to relax, renew, and re-energize the creative spirit
- image and communication: writing a bio or promotional piece and/or speaking before an audience (whether it's a demo for artists, a video, or a presentation to buyers)

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