

## THE ROLE OF COMPOSITION IN LANDSCAPE PAINTING

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**Annotation:** This article discusses the role and importance of the laws of composition in the process of teaching natural landscapes in fine arts education. The main stages of landscape drawing, the laws of object placement, proportion, color harmony, and perspective are analyzed. Methodological approaches that serve to develop students' artistic taste, aesthetic vision, and creative thinking are also considered.

**Key words:** landscape, composition, perspective, lines, golden section, still life, Renaissance, balance.

### THE ROLE OF COMPOSITION IN LANDSCAPE PAINTING

Landscape is one of the oldest and most widely practiced genres of fine arts. Since ancient times, humans have observed the environment and tried to depict it on paper or stone. Today, the landscape genre serves not only as a form of artistic expression but also as an important tool for education and upbringing. One of the most essential aspects of teaching this genre is the correct application of compositional rules.

In landscape works, reality and natural scenes are portrayed truthfully. Landscape painting reflects not only objects and events but also the artist's inner emotions. The art of painting, with its attractiveness and expressiveness, requires not only certain skills in mastering but also preparation in perceiving it. Landscape works provide spiritual nourishment to humans, inspire them, and evoke joy and admiration. Through landscapes, the artist conveys his intellect, emotions, and inner experiences, "singing" them through visual forms and creating the poetic image of nature.

Landscape painting is one of the ancient genres of fine arts and plays an important role as a background or supporting setting in historical and genre paintings. By depicting the beauty of the external world, it has a positive influence on human emotions. Therefore, an artist must perceive typical states of nature, color harmonies, and express his aesthetic attitude toward the natural environment. Some artists prefer depicting valleys and mountains, while others masterfully portray seascapes. The depiction of natural scenery in fine arts is known as the landscape genre. Landscape painters, through their work, invite viewers to love, appreciate, and admire nature.

Working on a landscape begins with choosing a scene that appeals to the artist's heart and matches his mood and intention. At this stage, defining the purpose of the work, creating several sketches, and selecting the most suitable one for the final painting become crucial. The formation of a landscape artist requires developing a love for nature, keen observation skills, and the ability to work with color systems. Each small element of nature contains the essence of an entire world.

### Composition in Landscape Painting

Composition (from the Latin composition – "arrangement, structure") refers to the unity and integrity of elements in relation to each other and the main image. It is one of the fundamental structural aspects of fine art. Composition determines the placement of objects, their proportional

relationships, balance, and rhythmic harmony within an artwork. In landscape drawing, composition defines not only how objects are arranged on the surface of the paper but also the overall expressive power of the work.

#### The main functions of composition include:

- Revealing the content of the artwork;
- Establishing the focal point;
- Maintaining balance between objects;
- Ensuring aesthetic unity.

A **symmetrical** composition creates a sense of calmness and order, while an **asymmetrical** composition evokes movement and dynamism. Students must learn to apply these approaches purposefully.

Every object in a landscape must be proportionate to the whole scene. For example, if a human figure or a house appears much smaller than a tree, the proportions will not reflect natural reality. Thus, proportion is one of the core principles of landscape drawing.

Although learners are often encouraged to use the entire paper surface when drawing, this should not be considered a rigid rule because compositional variations can be limitless. Simply placing an object on an A4 sheet already requires a compositional decision. Therefore, following compositional rules is essential.

Students often face common difficulties when learning landscape composition, such as identifying the compositional center, maintaining balance, and achieving unity and subordination among elements. During plein-air practice, many students struggle to correctly determine the focal point and the overall spatial organization.

In any artwork—whether a still life or a complex composition—there must always be a **central element**. The main objects that reveal the content of the theme constitute the compositional center. Lines, perspective, tonal relationships, color dynamics, and light are elements that help express the artist's thoughts and emotions to the viewer.

For this reason, before drawing a landscape, students must learn to construct still-life compositions based on compositional principles. As early as the Renaissance, Leonardo da Vinci and other masters defined concepts such as focal point, spatial arrangement, compositional harmony, and the "golden ratio."

Therefore, if a student works on a landscape while following compositional solutions, identifying the focal center, and applying the golden ratio, he or she will undoubtedly achieve the desired artistic result.

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