

## **Joe Oakes**

You are what's missing from my work.

I'm often asked, why don't your paintings have any animals, birds, people, etc? The reason... you, the viewer, are the one who needs to fill that void.

When I paint I'm expressing a peaceful, solitary moment. If I have been successful, then you will be able to replace me as the viewer. I want you, to want to be dropped down into this scene and feel it. Or better yet, that you feel like you're already there, truly appreciating it!

My use of color, light and shadow have been exaggerated to capture your imagination. And, although my work is representational, for me it's more about atmosphere, feeling, emotion, and conveying that to you. I deliberately intensify color, adjust composition and remove extraneous information to capture the essence of the moment.

It takes a keen eye to find the fantastical in everyday places. I seek them out but remember it's not just looking but seeing. It's really seeing and appreciating all the little nuances of light and shadow playing on surfaces and competing with each other.

I hope that you will "visit" one of my paintings and recognize somewhere you want to be. This is how we can connect and all I ask of you is to not only see, but feel.

Join award-winning artist, Joe A. Oakes, for a fun, informative painting experience. Format includes a combination of discussions on composition, color, value and technique, along with a painting demonstration.