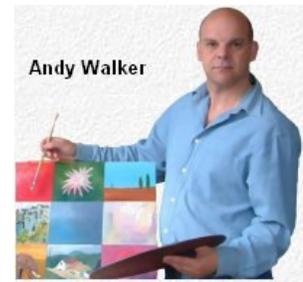


## Hints and Tips to improve your drawing and painting.



### Keep it Simple!

Sometimes in life less is more, and this really does apply to painting and drawing. How many times have you overdone a painting by putting in just too much detail? It's so easy to fiddle and add all those extra bits and pieces that don't leave any room at all for the viewer's imagination. Often the simplest of pictures work the best.

Take for example this line drawing by a Swiss artist now living in Spain, Michele Lehmann. We bought this a few years ago and fell in love with it, not only because of its romantic image, but because of the simplicity with which it had been created.

The image has been reduced to its bare minimum, where each line tells a story and no more. No more lines are needed to show what the picture is about, and no line could be removed without leaving a gap. There is just the right number of lines, and more importantly they are each in exactly the right place.

The same holds true for the traditional style of painting from China (below). Each brush-stroke tells a story, and paintings are created with the bare minimum of strokes.



This simplicity was powerfully exploited by the English watercolourist Edward Wesson, as in this example (right). He firmly believed that less is more and that each stroke of the brush had to tell a story. There are no wasted marks at all in this delightful landscape.

So, my advice would be to train yourself to paint or draw with the minimum that is required, and to avoid the temptation to fiddle! There is great power in simplicity.

