

The canopy above our heads, that landscape up there is called the sky. Full of clouds, colours, birds, stars and memories. Always with us, ever-changing.

The sky is an interesting and variable source of colour and light. These two photographs are of the same bit of coast. There are four types of sky: morning sky, evening sky, noon day sky, night sky. In-between are constantly changing variations in the colours we see – sailors knew this: “red sky at night, sailor’s delight, red sky at morning, sailor’s take warning”.



Dungeness, Kent, UK

The evening sky on the left with the people fishing presents the immensity of the sky, as well as the wonderful colours that only sun, cloud, and sea can produce at this special time of day.

The picture on the right is of essentially the same view except facing more out to sea. It reveals very little detail, but revels in the richness of the colours of the early day.



Dungeness, Kent, UK

Same place, different light.



Two views of  
Dungeness,  
Tremblay

In either picture, looking at the colours themselves presents an artistic opportunity for abstraction, and not just painting fields of colour, but of patterns with complex geometry.

These two photographs inspired the pair of paintings, framed together here. The one on the left is a more literal interpretation, while the one on the right is essentially the same painting only explored in a more abstract manner.

### Try this...

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Look at the sky at any time of the day, in whatever kind of weather. See how the tones of the sky differ from horizon to right overhead. Look at the trees and the buildings, and see how the sky is colouring them. You may have noticed how vivid the colours are when the sun is shining and the sky is dark grey as a storm approaches.

Without doing a sketch or drawing, just remember the colours and how they made you feel. Write this down in a short note to yourself. Wait a few days then reread your notes, and recall the feelings and the way the sky looked.

Now paint this. No peaking at the sky.