

The built environment, the buildings and people and the office, and factory can become an amazing creative resource, full of details and colour, patterns, shapes, and lines. Images can often be quite ordinary, but taken as a whole, they provide a fresh perspective, and open a new way to explore of shapes and colour.

The beach scene illustrates the sense of shape and colour that people make on a beach, which is almost alive, as each time you look things have moved, the colours and patterns the people make always changing.



Beach Scene, France (pixelated to remove detail)

The picture of Marseilles is taken from a very high vantage point. Again, detail is largely lost and the colours are washed out by the noon sun. But that same sun has revealed some dark canyons of roads curving through the city. Copying this scene might be quite time-consuming, but extracting from it the shapes and flow of the city itself can be a real delight.



Marseilles, France



In the City #1, Tremblay

The painting is one of three I did to capture the canyons of the city between the buildings, with people as little dots. I used only three colours and just kept blending to get the full spectrum of colours for all three paintings. One of the three was used as a cover for a magazine.

Try this...

Look at the photograph of this sculptural fountain, a type of 'steam punk' construction.

What are the main things you notice about this.

Think of the colours, lines, textures, shadows, shapes, etc. What is the least amount of detail you think you'd need to paint this?

Now paint.



Sculptural Fountain,
Casino, Niagara Falls