

## WHAT IS VALUE?

Value is the lightness or darkness of something. It is one of the most, if not THE most important aspect of painting because it helps guide the viewers eye around the painting.

It also give objects form and landscape depth.

You may have heard the phrase, “Color gets all the credit, but VALUE does all the work?”

Here is a value scale of 1-10 with Payne’s Gray. Do you see that value is more than just three – light, medium and dark. It can be all of the shades in between, too.

And value can be translated to color – any color. With watercolor value is changed by how much water you add to your paint. So, if you start with Alizarin Crimson right out of the tube as the darkest value, just add a bit of water for value 9, a bit more water for value 8 and all the way down the line. It’s very easy to mix watercolor!

VALUE is very important in Batik and I want you to start to be aware of values all around you – the value of the

leaves of the tree against the value of the light sky behind it. All values and the darkness or lightness of them is what makes the trunk stand out from the sky! If they were the same value it might be difficult to tell one from the other.

I hope that this quick explanation of value has helped you become aware and understand a bit about it. We will be talking a lot about value during this course. Pretty soon you will all be experts!