

Image not found

[L'atelier Canson](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/logo.png)

Published on *L'atelier Canson* (<https://www.cansonstudio.com>)

[Home](#) > Landscapes: Working with Natural Elements

---

Image not found

[https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson\\_commons/images/btn-prece.png](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson_commons/images/btn-prece.png)



[Return to article list](#) [1]

# Landscapes: Working with Natural Elements

Image not found

[Twitter icon](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/modules/socialmedia/icons/levelten/glossy/32x32/twitter.png) [2]



[https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson\\_commons/images/article-fav.png](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson_commons/images/article-fav.png)

---

[Professional Tips](#) [5]

Rate this article

Give Landscapes: Working with Natural Elements 1/5	?
--	---

Rate

---

The role played by a natural setting (sky, sea, field, prairie, etc.) depends on the place that it occupies in the composition, but also on the treatment that it receives.

## What You Need to Know:

- The more lively the sky or the sea, the more it will overshadow other points of interest
- Conversely, a calm sea or a peaceful prairie should be contrasted with a strong subject, or your work risks appearing bland.
- Grant natural settings the place they deserve: It's useless to plan two-thirds of the composition as sky if nothing is happening there!

Image not found

<https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/default/files/divers/TteTkn-011-A.jpg>



## 1. Animate the Sky

- Create a tonal range that harmonizes with the ambient luminosity: from pink to blue at dawn, from gray to purplish for bad weather, etc. Define a maximum of intermediate tones.
- Harmonize the clouds: white to gray on a blue sky, turning almost purple for a sunset, etc.
- In a dramatic landscape that doesn't actively seek realism, dare imaginary shades, contrasting them

violently against the sky.

- Work with volume: through *impasto* and shade, but also by reserving clear shades for the sections exposed to the light (behind a cloud, the sun is always there!).

Image not found

<https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/default/files/divers/TteTkn-011-B.jpg>

## 2. Make Water Come Alive

- Beyond its treatment (line drawing, color, transparency?), make an effort to set the scene: cascading waterfalls, foaming waves breaking on the rocks, etc.
- The definition of reflections of boats and other structures is an excellent indication: a calm sea requires a good deal of clean lines. Conversely, a few imprecise brushstrokes suggest agitated seas.
- Position your subjects consequently: on a stormy sea, yachts heave-to.

## 3. Create a Breeze

Wheat flattened by the wind, branches on an impossible trajectory? Vegetation vibrates under the wind's influence.

- Play with the slanting of stems, prioritize oblique elements? and transform ordinary pastures into graphic elements that are favorable to guiding the eye towards your points of interest!

## Suggested products

### Canson® Universal Art Book™

Image not found

[https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/default/files/styles/miniature\\_\\_\\_lire\\_aussi/public/dessin%20artbook%20universal.jpg?itok=SivhFpSC](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/default/files/styles/miniature___lire_aussi/public/dessin%20artbook%20universal.jpg?itok=SivhFpSC)

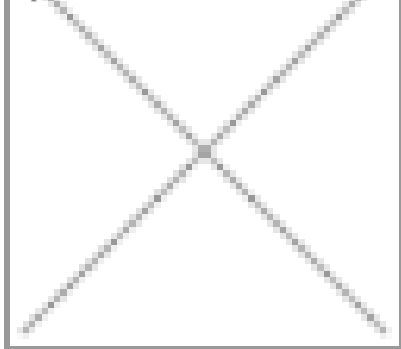


Image not found

[https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson\\_commons/images/link-a-arrow.png](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson_commons/images/link-a-arrow.png)



[VIEW THIS PRODUCT](#) [6]

## See also

### Composing Landscapes

Composer un paysage

Image not found

[https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/default/files/styles/miniature\\_\\_\\_lire\\_aussi/public/TteTkn-009.jpg?itok=HHpZT8fn](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/default/files/styles/miniature___lire_aussi/public/TteTkn-009.jpg?itok=HHpZT8fn)

**Framing, organization, exhibition?** Composing a landscape requires knowing how to observe, but also how to make the best decisions at the right moment.

Image not found

[https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson\\_commons/images/link-a-arrow.png](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson_commons/images/link-a-arrow.png)

[DISCOVER](#) [7]

---

## Links

[1] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/technique/drawing>

[2] [//twitter.com/share?url=https://www.lateliercanson.com/printpdf/671&text=Landscapes: Working with Natural Elements](https://twitter.com/share?url=https://www.lateliercanson.com/printpdf/671&text=Landscapes: Working with Natural Elements) <https://www.lateliercanson.com/printpdf/671> via @CansonPaper

[3] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/printpdf/671>

[4] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/print/671>

[5] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/professional-tips>

[6] <http://en.canson.com/drawing-sketch/canson-universal-art-booktm>

[7] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/composing-landscapes>