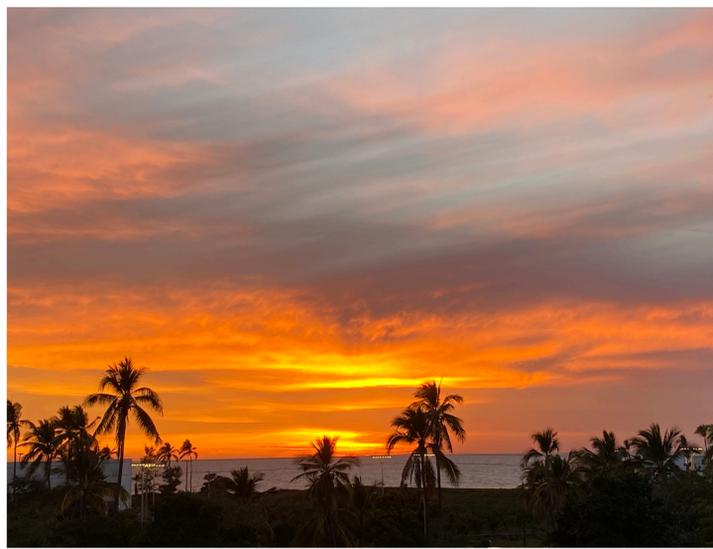


Greetings from Mazatlan, Mexico! We arrived January 10 after spending a few days in Calgary with family. We return to Ontario, and Dwight, mid-February. There are rumours of piles of snow waiting for us ... please, say it isn't so.

The image below is taken from our balcony in Mazatlan. Most evenings we linger with a lovely light show like this. Look at that sky! Beautiful! Sunsets are made for painting. It reminds me that there is, literally, a painting around every corner. Although I have been painting more of Muskoka while I have been down here, I have been taking many photos for future reference.

The other day, we visited our local fruit market (so amazing). On the weekends there is a little market that pops up beside the fruit, selling anything from food to jewelry to photo art. It brought to mind a possibility (my mind is always creating possibilities) and, after speaking to one of the "managers", I have learned that, upon our return to Mazatlan in 2027, I may be able to display a few paintings for sale. We'll see.

In the meantime, I keep painting (there's been five new Muskoka paintings to add to my repertoire since our arrival). As well, I'm always at the ready for what will present itself to me, just around the corner, as my next painting. There is so much to paint.



Turning my thoughts to this coming summer's opportunities to display and sell my watercolours, I have applied to be in the Dwight Market again, every Wednesday. My place in the Muskoka North Studio Tour is reserved. A new possibility is the Rosseau Market, on Fridays.

I have included two recent paintings that I'll display this summer, unless they sell sooner. The first is called "Snowlight", a 10x8 painting I created while in Mazatlan. I think it is one of my best as it captures the amazing late afternoon light on the snow.



The second is called "Rosseau", 8x10. I took the picture last summer in the town of Rosseau, capturing one of the many views from the location of the market where I hope to be this summer.

Another recent painting is "Dorset". I have painted this scene several times from different vantage points. It is classic Muskoka ... a very familiar landmark. My initial value study is also included.

After my drawings (rough sketches, really), I paint the value study. I squint my eyes at the photo as a way to highlight the mid-value parts of the painting-to-be. Usually, the sky, water and lighter parts of the photo remain as white paper and I paint the rest, trying to create one big connected shape, with Payne's Grey paint.

With this as a guide, I turn to my colour painting. My initial wash covers most of the paper with light colours. Then, the mid-value wash paints the value study's one big shape, changing colours, painting from the previous wet bead of paint. The magic of watercolour happens, the paint mingling in lovely ways, attracting me once again to the magic of watercolour. Until next time.



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