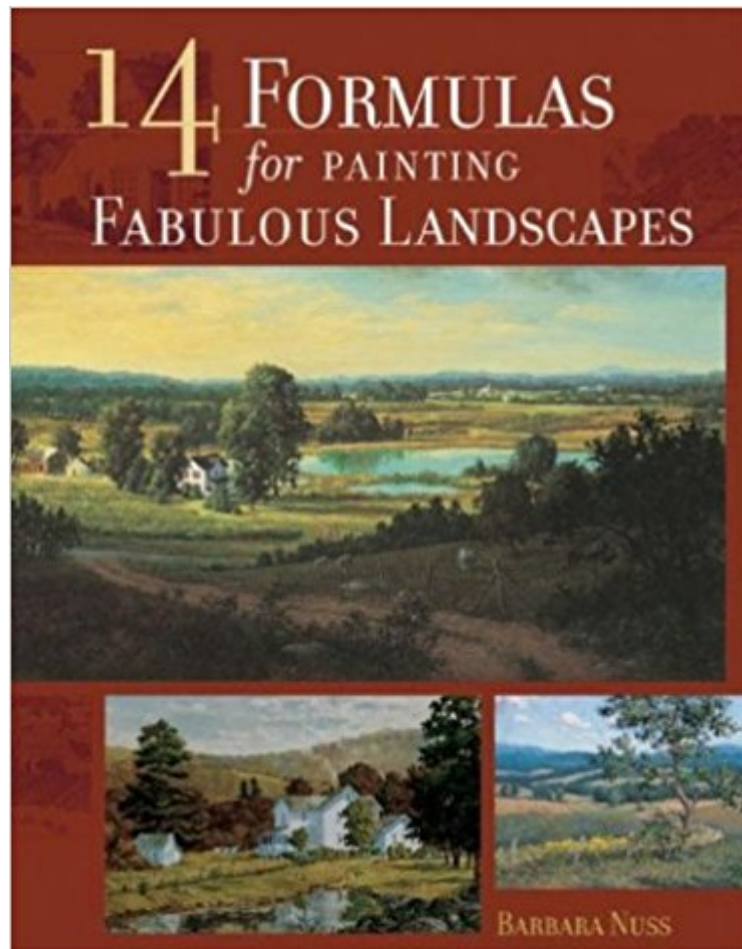




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# 14 Formulas For Painting Fabulous Landscapes



## Synopsis

When it comes to capturing the beauty of the great outdoors, it's the composition that really makes or breaks a landscape painting. Accomplished artist Barbara Nuss takes all the guesswork out of the equation with this indispensable guide. She shows artists how to simplify, arrange and refine what they see in the natural world to create a truly great painting. The book is divided into 14 chapters to cover each of the core design formats for landscape paintings. Within each section, readers will find easy-to-follow exercises, thumbnail sketches, photos and other helpful tools. Many of the composition topics are accompanied by complete painting demonstrations. Readers will come away with all the knowledge they need to link real-world nature scenes with these 14 essential compositions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Barbara Nuss is an award-winning landscape painter who has been teaching painting since 1983. Her accomplishments include membership in the Salmagundi Club of New York City and being featured in the 2001 Arts for the Parks Top 100. She lives in Woodbine, Maryland.

This is not a book that spends much time on "how to paint" or "color choices" but rather the emphasis is on layouts or the many choices for a great composition of the landscape and the many, many formulas that can be used to get the most dynamic presentation of the scene you wish to paint. Remove a tree, shift a house, re-direct a river, lower the sky, add buildings or whatever will fit to make your painting lead the viewer's eyes into the painting and travel around the painting and emphasize the best features of the scene. Composition is EVERYTHING when it comes to painting

anything! Poor composition/layout of your subject matter can make or break a painting! Good composition applies to all paintings but frequently it's much easier, at least in my case, to arrange a still life than it is to lay out what looks good in the great outdoors. Read and learn the variables of landscape composition and become a great landscape painter! Great book with much more compositional information than I have ever seen in a landscape painting book before. Worth every penny if you are serious about painting landscapes!

I was somewhat surprised with this book as I don't usually care for the X number of steps for a perfect life type books. However, Barbara Nuss has some very good advice for the beginner and intermediate landscape painter, and even for the advanced painter. She actually does list 14 "formulas" or, as I'd classify, compositions, of landscape painting. Each formula is addressed with samples and step-by-step demonstrations. Some of these are addressed in other books (see my review on Edgar Alwin Payne). However, I think the greatest value in Ms. Nuss' advice is how she gives the viewer confidence to change things. If you don't like the actual landscape in front of you, change it! Ha! How simple is that? But most artists are so consumed with the idea of depicting things exactly as they see them, that they forget that they are the creator and can change the landscape to make a stronger composition and a stronger painting. Most outdoor painters will find value in this book. I will add that Ms. Nuss' oil paintings are much stronger than her watercolor paintings. If you are looking for W/C, then perhaps another book would suit you better.

Barbara Nuss is an accomplished artist and a capable teacher, but with many of the other books out there on composition, this one just felt a little flat. She has wonderful artwork and explains many of the basic compositional structures well, but the tutorials seem, to me, too much based upon her particular piece of artwork and not a more general approach. I never like giving too harsh a critique, but with books by author/teachers like Margaret Kessler, Ian Roberts and Stephen Quiller available, (plus many others) I would be more apt to recommend those. Again, not a bad book on composition, just not great.....

"14 Formulas for Painting Fabulous Landscapes" is an easy to understand guide to creating beautiful landscape paintings. This book, along with Richard F. Carlson's "Guide to Landscape Painting", are the best reference books for any landscape painter, beginner to professional. In fact what Barbara Nuss has done in her excellent book is to take Carlson's concepts and turn them into a practical, step-by-step guide for producing consistently creative landscape paintings. Clear,

concise ideas for creating interesting compositions, mixing paints, and various types of painting techniques are provided. Detailed descriptions (with step-by-step photos) for creating a finished work by first doing an on-site pencil sketch, and then producing a field painting, are clearly shown. Using this preparatory research, the reader is then guided on how to make a finished painting.

An informative book that is worth buying.

Easy to read and great examples of pictures on how to attain great compositions. Step by step examples were clear and easy to understand.

great book-

A lot of great hints for setting up your own landscapes. Many areas in this book that I paid Adult Education classes for. For a used book, I found it gently used and in great shape. Thank you, Barbara Bouchet, Concord, California

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