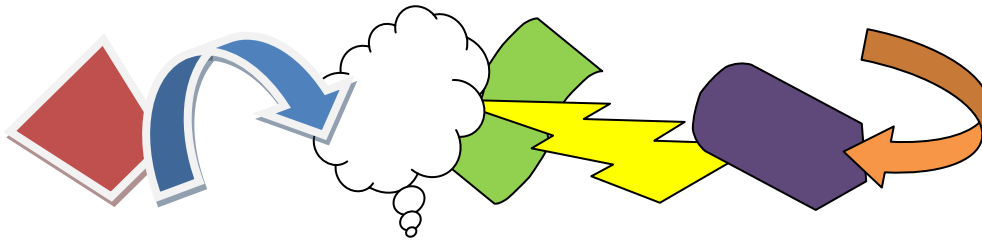


Shape Up



Lost, found, big, small, light, dark, connecting and overlapping shapes' characterize principles for good compositions. Let's stop traffic with those roadside fruit stands displaying their flavorful fruits and veggies. These interesting venues have all the qualifications for great compositions. They quickly grab my attention but not for my next meal. Although I like to eat, my painting appetite kicks in absorbing the color, shapes and activity.

Every box of strawberries is lined up like a high school band ready to march. The producer's goal is to sell, sell and sell before those red sweet berries become fuzzy green on the bottom. The repetitive organized order makes for good marketing but lacks rhythm for a great composition. The expected becomes boring like an old friend sharing the same tiresome story for 20 years. An overturned strawberry basket with a banana in the midst makes for an unexpected surprise or a mystery into what happened. Energizing surprises that beg for a close up look...a mystery that invokes questions.... are game changers. Step out of the box turn what you see into what could be. Suggest shapes that change the scene...adds interest to the predictable.

The size rule of papa mama and baby shapes generally applies for unity and the overall design. A prima donna is needed with contrast/color or attitude becoming special with surrounding subordinate shapes. Don't rely on your reference and surrender your creativity.....start composing.

