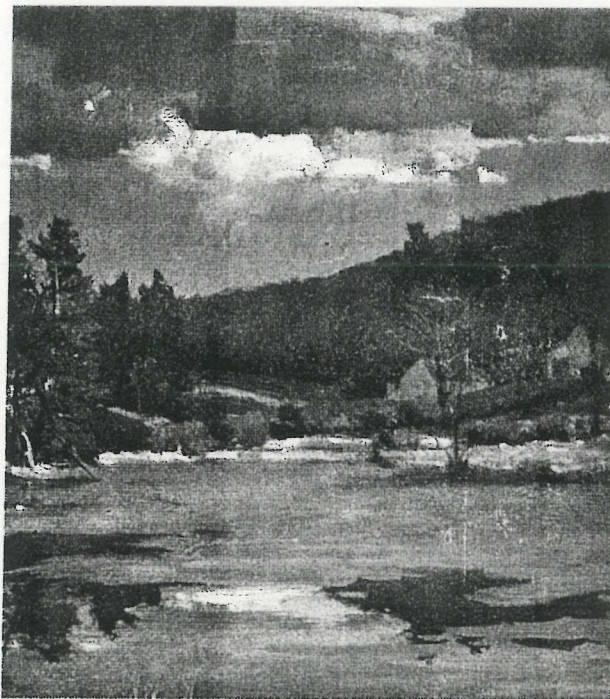


#### SETTING THE TONE

**Q:** *What is tonal structure?*

**A:** In drawing and painting, tonal relationships can be used to structure form, space, and design. Whether abrupt or gradual, the range of tones between white and black can be a powerful agent of representation, balance, movement, emphasis, illumination, and mood. The tonal pattern in the artwork creates balance and harmony by uniting forms that are different, contrasting forms that are similar, and forming independent patterns and movements. The composition of the forms—how the individual compo-

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*Clearing Over the Pond* (detail), by John Phillip Osborne, 1996, oil, 28 x 36. "The overall tone of a painting determines the harmony of the image," says Osborne. To help create the unity of light and shadow in his work, Osborne often "pre-tones" his canvases by applying a thin layer of paint thinned with turpentine. "When you're working on location, using a pre-toned canvas helps you get that tonal unity very quickly," he says.

nents are formed and how they fit together on a two-dimensional plane—gives a unique sense of order and life to an artwork. Ultimately, the underlying tonal structure lends expressive character and aesthetic power to the subject by uniting spatial structure and content.