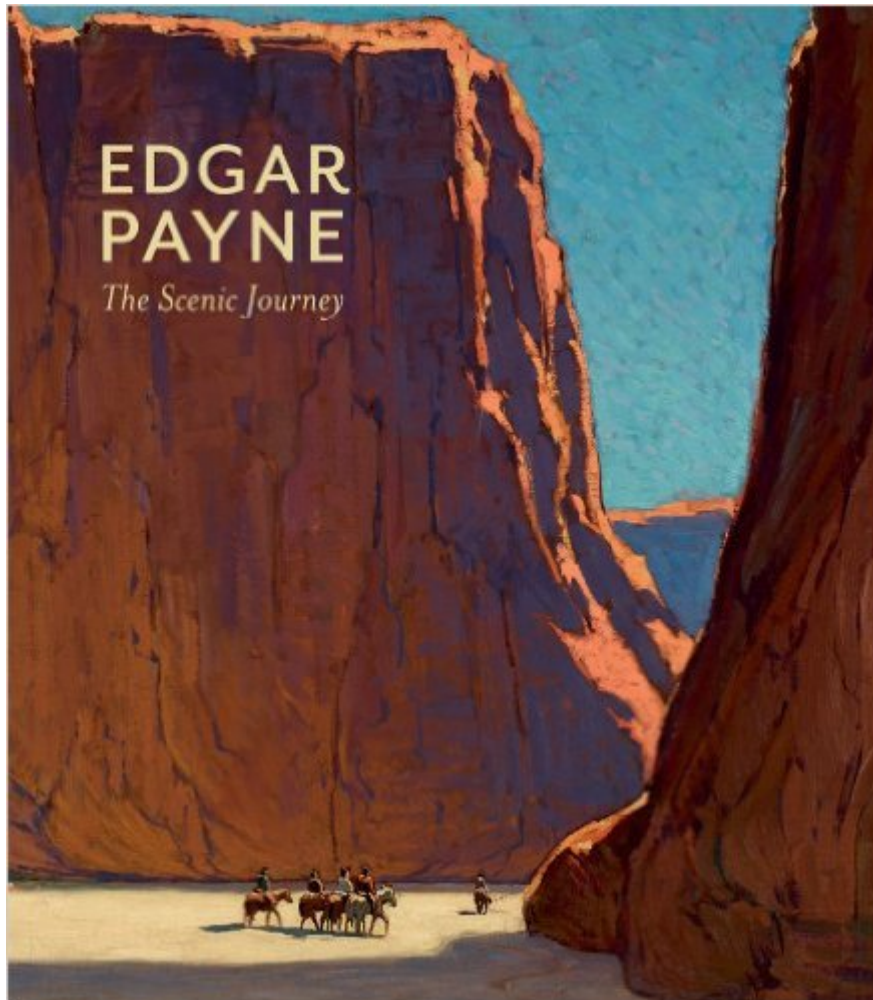


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# Edgar Payne The Scenic Journey



## Synopsis

One of the most gifted of the historic California plein-air painters, Edgar Alwin Payne (1883-1947) utilized the animated brushwork, vibrant palette, and shimmering light of Impressionism, but his powerful imagery was unique among artists of his generation. While his contemporaries favored a quieter, more idyllic representation of the natural landscape, Payne was devoted to subjects of rugged beauty. Largely self-taught, he found inspiration and instruction in nature itself. His majestic, vital landscapes, informed by his reverence for the natural world, are imbued with an internal force and an active dynamism. An avid traveler, Payne was among the first painters to capture the vigor of the Sierra Nevada, and his travels through the Southwest resulted in equally magnificent depictions of the desert. In Europe he rendered the towering peaks of the Alps and the colorful harbors of France and Italy. His unending quest to convey the "unspeakably sublime" in his landscapes won him widespread acclaim—one prominent critic called him a "poet who sings in colors." Released in conjunction with the traveling exhibition organized by the Pasadena Museum of California Art, *Edgar Payne: The Scenic Journey* presents more than 125 reproductions of Payne's paintings, drawings, and decorative arts, as well as rarely seen photographs from the artist's travels and selections from his personal collection of compositional studies. Essays by Peter H. Hassrick, Lisa N. Peters, Scott A. Shields, Jean Stern, and Patricia Trenton trace Payne's development as he traveled the world, discovering magnificence in diverse settings ranging from the California coast, the Sierra Nevada, and the stark Southwest desert to the Swiss Alps and the harbors and waterways of Europe. A richly researched chronology by Shields presents the biographical influences that shaped Payne's illustrious career.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have been an Edgar Payne enthusiast ever since art school and that was decades ago. This book defines what so many feel and think of his works. And for the purchase price, not only do you get a great biography of the man but also full color and full page illustrations. I own an Edgar Payne drawing and if I had the money available I'd also have an original Edgar Payne painting hanging in my home. This book is well worth the money and to me Payne defines what Southern California landscape painting is and should be! Enough with this modernist attitude of art for art's sake and I agree with Payne on that subject wholeheartedly! BUY THE BOOK!

OK, so I have been burned by blindly ordering books on artists in the past...Because let's be honest, you don't buy a \$50 book for the words. And many end up being mostly that. I'm writing this, my first book review, because I want you to know that this book is top notch and beautiful, full of full page pieces. It is in the top 5 of my whole library...If you are in the studio, and need a quick pick me up, this is one to grab... cheers!

This book is a must for fans of Edgar Payne. One of the few museum catalogs where the color and values are remarkably true to the art, the scholarship, and the printing quality throughout, are a joy. Of course, the best is to catch the show in one of its museum venues, but, this wonderful book will sustain long after the paintings have returned to their (lucky) respective owners.

This book has the best full color plates from which the fledgling artist can see the expression and brushstrokes that made Payne such a prolific and successful painter. The historical perspective was well defined and gives a glimpse of the pioneer spirit of this early western artist and his wife, who was also an extremely talented artist in her own right. Payne's California Sierra landscapes are particularly poignant in that they give a glimpse to the reason why so many people have been drawn to the spectacular variety of scenery of California. I bought this book as a compliment to Payne's 'Composition of Outdoor Painting,' which is the definitive book for outdoor painters.

The Book arrived July 5, 2013 via regular postal service. It's in great shape (new) well packed & shrink wrap. The Book is larger than I thought (11x12 1/4) 267pgs w/very large color plates, sketches & photos. The auto & biographical of Payne's life & career is very well done. I think Payne's painting

technics must be covered in other books. These authors seemed overly concerned with documenting "who or what gallery owned the paintings". I wish more of this great artist's "technics, & Philosophy or tricks of the trade" might have been covered, @ least with some of his family & artist friends. A Beautiful Book. Cliff Givens

I love this book... But I haven't read it. I'm a landscape painter, so this rating is not for the text. Its not an instructional book, its a biography (I think...ive only scanned it) This book is great because its filled with large, full color, good quality images. You can see the brushwork in the paintings. It's a thick book too. It doesn't have the close up detail images, but you can see so much in the other ones I didn't miss those. It also is separated by the locations he was painting in conjunction with his career, which I liked.

Edgar Payne captured the grandeur of the West, the sunlight and shadow, the size of the place and the smallness of man in the landscape. He also did it so simply that it looks easy....but it isn't. As a landscape painter, this book is one of my favorites and also most helpful in terms of brush technique, composition, and color choice. The book doesn't tell you how he did his magic, but a magnifying glass is all you need. This book will transport you to a wonderful place and another time.

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend this exhibit in Los Angeles two times. Couldn't wait to purchase the book as the paintings were fantastic, so vibrant. When I opened the book at home to share with my family, I was shocked at the poor quality of the printed art work. My goodness, you would think the museum would have chosen a better print house for the master of Plein Air painting.

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