

“Artful
Guidance:

**TIPS FROM
IEA MENTORS**



QUESTION: How do I work in a series? How do I figure out what theme I want to do for that many pieces?

LYN BELISLE

I love the deep exploration of working in a series and find a lot of approaches to deciding on a theme. Here are some that might work for you –

- Revisit unfinished projects or ideas. Sometimes, older work can spark new inspiration.*
- Focus on common, everyday objects that have unique textures or forms. This can be anything from household items like a glass jar to natural elements like leaves or stones.*
- Experiment with themes based on specific colors, shapes, or patterns. This approach can simplify the decision-making process and allow for creative exploration.*
- Consider significant moments or experiences in your life. Themes based on personal stories often have depth and authenticity.*

This last method was the impetus for my series called 30 Shades of Twilight. I was thinking about growing older and all of the changes in technology and industry, so I began taking photographs of sunset colors and telephone lines. Here are some of the examples in that series, which because a joyful exploration of color line and a reassuring reflection on the complex and sometimes exciting “twilight” years of our lives.

