



Brush Strokes



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THE MANY SHADES OF BROWN

This is the season when we think brown, but of course we're not looking at brown as "just brown." Look at the many browns showing up in this photo of Susan Hale's painting. That's an actual leaf pile in her backyard and she got the idea of having a little girl and her dog rolling around in it.

There are so many shades of brown and of course brown and blue are complements so this worked out great for a painting. Susan has a knack for the whimsical so it was only logical to her to have the dog playing there with the little girl. The way the colors are blended, they really make us feel we are now in the Fall season of the year.



As winter approaches in the South you'll begin to see lots of things drying in the sun. One of them is shown in the painting to the left. From my brother's garden they had just pulled out the last onions, tied them together and hung them in the garage to dry.

You can see all the colors the drying produces and many of them are shades of brown. I named this painting "Southern Dryers" for that very reason, and I painted the onions on location while they were hanging from the garage ceiling.

Now let's look at the brown chart in my book *Wonderful World of Watercolor*, page

30. Also the Brown and Blue/Green chart on page 28 which shows how you can make these beautiful colors and you will realize that they are made mostly from what we know as "transparent." In the Brown and Blue/Green chart the colors used are often Indian Red and Light Red which have a larger degree of pigment in their content and therefore are more "covering" colors.

Some of the darker browns also have a stainer (Winsor Green) in the mix, and ironically most of them begin with Aurolin Yellow as their first color. If you equate this to the changing colors of the foliage in the fall, remember that green is a product of yellow and blue. Keeping the yellow in the mix and adding the Indian Red and then the Winsor Green as the final of the three insures a powerful staining color with the deep brown result. Try some of those brown mixes in your paintings.

At this time of year when you are out walking or driving someplace look around you at the changing leaves on the trees, and the fallen leaves beneath them. The colors are amazing!