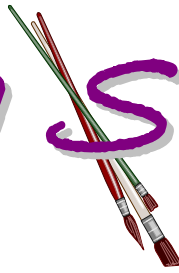




Brush Strokes



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HOME FOR CHRISTMAS



I'll bet you never saw a group of geese this color! Neither did I, but painting them their natural color became very boring and didn't quite thrill the viewer like I wanted to. So here's my version and I painted it just in time for Christmas. It's my second time through because I painted them in their natural color first.

Artists are always looking for a subject and a technique to hold the viewer's interest. The first thing on the list is **color**. That should get the response you are looking for from a viewer. The second thing is knowledge of how to get that response. Will it be by laying in color side by side with its complement or will it be in creating a mood? The eye is drawn by color and who can resist looking at the above painting?

I'd say that each of these is of great importance. If you place a yellow against a purple you have a quick audience or if you place blue against orange you have another place to make you look. Additionally you have to know how to paint snow, water, sky, sand, vegetation, shadows, etc. It can be very simple or very complicated.

In the above painting I was inspired by these Canada geese that come to my area every fall and usually stay through the winter. But I also needed to paint them in the snow for a better composition and their shadows in the snow brought in another color from my palette. Also another subtlety.

They look as though they are having a great time, but remember, that was my idea from the beginning and it was all planned out from the beginning. So, get a good start on your Christmas cards by choosing a scene that will indicate winter, include color perhaps trees or land with snow.