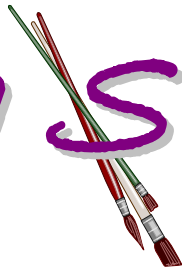




# Brush Strokes



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## BEAUTY UNDER AND ABOVE

The painting shown here is a recent watercolor finished and shown in a gallery in California. The artist is Lisa Curry who painted with me when I lived in CA. Her expertise just continues to grow.

Notice the whites that are left almost without color and how they guide you through the painting. There's a lot of activity to be observed as well.

Handling this type of scenery is extremely complicated but this was a winner for Lisa.



Now let's go above the ocean and see what happens there. This is a finished painting by Jo Marie Brotherton as she interprets a scene of a sailing yacht on the Florida coast. Note the composition and the color of the flag which keeps the eye going around the painting. The blue of the water indicates lots of movement and plenty of lights and darks.

The fluttering flag brings contrasting colors together with orange and blue at the top of the painting, and shadows inside the boat help separate the inside from the front of the bow below. The detail on the ropes just show how serious the artist is about this project.

Subjects to paint are all around us. Start looking at camera pictures you have taken either on your Smartphone or stored in a file someplace and see what you come up with. If you are a new student to this medium, you'll be surprised to see how fast you can advance using watercolor and all the nuances you can create.

The book *Wonderful World of Watercolor* is filled with charts you can look at and the list of colors to buy to make all these stunning colors. During my time off I practice limiting myself to using only mixtures shown in the green chart, for example. We all know yellow and blue make green but all those exquisite colors? Try it!

