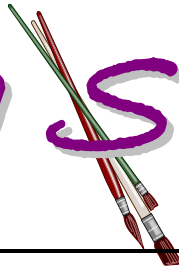




Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

December 2009 Vol. 2 No. 12

DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS?

Make it happen! Paint it! And then use it on your Christmas card.

The painting shown here was painted by Jossie Beck. It is simple, the design colorful even if it is mostly white on black. Notice the color in the wagon.

The simplicity of this painting is the most striking. It makes a viewer think of the Amish Country immediately, and of Christmas Past. A story can evolve with memories of going out to select your Christmas tree, and all the joy that Christmas brings.



To paint the horses and driver, this student was told to think of horse's ears, and the shape of the team as a whole instead of individual horses. The essential here was to get things in perspective. Keeping it simple was probably the most effective use of "non-color,"—white.



Here's another one that made a beautiful Christmas card. I painted this a few Christmases ago while living at Mt. Vernon in Northern Virginia. This was a small church within four blocks of my house, and in December when the snow came, it became the main focus of my painting. The Christmas symbols are there with the wreaths on the door, the bow on the mail box, and of course the color suggested by the stained glass windows. It became a favorite of mine, and was sold to another collector at a recent show.

Don't let another Christmas go by without deciding in advance you'll paint your very own Christmas card. Check the *Brush Strokes*, December 2008 for more instructions, and don't forget the basics. Begin with the composition, then think of where the light comes from, and then place your values. It will be more effective if you work out these details in a sketch first.