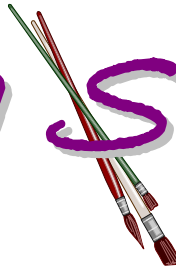




# Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

April 2009 Vol. 2 No. 4

## THE ART OF BECOMING AN ARTIST



*"Bird's Eye View"*

for that teacher's students. Make sure you purchase the supplies required.

People are always saying to me, "Oh, you have to have a lot of talent to paint."

My reply is, "You have to have a passion for art. Anybody can become a painter, but few can become artists without this passion."

The beginning of your creative ideas can be expanded by the logical steps it will take to achieve excellence. The first step is to set a goal. The second step is to find a teacher or class that will help you reach that goal. The third step is to practice what you are learning several times a week.

Because I teach watercolor, I'm more familiar with that subject and how to lead students to reach these goals. If you can draw, you can paint. If you can't draw but want to learn to draw, that's a beginning.

Many stumbling blocks can slow you down. One is not having the right materials for your art. Each art teacher has explored the various supplies on the market today and has reached a decision about what will work

Do you plan to become proficient in your art and possibly be selling some of your art? Then you need to stay with your lessons for a long period of time so that you understand what the market requires. Attending art shows, galleries and museums is another way to learn about art. Attending workshops that are within driving distance will also add to your experience.

And please don't listen to criticism from untrained and unqualified people. I'll never forget one teacher saying in front of the class, "If you paint every day, five days a week, for five years, you may turn out one or two paintings that are good enough to show." What a discouraging statement. Listening to that comment was also when I decided one day I would teach. Another comment I overheard was a painter/teacher stating to another painter, "Well, I just have to go back to teaching because I can't make enough money in a gallery exhibiting my work." This is why you have to search for the right teacher to help you become the artist you expect to be.

One of my students always remarked when she came to class, "Another day in Paradise." Now that's reward enough to continue teaching for as long as I shall live.