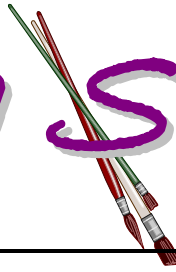




Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

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WEATHER BOUND

Probably the hardest paintings to complete are those of snow simply because the snow is the white of your paper.

Combining that with a starlit sky and sliver of a moon became almost an impossibility; however, I did pull it off and have this as a memory. It isn't my house but it feels like it after completion.

The snow becomes the main focus in a snow painting, and everything around it is entertainment. Therefore, emphasis needs to be placed on everything covered with snow. The white is the central player in this painting. It is a Virginia snowfall of February 2010, and the people living here are not likely to forget it. I titled it "Snowbound." Notice the footprints leading to the house.



Here's another one from that same snow, different place. This little guy is my grandson, and he made quick use of what one would call a picturesque environment. I've titled it "Olympic Contender 2014" to project where this young athlete is headed.



This painting was harder than the first one because I had to simply "make it work." The photograph was in color but remember, photos are flat and their color is reflected by whatever equipment they use to make the prints.

Taking artistic liberties, I added the different colors to the tree beneath the snow, the distant background to show up a horizon line, and the interesting shadows of the fence that was held up by only two posts in the original photograph.

Both paintings were difficult in that they had to tell a story about the "Blizzard of 2010." I think I may have succeeded in this endeavor. At least my grandson's parents think so.