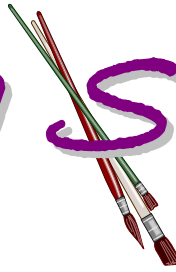




Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

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THE BEST PLEIN AIRE PAINTING WORKSHOP EVER!

Have you ever painted on location? Do you have any idea of the benefits? Do you remember from recent outdoor painting what the local color is (either in your backyard or on a vacation?)

All these things are very important to the results of your paintings. One comment from my recent workshop in Asheville was “To be able to paint outdoors for 3 entire days was just sheer Heaven!” Another student said “Thank you for the trip of a lifetime.”

In all there were 12 of us, and we painted at two locations in Asheville. The two men who came were the husbands of two of the students and they sailed for three days with our host in Asheville, George



Miseyko. He provided one of the locations—the sailing club at Lake Julien. Here students learned how to paint reflections in water, groups of geese with their goslings swimming by, and the steam plant in the distance with its reflection in the water.



The weather was wonderful, and the day spent at the Asheville botanical gardens was magical. Everyone painted all day from 10:00 to 5:00. Above is one of the scenes we selected, but the area offered so much shade and so many intimate little arty views it was hard to stay at one location.

As usual in an adventure like this one, no one could complete a painting; however, each artist captured the light (which is so different coast to coast and north to south) and were able to sketch what they would later finish in class. This has opened a new world to my students, and a visiting artist from New Jersey who has attended many workshops said, “It’s the best workshop I’ve ever been on.” Next time you have an opportunity, just sit out in your own garden and paint. You’ll see things you never saw before. Be sure you are protected from the sun.