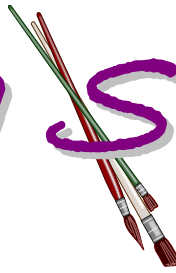




# Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

October 2011 Vol. 4, No.10

## HANGING AN ART SHOW

How can you tell if an art show is properly hung? Are there “jarring” colors from painting to painting? Below are some paintings from our recent art show at the FCAC beginning on Sept. 2. I’m lining them up in random order to show how a few of the walls were planned. The Director of the Art Center was in charge of hanging these 34 paintings, and her job was made a little easier because of the following: (1) They were all matted with white mats (2) They were all painted by students using the same color palette (3) All were watercolor. As you can see, some were presented on easels.

The photography here isn’t the best, but it follows the above points. Here are a few of the paintings hung first because of their color harmony and how it flows from painting to painting. There was limited wall space so they had to be stacked in some instances, but you can still see how compatible they are. The paintings were probably placed on the floor first until they could be sorted out and then hung.



While teaching the classes in San Diego, CA our semi-annual shows were held at a huge Performing Arts Center with large curving walls reaching two floors that had wall-to-wall windows on one side and the theater on the other. We had 165 paintings to hang, so went about it with a mathematical and photo plan. All the walls were measured (there were about three or four large walls that were flat) and all participants had photos of their work and measurements written on the back. A committee I appointed arranged the photos on the drawings of the measured walls, numbered the paintings and assigned numbers to each participant along with the color key of the wall where it was to be hung.

This worked surprising well since we had many varied sizes of paintings and only one day to hang them. All students were involved and learned a lot from this experience. A few paintings had to be juggled but not very far from the plan. After the show had hung for about a month, we were allowed to take them down, fill all the nail holes, and leave the walls as we found them. We had six shows at that location so you can see we were invited back because of our industrious and efficient way of presenting them. Also there were performances there almost every day so we had a built in audience.