



Brush Strokes



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DON'T JUST PAINT IT! FLAUNT IT!

Sometimes there's a painting that an artist just HAS to paint, and this is one of them! Obviously it's a vase collection and our artist, Penny Reasor, just knew that it was perfect for transparent watercolor.

The painting needed to be on a full sheet 22" x 30" of Arches Watercolor paper to be effective, and just look at the parts that had to be planned and executed for this to be successful. First of all were the glass shelves and the position they had to be in to allow the viewer to see the progression of the shelves as they went from bottom to top. The edges and reflections on each glass shelf were also important to portray this effect.

Next in the plan was to capture the light on each shelf and plan where the light would be the strongest. The darks in the painting needed to be planned as well to translate some of the color of the beautiful glass containers into the darkness.

This collection was put together by some lover of shapes and colors and was displayed in a window of her home. The artist who painted it is Penny Reasor and she has totally captured the feeling for each piece of glass—not only the shape and color, but also the texture.

The painting is now on display at the Members' Show at the Fountain City Art Center until November 9, and it stands out as a glimmering piece of work. Of course it is properly matted and framed to go along with the beauty of the varied items of glass.

One other thing to notice is how some of the containers on the shelves disappear out into the edges of the paper which leaves the viewer wondering whether there is more on beyond. This keeps your eye circling around the painting searching for more. The effectiveness of this piece of art is also evident because of the transparency of the watercolor. Layers of color are applied first as a wash over the damp paper. Then the stronger colors are added layer by layer always thinking of which color can be applied on top of the one below so that the final color you are seeking will be the result. Think in terms of complements. Don't forget the overlap of the items as well: which vase is in front or back.

My Wonderful World of Watercolor class at the Art Center and my book by that same name shows step-by-step directions and illustrations on how to paint glass. I'm sure that lesson came in handy while Penny was working on this piece.

