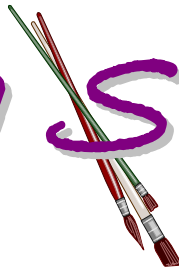




# Brush Strokes



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## PAINT CHILDREN AND CAPTURE INNOCENCE

This little girl was at the Butterfly Exhibit recently and Susan Bedwell, a student of Mary's, took her picture. It was a charming little girl, and the butterfly made it even more enchanting.

The success of the painting is in the eyes. Eyes are windows to the soul, and if they are painted correctly, the whole painting works.



There was a lot to learn when Susan started this piece. First she spent a whole class period just practicing eyes—old eyes, Asian eyes, young eyes, and many different colors of eyes. Once she felt she had captured the essence of how to paint eyes, she began sketching the painting.

We've had many comments on the piece—its success, its color, its ability to draw you right into the personality of this child. The butterfly becomes secondary, and yet that's the joy on the face—to have a butterfly land right on your arm.

The hair was a big obstacle to overcome as well. Hair has so many highlights and this little girl was in a bright light so that was a factor in the hair picking up the light. Then there was the background. Did every leaf need to be painted? It appears that it's a leafy background, but at the end, a glaze was laid over the entire background which caused it to recede and stay where it's supposed to stay.

We don't know the name of the child, her age, or why the butterfly landed on her arm. The artist didn't need to know that but she certainly had to know the time of day, the color complements, the look of youth, the skin color, and of course how to paint those beautiful blue eyes.