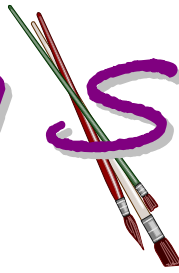




# Brush Strokes



by Mary Baumgartner

February 2012 Vol. 5, No.2

## CREATING A TRIPTYCH PAINTING



The painting above is actually three individual paintings framed as one. Some of you may have three paintings with the same subject matter or would like to paint three seasons, or three travel scenes from one of your trips. All are painted using the same palette and are the same size, and you wish to display them together. A better way to do this is to have the mat cut as shown above and have them mounted inside the mat and framed as a unit.

The Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines the word as meaning "a picture or carving in three panels side by side." The original meaning of the word identifies "an ancient Roman writing tablet with three waxed leaves hinged together." If the paintings above had been framed as three separate paintings, a gallery more than likely would hang them individually or hang them close together, but there is always the problem with hanging them carefully enough that they remain level and stay that way. A far better solution is treating them as one painting with your own choice of mat and frame.

The above treatment can sometimes cause a problem for your framer since it might require an oversized piece of mat board or the framer has never cut such a mat and is baffled about how to go about it.

These three paintings were painted with transparent watercolor by **Barbara Pitt**, a New Jersey artist who is a member of the Fountain City Art Center and who has also been on several workshops that we both attended in various cities throughout our friendship as artists. She and I still paint together when she is in town to attend one of my workshops or plein air painting trips. The title is "Bird Dormitory."