



# Brush Strokes



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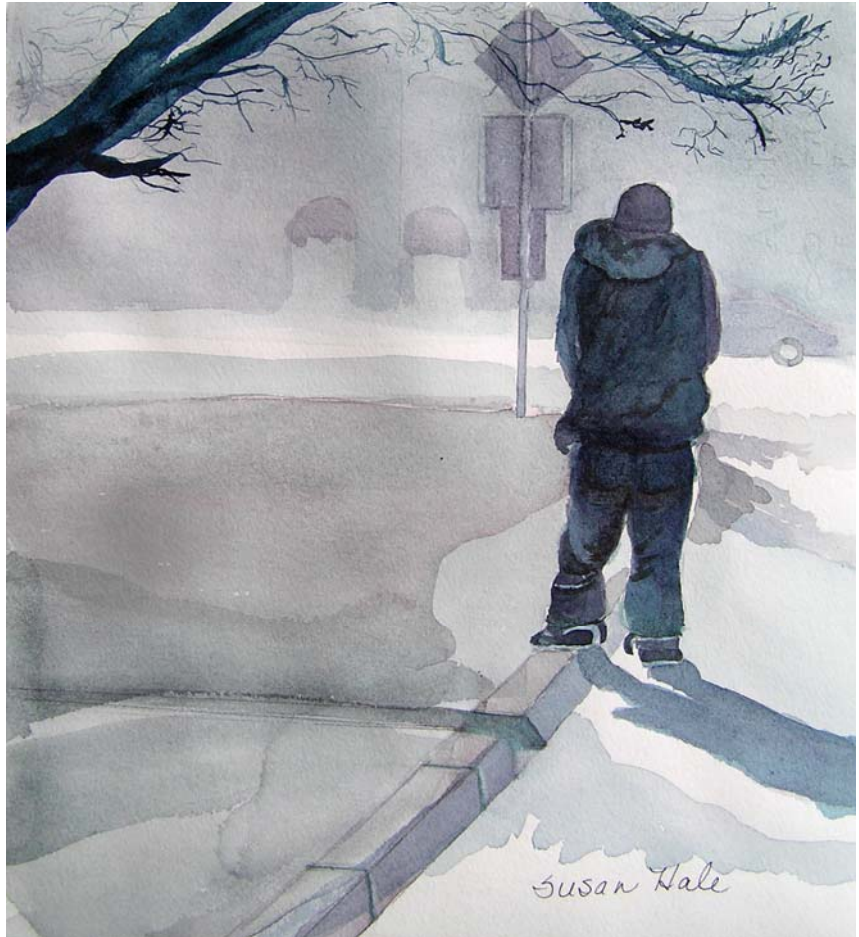
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## HOW TO SUCCEED PAINTING FOG

Here's a very effective painting showing the haze in the environment when there is snow on the ground and the rest of the morning light just beginning. There was a misty fog in the immediate vicinity while the subject of the painting was in detail.

This is a mood painting, even going so far as to capture a generation of young men, one who almost lost his pants because of no belt and a pair of pants way too big. It was early and the young man was no doubt waiting for the bus and probably on his way to school.

You will notice the tree in the foreground is in strong color and detail, but gives us another clue to the season since there are no leaves on the tree. The boy is wearing a heavy coat and cap, and his hands are in his pockets.



The use of whites in this painting leads the viewer into the scene with the light pattern. Also the time of day and the time of year can be determined because of the light. The lower right part of the painting is very well designed and that could be difficult to deal with. Susan Hale was the artist and she informed me that it took only about an hour to paint this piece. However, she started out with a plan.

Painting fog or a misty day requires laying out a plan. It wouldn't need to be more than shapes, but the placement of the shapes is what counts. Anything in the foreground is in detail. From about 15 feet back from subject (the young man) it begins to become out of focus, and from that point on the painting loses more and more detail until the background is purely a misty color such as Cerulean Blue mixed with a little Alizarin or Brown Madder. Figuring out a light pattern is the most important part of your plan. These same requirements would be in effect painting on top of a mountain in early morning mist. I had this experience on Dolly Sods Mountain in West Virginia during a painting workshop.

Congratulations, Susan, on the way you handled this painting and the success of the paint and picking out such an interesting subject.