



Brush Strokes



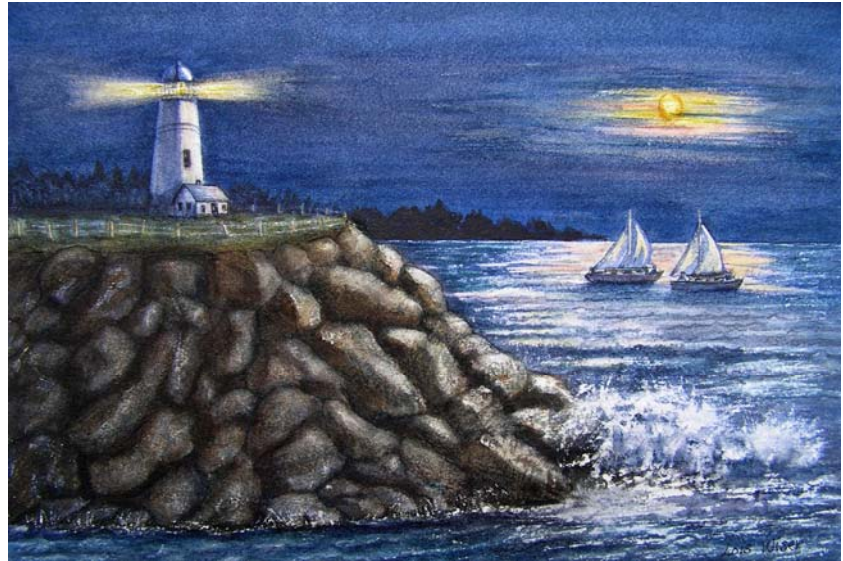
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ADVANCING SKILLS WITH YOUR PAINTING

Have you ever stopped to think about how hard it is to paint waves—especially at night? And what kind of scenery would you place into your painting?

Here's a very successful rendering of a watercolor with both the above elements. Was it easy? No! Was it possible? Yes! And as you can see it was truly effective and broadcast the message of what a lighthouse is for.



“Perilous Beauty,” by *Lois Wisner*

Some things to think about when deciding on this subject is the composition and what will make it dramatic but still speak to the viewer. Also, how much detail should be in the rocky mass that holds up the “danger” point? The sailboats are well placed, and the artist was reminded that very little reflection of mass (meaning the sailboats) would be shown below the sailboats unless the water is still.

The waves breaking on rocks in the lower right of the painting were well handled, and the active water on the front side of the rocks with the whites of the foam brought the eye around to the front of the painting. This is a very successful piece of work.

WONDERFUL WORLD OF WATERCOLOR SHOW CLOSES 6/1/12

My students enjoyed a successful reception and showing of their paintings in their most recent show at the Fountain City Art Center in Knoxville, Tennessee. Eighteen of my students had one or two paintings in the show, and shared the rest of the gallery with the Knoxville Watercolor Society. This brought in a sizeable audience of viewers. I also had a new piece of work in the show. There were a total of 34 paintings.

One of the items I stress when framing paintings for a show is to have a white or off-white top mat on the painting with a minimum of 3” on all sides. The inside liner of the painting can be a color usually taken from somewhere toward the middle of the painting since only about ¼” of this liner will show. It works as a border outlining the subject matter of the painting. The framing can be the choice of the artist, and in this part of the country, wood frames seem to be dominant. However, the width of the wood frame is an important part of framing since a very ornate frame may detract from the painting.

Hanging a show is much easier and the subject matter flows much better with the top mats all being the off-white color. Keep this in mind if you ever are in charge of hanging a watercolor show.