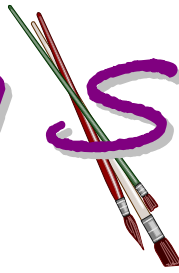




Brush Strokes



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September 2012, Vol. 5 No. 9

WATERCOLORS THAT GLOW LAYER BY LAYER

The secret here to actually building a *glowing* watercolor is using the brush layer by layer and color by color. The next essential thing to learn is which color to paint first, and which to add and in what order.

To know this the artist has to know the primaries, the temperature of the paint, the transparency of the paint, and which color will be applicable on top of the last one. The first thing to remember is that the whites must be planned in order that the paper can remain white in that area and the eye can travel throughout the painting.

To not start with a plan is a plan to fail. The painting to the right “Dancing in the Twilight,” was painted by Jo Marie Brotherton, and not only does it glow, but it invited the viewer to go up the stairs into whatever light is beckoning at the top.

Lois Wiser’s painting below again shows the brilliant use of the whites of the paper along with the layering, the proper values, and the correct placement of the objects. It is titled “Final Resting Place;” no doubt it will be since tombstones are there on the hill.

Both these paintings required a lot of thought—both putting the elements together (composition) and then following through to layer each of the colors to reach the glowing conclusion.



When you begin your next painting, be sure to have your thumbnails done, the best composition selected, and the plan for your whites. Remember, only you can make a piece of flat white paper look two-dimensional. And only your tubes of transparent watercolor can help you reach that goal.

Start attending art shows and really observing the colors. Look for the glow! Is it really there?