



Brush Strokes



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CHRISTMAS CARD TO SHARE AND SAVE!

This one is a *KEEPER*. So many of my Christmas list friends tell me they have every one of the cards I've sent them over the years. It becomes a question of expectations and how we fulfill them.

The painting shown here is called "Noel" because that's the cat's name. Nan Scott drew it, painted it, and has already turned it into her Christmas card this year. To those of us who know Nan it is a fitting reminder of her animals and especially Noel. She has done a marvelous job of a dreary snowy day but one that is alive with the red blossoms and the intense interest of her cat.

Several of my students have achieved this over the years, but none better than Nan. Give this some thought as you go into the New Year. Personally, I always paint my Christmas card in the cold, cold month of February for the following Christmas. That's because it seems I have to feel the cold, see the snow flakes flying outside my window and then be moved to paint those feelings.



Now onto a future time in the year when we can think *SUMMER*. The painting to the left was thought about many summers ago and was not finished until I learned how to place fireworks into a dark sky. (See the October issue of "Brush Strokes.")

It is a full sheet 22" x 30" on 300 lb. Arches and was extremely difficult to paint. The inspiration is from the actual fair at Del Mar, CA but also from memories of my childhood and the many summers I spent saving my money to go to the County Fair in Knoxville, TN always in September. I wanted to feature the carousel as that was

my favorite ride. Many summers in CA proved to me that this is an occurrence that happens all over the country in September. There's no snow in this one, but it is a happy painting and will make many people remember childhood.