



# Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

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## COMPOSITIONALLY SPEAKING.....

Let's begin by looking at a few interesting and well painted watercolors.

Here's an unusual painting on the left which utilizes a very soft approach along with an antique look to what many of us would call a "weed."

This artist, Crystal Conger has chosen to title it "*The Queen's Lace*," and it really does look as though it has weathered and might be found in an aging scrapbook from her grandmother.

Below is a painting titled "*Circle the Wagons*" and is

portrayed by JoAnn Cooper. She has portrayed this wagon as being broken, deserted, and awaiting the "dump" or a new owner. And yet it has a lot of appeal to the viewer because of the angles it portrays within the composition.



Both these paintings show the skill and dexterity of the painter. "*The Queen's Lace*" above emphasizes a lot of negative painting as well as the use of unusual color choices from her palette. Left below shows the unique colors of weathered wood—both from a realistic approach and an artistic choice. Complementing the purplish wheel with the yellow leaves is brilliant.

Another way to interpret a composition showing off her unique style is portrayed in Betty Crowe's interpretation of "*Carson Mansion*" in Eureka, California (above right). She has certainly captured the "essence" of this ancient mansion built in the late 19th Century. Her color choice of purple and green together in unequal amounts is dazzling. Applying depth of foreground into the painting by using the fence upfront is another "choice" use of composition.

Next time you choose to paint, think carefully about the position of the center of interest, the relationship of the center of interest to its background, how the whites flow around the painting to keep the viewer inside the framed piece, and of course the best use of color to make the painting "sing."