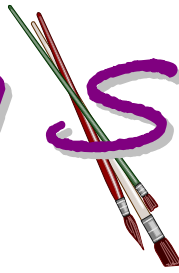




Brush Strokes



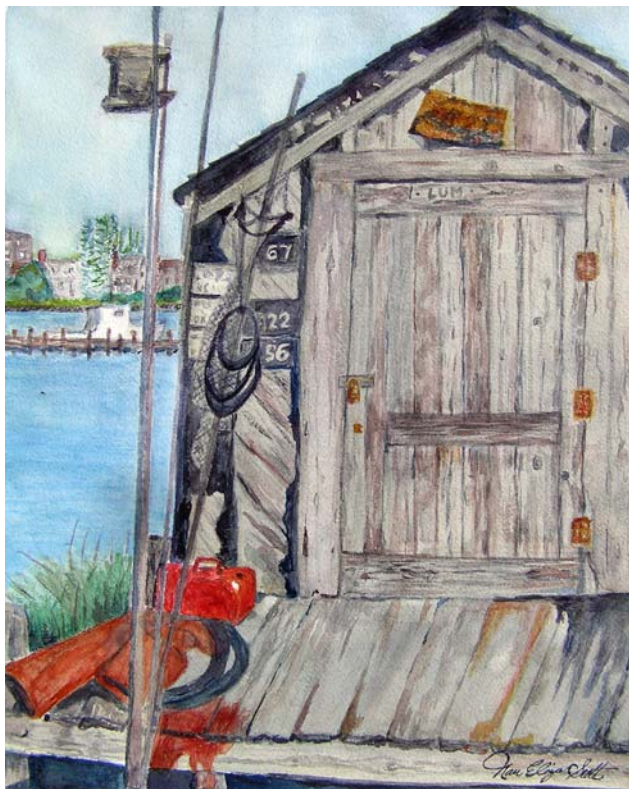
By Mary Baumgartner

July 2013 Vol. 6 No. 7

PLEIN AIR PAINTING—TRY IT! YOU’LL LOVE IT!

The watercolor on the right was inspired by Boone Hall Plantation in Charleston, SC. The first time I painted there sitting out front I felt the painting was a failure. The second time I didn’t try to reach so far and include so much, but by the third time (back in my studio) I knew exactly how I wanted to paint this beautiful old landmark. The gates totally enchanted me as much as the elegant house, but I wanted to include more detail.

The experiences of being there were invaluable. The local color has been captured, changes made to feature my feelings about the place and the feeling of the hot south is captured in the sunlight.



Left is a painting of a place that Nan Scot has visited so many times she decided to paint it—Okracoke.

The title is “Lum’s Dock and is special to her. She captured the feeling of this place and the age of the wood, the old boots, the rusted sign and the faraway water with a dock and homes or apartment buildings in the distance. Mostly she captured a mood of what she remembered.

Whether you paint sitting in front of your subject or only sketch in the shapes and swatches of local color, your studio will be the finishing place of your work. In the past I have finished a few paintings on location but it took more than one day. I schedule plein air painting trips for my classes from time to time so that we can all experience this. Asheville, NC has offered many of the locations as well as our local Botanical Gardens.

Meanwhile, back at the Art Center, we have discovered another tool that is helpful for applying masking fluid. It’s called Microbrush and can be found in the airplane hobby area of Hobby Lobby. I’ve been using different sizes of the stylus which works well, but this little brush has sizes that make finer lines if, for example, you wish to paint a cobweb in the foreground with a big spider in the middle.

The white sponge sold at Cheap Joe’s is a great tool for removing large areas of watercolor without damaging your paper. I researched it and found that the store brand of magic eraser works just as well and is much cheaper. The research including making sure the sponge with the store brand didn’t contain bleach. For smaller areas, slice the sponge with a razor blade across one corner and break it apart.

