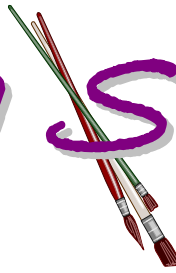




# Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

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## WHAT IS “STYLE”?

Many students of watercolor continue to try to copy photographs. No paintings would sell on the open market if they were exactly like the photograph. If a buyer wanted an exact reproduction he could simply frame the photograph and hang it over his fireplace.

Here is a painting *from* a photograph but I daresay there is no living squirrel with nail polish on the toenails. Also the background continues to enchant us as it portrays a deep forest with some light being picked up either by a bright sunny day or perhaps sky holes in the trees. The painting is shown on the right. Another painting in watercolor that has just been finished shows a group of flamingoes in the water, but again, this artist has taken liberties and probably painted it right from the area where they are seen at this time of year—Vero Beach, Florida. Again this painting shows the *style* of the artist, along with the adjusted realism of the flamigos. Who says we have to be realistic with our art?

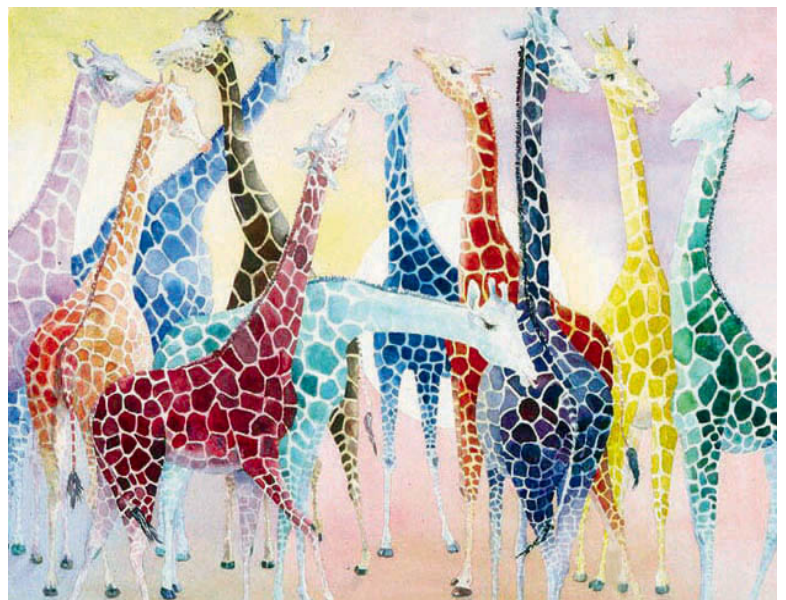


“Princess,” Watercolor by Cathy Carl

In my own art collection I have a painting of elephants in rainbow colors and the giraffes shown below in several colors. The result is the interest they have to the viewer.



“Friends,” Watercolor by Barbara Pitt



“Tall Tales,” Watercolor by Mary Baumgartner