



# Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

December 2014, Vol. 7 No. 12

## WHAT IF.....

You were suddenly asked to be a judge for a local show? Would you panic and say you couldn't do this? Would you ask for guidelines? Would you say "I've never done this before?"

These words should come to mind when a judge is asked or hired to judge a new show. The first question you should ask yourself is "Am I qualified; am I objective and do I have time to do this? What do I look for?" The answer depends on the number of paintings that are entered, the media used, and whether the show is made up of ceramics and other 3-D work. If you've never had any experience with watercolor, acrylics, oil, pencil, pastel, and 3-D, you may be wise to turn it down before even looking at the score sheet.

This becomes the dilemma for every art director when looking for a judge. Expect to pay a fee for a good judge, and also try and get a judge that has experience or is into the art world having had exposure to all types of art, including the media listed above.

Now let's list some criteria below that might remind you of the way the Olympics are judged—with a score sheet from #1 (low) to #10 (high). Think in the terms listed below.

*The paintings on the right (top to bottom) are by Nan Scott, Susan Bedwell and Kathy Dutt.*



Questions and Evaluations by Judges	Ptg #	Score
Does the painting have a center of interest?		
Is the composition pleasing to the eye?		
Are there distinctive values possibly from 1 – 10?		
Is there a foreground, middle ground & background?		
Does the painting show expertise in application?		
Is there a way to lead the eye through the painting?		
Are the four corners different?		
Is the background painted?		
Does your eye linger on the painting & circulate?		
Are the positive parts of the painting interesting?		