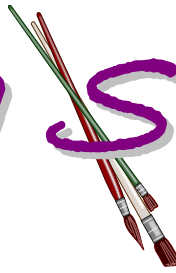




Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

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SPOTLIGHT ON FOCAL POINT

There should be no problem with a visitor to the gallery being able to find their way into a painting and stay entertained while there. The center of interest should be easily found if the artist paints it properly. The whites should begin at the whitest white and the viewer should be able to roam around the painting in a counter-clockwise manner searching for other whites. Additionally the painting should be filled with values from one to ten.

The painting shown here is titled "Prattfall" designed by the artist from imagining a waterfall painted into fruit. This is a clever way of showing what happens if varieties of fruit started falling at the same time. Susan Hale did small studies of all the different varieties of fruit so that she would know how to paint them. She did a painting this size 15" x 22" one time and then did it again, leaving the apple slice and halved apple as her centerpiece and focal point.

This very successful painting keeps you entertained while directing you through. It was a difficult endeavor, and if it keeps the audience enthralled for as long as two or three minutes in a gallery, it can be considered successful.



Focal Point #2

The painting to the left was completed by Elizabeth Offringa and was her version of the basket lesson, page 108 in *Wonderful World of Watercolor*. You will notice that the composition is breathtaking with a background enhancing the focal point so that your eye is drawn right into the painting. She drew her thumbnails first and then picked the best one; drew and painted from the baskets she had saved at home and brought to class.

The lessons are in the book, and new students are required to paint them to further their development in the art of watercolor. This is Elizabeth's second painting since joining the class. She loves the experience and has fit into the class and participates as all the students do with their assignments and on their own.

These two paintings will be in the Wonderful World of Watercolor annual show at the Fountain City Art Center starting July 25-August 22 along with about 30 other student paintings from this class.

