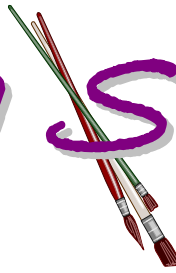




Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

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PAINT THE MOOD!



“Reflective Moments” was created by Elyse Hendrick and reminds us all of a Monet which would have been painted in the late 1800’s. The scene here is beautifully depicted in watercolor that lends itself to paintings of this type. The mood it conveys is tranquility, with the swans floating peacefully down the waterway surrounded by spring blossoms.

For Elyse to paint this intricate and delicate scene there were several steps to contemplate that were also painted in a specific order. Situating and painting the swans was first, and of course they needed defining but didn’t need a lot of color. The water was second as it contained a lot of color and awareness of the reflections in the water from the tree, the statue, the swans and the flowers. This has been beautifully executed. Next was creating the scenery above and being able to differentiate between what was closest to the water line and then painting it, and after that directing the viewer’s eye to the more distant vegetation. The statue of course was still left white until Elyse could deal with the distance of the statue from the swans through her off-white color choices. This is a very successful and well planned and thought out painting and I congratulate the artist for a job well-done!