



# Brush Strokes



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## SHARING YOUR WORK BRINGS CONFIDENCE

Just recently the Wonderful World of Watercolor presented the 9<sup>th</sup> annual student show at the Fountain City Art Center. 36 paintings were on display and I'd like to be able to share all of them if I had more room here. All were quality paintings and a large crowd came for the grand opening and reception.

The WWW show ended on August 22 with a few of the paintings going into a new environment since they were sold. The others will be hanging in the homes of the artists or perhaps be shown in other watercolor shows in new locations.

One of the hardest things to overcome in a classroom environment is fear of sharing or even sometimes trying. We all are aware of "what people think" or "it's not like the photo" and of course "it's not what I wanted." These are negatives and are setting us up to fail. Since I know how to correct so many problems, none of the above bothers me as a teacher. My main motivation is to bring out the feelings and abilities I am leading my students in the pathway to success.



The painting on the above right is one of a series which will eventually become a book of poetry by Crystal Conger. The name of this painting is "Dressed Like a Winged Seed" and the detail and the integration of so many transparent colors has made it a tremendous success. The personality reflected by the sensitivity of the painting will make a viewer want to read the book. As a teacher, my hope is to continue to bring this kind of joy into my students' lives to share with an audience.

## EXPLOITING THE WWW COLORS

On page 10 and 11 of the *Wonderful World of Watercolor* book written by me are answers to most of the questions raised about the colors in our palette. These two pages show what the colors are and what they do. It even describes some uses for the colors and what to mix them with. On pages 19 and 21 the results of the mixed colors. Also listed with the finished charts is the temperature of the paint (warm or cool); how to make some of this happen with the "directional color flow"; darks made with highly transparent colors and colors that have more pigment. Becoming a successful watercolor artist with less fear will result from studying and transposing this information into a vocabulary of paint.

On pages 25-33 color charts are prepared for you showing what the mixing of paint can produce. If you never mixed another color and only mixed what the charts show you'll get a tremendous boost to your success rate and your understanding of color. These charts point you to confidence in your work and the ability to be successful with it right away. This was the original intent of these color charts, and they include all the colors on my palette and how and why to use them. Keep this in mind as you travel through the potential alleys and dead ends that darken your path in painting watercolor.

