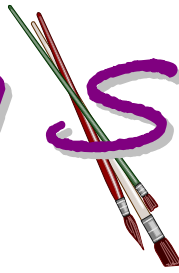




Brush Strokes



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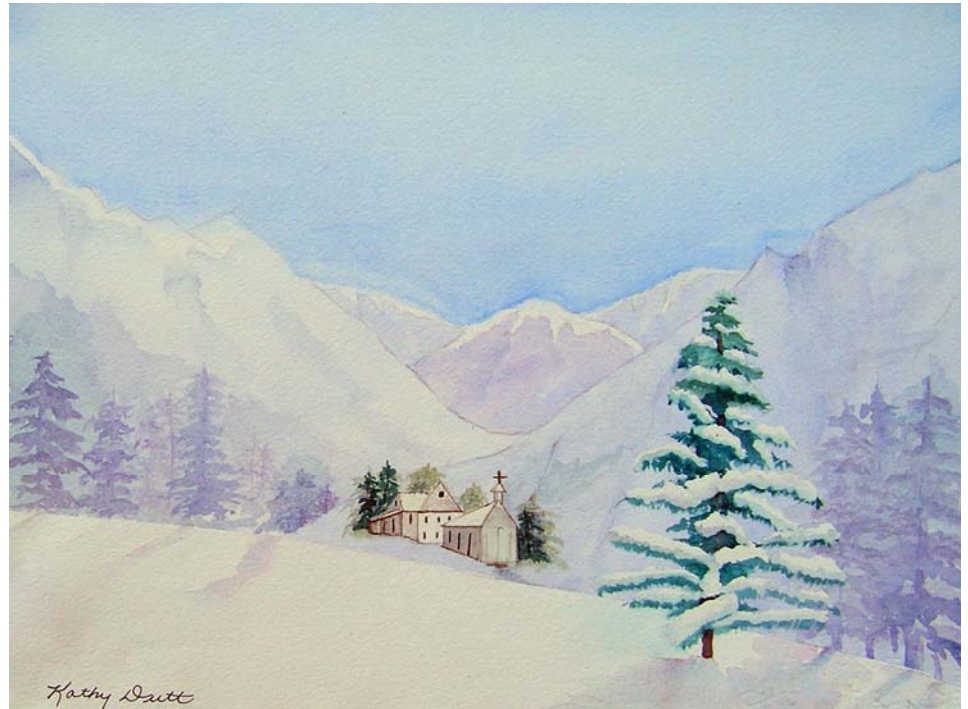
Winter and How to Paint It....

If you've never been to the Swiss Alps, you can almost feel the atmosphere penetrating your skin by looking at this painting.

The landscape looks as though you just stepped off the train as it went through the pass into Zermatt, Switzerland. The only thing missing are the skiers and rutted slopes they make as they come off the mountain. The other thing missing in this are the tombstones of all those who didn't make it.

I've been there and thought this was all dreamed up to satisfy the tourists, but I found out differently. Kathy Dutt must have been there too since she painted this beautiful snow scene and named it "Peaceful Reflections."

Painting the snow in watercolor begins with the white of the paper. You also need a focal point which in this case is the church and way back into the mountains a little village, no doubt. The snow is portrayed with varying degrees of blue and lavender washes applied with diluted Cobalt probably mixed with Rose Madder since those are two colors that aren't hard to remove if you make a mistake. Composition is a required element as well since there are trees up close and trees far away.



Remember what kind of day it is when you paint a snow scene. The painting on the left was painted on a much brighter day with sun and of course closer in with details of the windows and the Christmas decorations.

This was a painting from Mount Vernon, Virginia painted on location when the snow came one December. The church was near where I lived and I really wanted to see what it did to the landscape there. Of course it was cold and I didn't complete it while on location but I certainly captured the feeling of the cold and serenity of the church.

It's amazing what watercolor can do and the glow it can produce when you know how to do it. So go for it all you painters out there and refer to my color charts if you need any help. The book I wrote *Wonderful World of Watercolor* is listed online and can be bought through Amazon and the color charts are included and accurately portrayed.