



# Brush Strokes



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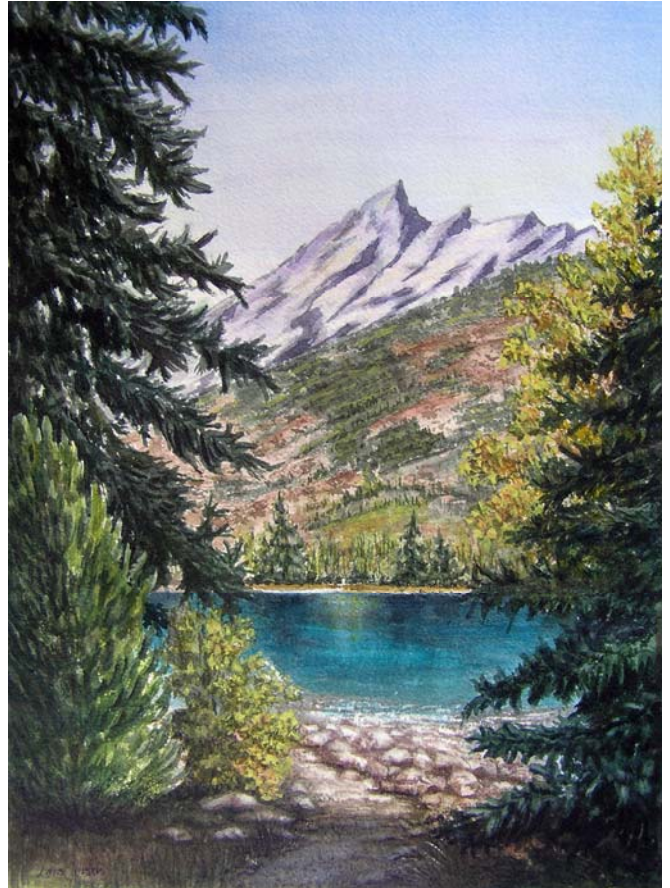
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## PERSPECTIVE IN LANDSCAPES

Have you ever looked at a watercolor painting and felt like this would be the perfect view from your window and one you would like to wake up and see every day? If this place weren't so far away, I'd be the next one on the list for a lot to build that house. But it's at Jenny Lake, Wyoming, and Lois Wiser was there and painted this beautiful piece.

The first thing she must have seen when she walked near this lake was the mountain in the distance, but to make this work as a painting is truly a "work of art." Photographs are to be used as a reminder but not to be copied from.

This painting has the feeling of distance portrayed by the evergreen trees across the lake, their size and color, the size of the mountain with its color and elevation. Looking through the trees in the front is a very difficult composition, but it's evident from this painting that Lois captured all the elements in the proper perspective.



Here's another painting by Lois titled "Pigeon Forge Residents." This too shows detail plus buildings and forest in proper perspective. Lois shows the lambs, each with a personality, each in a different pose, and each in the proper perspective. I'm sure this painting was from a photograph as well since she could not have captured these lambs holding that position that long.

The thing most artists don't understand when they enroll in my Wonderful World of Watercolor class is that a painting cannot be copied from a photograph and turn out as a painting with foreground, middle ground, and background. Photographs interpret a scene as very flat. The photo is simply a reference, both for its color and for the view it is portraying. The lighting for any particular scene can be placed anywhere you, the artist, want it to be but it must be consistent throughout the painting. Backlighting seems to be the hardest, but it can be accomplished with a lot of forethought. Think about these things when you find a picture you want to paint. We can't always paint on location but we can portray the location through our art.