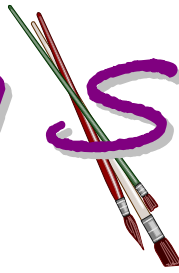




Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

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WHEN FALL IS ON THE WAY

One of the pleasures we get in late summer and early Fall is the sunflower blossoms. In this painting, “Golden Girls” by Terry McCoy, we see that she has chosen to paint this fall bloomer with white Matilija Poppies to emphasize the giant sunflower blossoms in all their glory.

Thinking of Fall and its fabulous color range brings forth our sense of sight and color. To make it happen in a painting we must plan the background around what we want the viewer to see. In this case the eye still travels with the light but the sunflower blossom is still overpowering and remains the focal point.

Another colorful painting shown in an entirely different style and format is the painting below. Its brilliance and values catch and capture the viewer, but again the whites are in the right place. This painting is titled “Daybreak at Pemaquid” and it is by Barbara Pitt who lives in New Jersey but is a member of my classes when she comes to town.



The main focus I want to call your attention to is the boldness of the color and the planning that went into it. These two paintings didn't *just happen* but were determined before the first stroke of color went onto the paper.

Again I want to emphasize the following points:

First, what colors will you use that will be bold enough to hold the viewer's attention. Look at your goal, either on location or from the picture you are painting.

Second, learn to see so that you can direct the viewer to the focal point. Artists need to see everything and be able to comprehend shapes of the pieces that go together to make your painting happen and become successful.

Third, consider all the shapes and their placement on your paper. (Remember to consider the size of the paper you are painting on.)