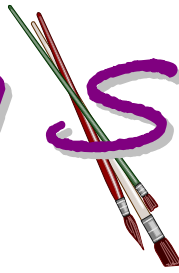




Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

October 2016 Vol. 9 No. 10

MOOD CHANGERS

Sometimes in life we just want to see the clouds. We want to know that there might be rain. We want to remember some place we have been where there was so much beauty and it was only enhanced when the sun was going down and the clouds moved in.

This painting achieved that with the Golden Gate Bridge in the foreground and in a contrasting color the clouds moving across the formerly sunny sky. This was a new assignment for my classes—painting clouds and making the day become overcast or stormy.

The Golden Gate painting was created by Terry McCoy and was titled “*Bridge Over Troubled Waters.*” Creating this painting was a difficult assignment. Note the perspective of the bridge and the angles and how it fits into the hills on the other side.

Few of the paintings we complete create this kind of mood. We like color, excitement and beautiful pictures, but of course clouds can create beautiful shapes and colors as well. This particular painting has all these features.



A completely different mood is absorbed by looking at the painting on the left. This is a really cloudy day and all thoughts of going sailing, swimming or water skiing is out of the question.

Sandy White created a somber mood with her cloud formations painting, “*Clouds Over the Atlantic.*” Obviously it will be a rainy day which will evacuate the beach and plans for the beach.

As a matter of fact, a hurricane could be moving in over the Atlantic to create a massive disturbance in the beachfront cottages and on into the city. The birth of this painting was inspired from a photograph taken at Vero Beach, Florida.

As we continue planning and painting new works into the future, remember all paintings don't have to be smashing and exciting with bold shapes and colors. Sometimes we need to be reminded that the environment consists of a huge variety of exquisite subjects appealing to the appetite of the artist. Just remember to be in control of the composition from the very beginning. In July of 2014 another artist created an exciting mood which was a scene of a peaceful lake with swans swimming in the foreground. The painting was “*Reflective Moments*” by Elyse Hendricks in Brush Strokes Vol.7, No. 7.