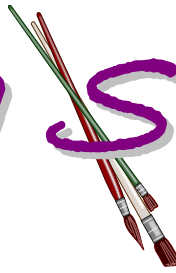




Brush Strokes



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AUTUMN COLORS

The most exciting thing about Fall is the color that suddenly appears. Since I am a red head, I see the Autumn colors as “MY” colors. They are usually everywhere, even if sometimes they are subtle. The painting shown here is called “Country Jewels” and I painted it when I first moved to Tennessee and saw Autumn explode in front of my eyes. The barn was located at Norris Dam just before crossing the bridge, and the rest of the foliage and surrounding area was color from the trees near my house. I made up the other parts of the composition, adding the cows which I painted on location at my brother’s house in the country. The water and reflections were at Norris as well. The strong white in front leads you directly into the painting.



This is a clear example of setting up a composition, capturing color from the surround, and making a drawing that can be transferred to watercolor paper. I’m very proud of the results and happy to have this painting stored in my original art file from which I can transfer it onto greeting cards, note cards, or just insert it into an article. It’s also very attractive hanging on my wall in the appropriate frame and location.



Now let’s analyze the colors and their application. In the background of the “Country Jewels” painting I remember distinctly how I had mixed several clear colors of yellow (New Gamboge, Raw Sienna and Winsor Yellow), Burnt Sienna, Indian Red, Light Red, and Brown Madder. Then I stuck my brush in one of those color piles and applied that color randomly. Next I washed the brush and loaded it with one of the reds: light red, Indian red, or Brown Madder and applied it in the same way. Some of that red was painted directly over the yellow. Lastly I started adding various shades of green mixed from yellow and blue and painted in between the bright colors to establish a forest that was partially Fall and partially still late Summer.

To the left is a painting named “Flavor of Fall” by JoAnne Cooper. She also used a combination of the above-named colors to create her Autumn painting. Additionally she added a sky that was almost purple to enhance the Fall colors and her row of mountains in the background is cool against the warm leaves.

When you are painting a picture from a scene that is real or is photographed, build the final colors not only with knowledge of the colors but also with an emotion that will take you through the whole painting. Be sure to sketch first so you will build a strong composition, transfer it to your watercolor paper and then begin.