



# Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

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## COMMERCIAL ART TOOL AIDS WATERCOLOR ARTIST

Look to the commercial artist for help if you wish to do something special in your art. The painting shown here, titled "The Hiding Place," got an additional boost because the artist used a tool called Art Tape by Headline. The reeds in the water became much easier to achieve by simply taping them before the paint was applied.

The artist's skill shows as well because of the way she applied the water reflections. This can be very tricky, but Susan Hale mastered this as well.

The tape in question is either black or white, and comes in a variety of widths. The one used here was black and 1/8" wide. The tape can be purchased at any office supply store and is commonly used for professional presentations, charts, graphs, signs, etc. Art Tape: Welcome to the Wonderful World of Watercolor.

When using this application on watercolor paper, remember to press it down with your fingernail so no paint can slip in behind it. If you wish to tape out window pane trim, it will enable you to paint the whole window without worrying about the white edges of the window trim. Simply peel it off when you are finished and you'll be totally surprised. There are many other uses for this tape, so add it to your supply list and carry it with you always.

Don't make the mistake of calling reflections shadows. They are in no way related to each other. One is below the surface of water, and the other is cast on land by an object blocking the sun. When painting reflections of boats, a simple rule of thumb is that if the boat is white above the water, it will be a shade of gray below the water. If it is dark above the water, it will be lighter below the water. Sit by a lake or marsh area and just observe what goes on in the water. This will be a great lesson for when you want to use reflections in your art.