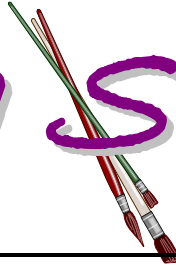




Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

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USING COMPLEMENTS CAN CHANGE YOUR DÉCOR

Recently my group of painters was given the opportunity to decorate a table for the annual fundraiser held every spring under the tent at the estate of Bill and Ginger Baxter. The event is sponsored by the Fountain City Art Center where I work, and of course we as well as 36 other groups wanted to compete for best table decoration.



The centerpiece of our table was *live* and consisted of 18 gold fish in a big punch bowl swimming around a small crystal vase with a ruby red fish which was too aggressive to swim freely. The creator of this magnificent table décor (Bunny Ison) also made shell shaped candy and enclosed it in orange netting for favors; used blue iced tea glasses; Winsor blue fabric wrapping the punch bowl; multi colored blue place mats; and blue striped chair covers made from beach towels. The theme was completed with star fish dangling from the backs of chairs. The fish, napkins and favors created the counterpoint of blue.

In the painting below Bob Meadows used the green and red complements to achieve the focal point for his painting titled “In the Beginning” which portrays a few of the buildings of the John B. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina where he teaches his book making classes on a part time basis.



Bob also teaches book making at the Fountain City Art Center and is in one of my students. Bob’s sense of color, reality, and composition has given us a feel of space, light, and direction in this painting. The rolls of hay in the backlit field above the buildings evoke memories of bygone days when farms abounded all over the country.

You have no doubt when looking at the painting where the artist wanted you to look. The lightest light is on the largest building with a shadow of the other building enhancing it. And the red and green draw your eye right where Bob wants you to look.

Next time you put together a room décor in your house, pick your clothing for an outing, or simply set the dining room table, think in terms of complements. This magic can occur wherever you live and desire to express yourself.