

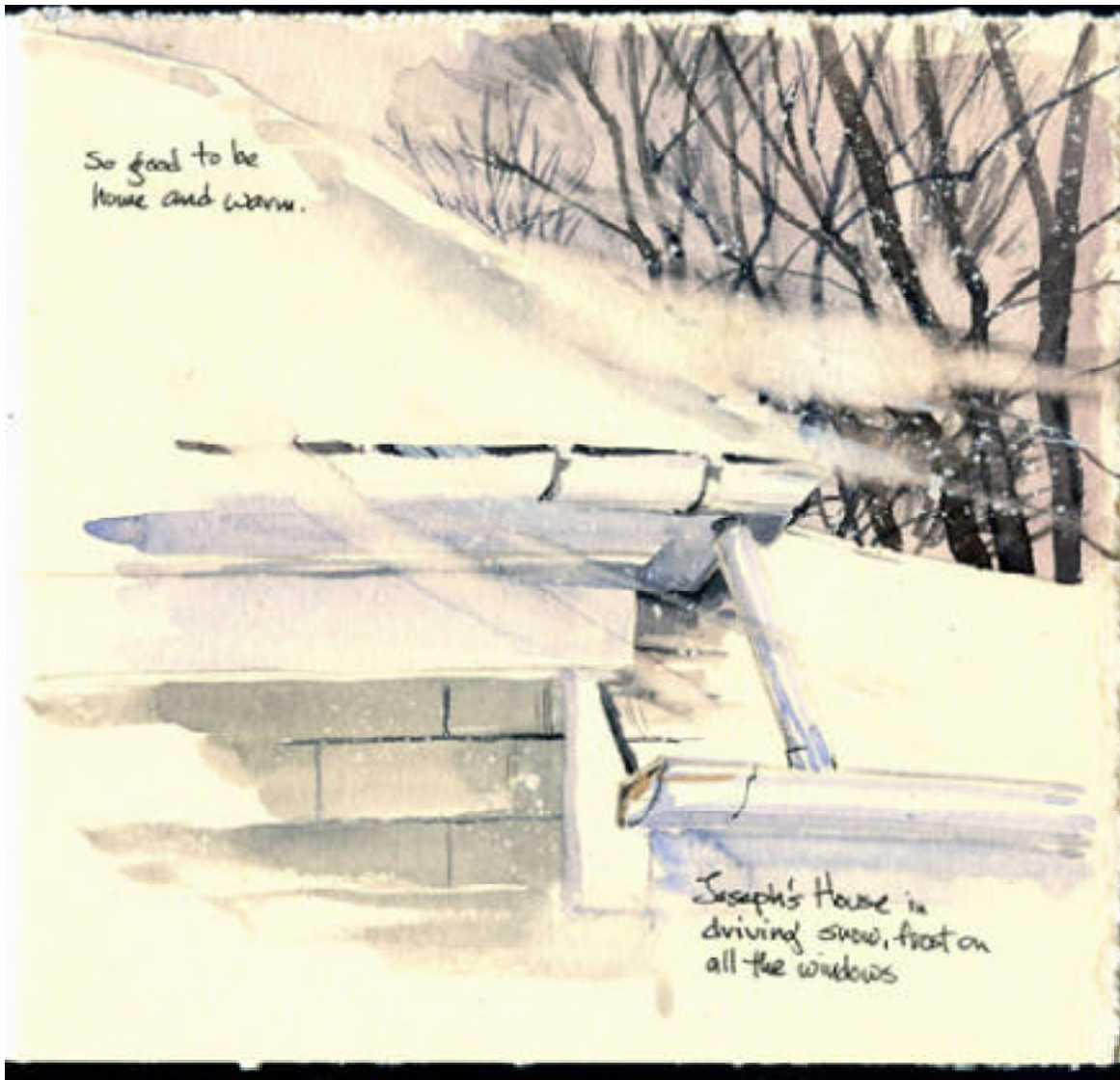
Tip #78

More Found Art Supplies

Funny how often we think we have to buy something specially made for artists to fit our needs -- I love to get those nice new art supply catalogs, too, and I do my bit to support them!

But often necessity or finances -- or inspiration -- let us see something in a new way and press it into service with great results! Look around you and see what you may be able to use in your work ... you'll be surprised, when you let yourself "think outside the box," as they say these days!

78-1, Blowing snow can be a challenge ...



Art 78-1

...but Mr. Clean's Magic Eraser sponge worked well to suggest it! I just dampened a small piece of the sponge and drew it over my watercolor, softening and removing the pigment and following the direction of the wind to give the impression of blowing snow. Be gentle as you scrub the paper, and blot up the loosened pigment quickly, and you'll be surprised at how much you can lift.



78-2, Sometimes all it takes is necessity ...

I'd been looking for a way to keep my brushes together in my field kit -- none of the brush holders or tins seemed to really do it, or took up too much room all by themselves. Suddenly I realized that the rubber band on the end of my braid would do a great job, and take up no space at all ... that's worked for me for two years now!

Of course for a more formal -- and larger! -- field kit, you might consider a bamboo place mat you can often find in discount stores. Put your brushes on it, roll it up, put another rubber band around it, and it protects your brushes, keeps them together, and allows the hairs to air dry nicely. (Many of the larger art supply stores now carry these "brush holders," but they started out on the table!)



Art 78-2

Art 78-3, Straw freebies!



Art 78-3

Save those drinking straws! I get various sizes, and cut to the length you need, many of them slip easily over the business end of a brush to protect the hairs in transit. They're easily replaced, too -- just go get yourself a soft drink!

More new CDs for artists - Watercolor Workshop, Drawing and Sketching Workshop, and the brand new Watercolor Pencil Workshop, which replaces a chapter lost from my book, *Watercolor Pencil Magic*, along with new tools and techniques and all - new articles! See my Cafepress store, http://www.cafepress.com/cathy_johnson, or my Catalog: <http://www.cathyjohnson.info/books.html>.