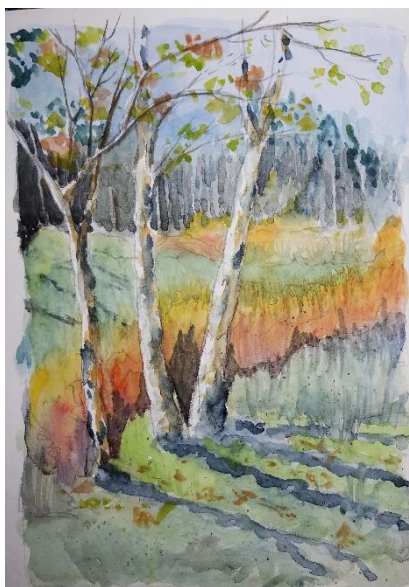


## Joseph Ribera



I took up watercolor painting after retirement and am mostly self-taught. I began by copying works from magazines and then painting from photographs taken on camping-fishing trips. I am often surprised when a work comes out better than hoped for or expected; and equally dejected when something does not come off as envisioned. But that is the challenge and satisfaction of working in this medium.

Over the years I have occasionally engaged in drawing and sketching with pencil or pen. I find my drawing experience to be useful with the watercolor medium. Drawing informs my subconscious so that by the time I start to paint, I have some familiarity with the shapes and tones that make up the scene.

I create a value sketch of lights and darks and composition options in small scale before starting to paint. For large or complex compositions, I draw the planned scene in detail and at the scale I intend to paint and then either lightly draw the finished composition directly on watercolor paper or use a trace and transfer method.

Sometime after taking up painting, I found the Santa Clara Watercolor Society online and attended one of their paint sites as a guest. While I joined Society soon after that experience, I did not go on another trip for almost a year! I felt too insecure and embarrassed by my lack of skills compared to my fellow painters. I have since come to accept that I am doing the best I can with the skills and knowledge I currently have and that I can improve by just "doing" it!

I have taken weekly classes in watercolor with local artist, Pat Jimenez, through adult education and have attended SCVWS sponsored workshops with Karen Frey, Michael Reardon, Joyce Hicks, Frank Francese, Sarah Yeoman and Keiko Tanabe. The workshop experiences introduced me to subjects, techniques and styles I might not have encountered on my own. I have also discovered and benefited from generous artists' online instruction and blogs.

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