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Master Artist at Work Painting Fall Landscape

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Fall tribute to Mother Nature

Master Artist At Work Painting Fall Landscape

By Ruth Blackketter

Mother Nature has really been busy with her paint brush lately. The cottonwoods, elms, and sumac up and down the creeks and in the pastures are putting on an art show that has no equal.

I can imagine Mother Nature looking around the countryside and saying to herself, "Hm. I believe the trees are looking a bit faded. I think I'll get out my palette and brushes and see if I can brighten them up a bit." So she starts up the creeks and ravines, and I can hear her talking to herself as she goes: "Let's see, how about some of this gold on the cottonwoods?" and she starts to splash gold lavishly as she goes along.

Then as she stands back to appraise the result, she decides that perhaps she got a bit carried away, so she just sprinkles gold in spots, leaving the green that's already there for contrast. Now how about some rust and burnt umber on the elms, with scarlet, mulberry, burgundy, dusty plum, and orange in varying degrees on the sumac and Virginia creeper.

The weeds and grasses come in for some attention too. The light green of the broomweed she dusts with sunshine yellow, and with a flip of her wrist, she paints some daisy-like flowers on some of the roadside weeds. She dips her brush in purple and lavender and scatters some of this through the pastures.

Then, standing back and looking at the result, she decides that the sky needs a bit more color, so she deepens the blue to make a more vivid backdrop for her fantasy of color. She squeezes out her tube of green and fills in the bare spots in the fields of young wheat and whispering to the birds, she encourages them to add a few extra trills to their songs before they pack up and leave for the southland.

Now, looking at her handiwork, and very pleased with herself, she brushes her hands, and the trees bow in reply at her passing.

I hope you have been enjoying the autumn show she arranged for your benefit, and I'm sorry to say, the show may be closing very soon. Right now, Mother Nature is in seclusion, thinking up new numbers for her winter show, and we don't know what surprises she may have in store for us. So take your time to feast your eyes on the splendid array of harmonious colors and the striking contrasts of bright scarlet and crimson with the more subdued burnt sienna tones. File away in your memory the sight of the gold and the green masterfully mingled and enjoy the golden days that are a prelude to winter.

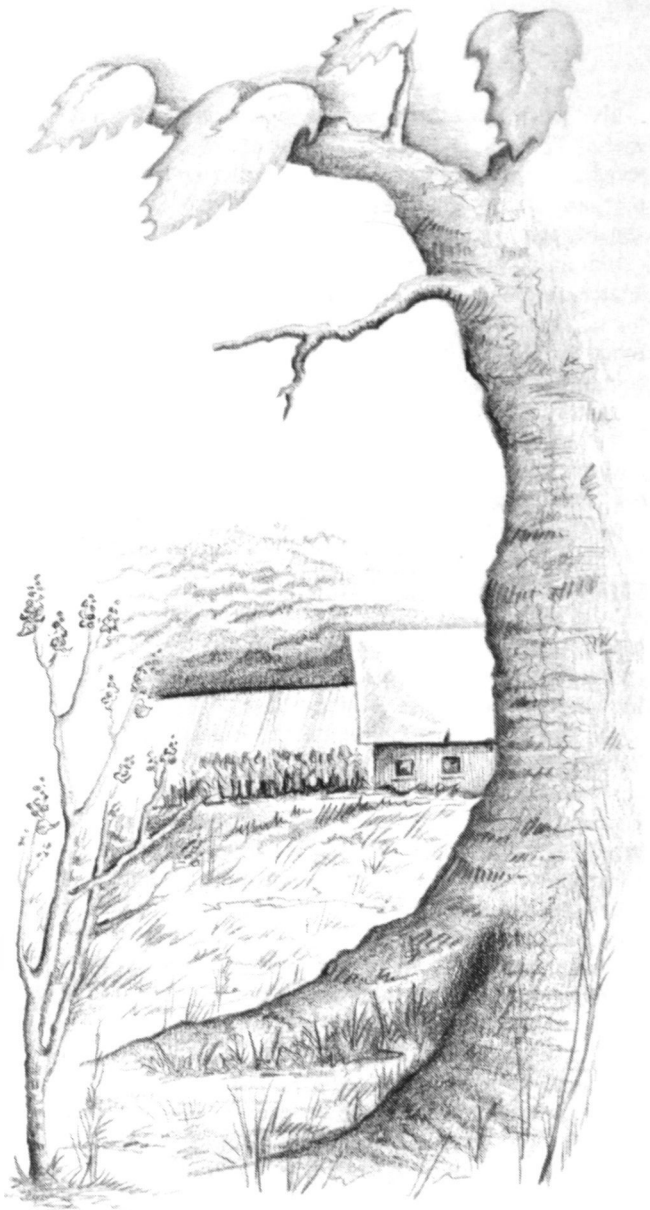


Illustration by Kevin Bennett