

# JKß - JOY KROEGER BECKNER - JKß

*classical realism, from hounds to humans & and more!*

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NEWS & JOURNEYS OF JOY! :: VOL. ELEVEN, NUMBER TWO :: APRIL-MAY 2015

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*Happy, healthy Mothers' Day!*

TWO EXCITING SHOWS ARE HAPPENING NOW!

APRIL 24 - JULY 19, 2015: Allied Artists of America, 100th Year Anniversary Exhibition, The Canton Art Museum, Canton, OH. I am thrilled to be invited to show "Big Heart" here.

APRIL 27 - MAY 21, 2015: Salmagundi Club 132nd Annual Juried Members Exhibition at the Salmagundi Club, 47 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY. "Siesta" SS, below, will be shown.



*Works in progress:* Two handheld pieces need details. You will see them soon.

APRIL 17, 2015: Brian and I take a quick tour of the Museum of Transportation in St. Louis County. Be sure to go on a comfortable day as many exhibits are outdoors. It's fascinating. Pictures are on page two.

APRIL 16, 2015: Bo Duke has a mild heart enlargement, due to a leaky valve, also known as a heart murmur. The left side of his heart is working very hard to make up for his murmur. Today he took his first Enalapril that has been prescribed as a preventive measure to help keep his heart from further enlargement. He will have a check up in a month to see if his heart is healthier.

*happiness is finding NO copyright infringements on Alibaba!*

APRIL 9, 2015, 6PM: I check the three offending sites that had displayed my copyrighted work and ALL MY IMAGES ARE GONE!!! YAY! Interestingly, one site even suggested that perhaps we could "co-operate" by my letting them be my foundry. NOOOOO! Good news: it only took three weeks to accomplish this myself, with moral support from a collector/friend/attorney. Alibaba's legal team is great! Thank you, sculptor friend, Tucker Bailey, for alerting me to my infringement when she researched hers.

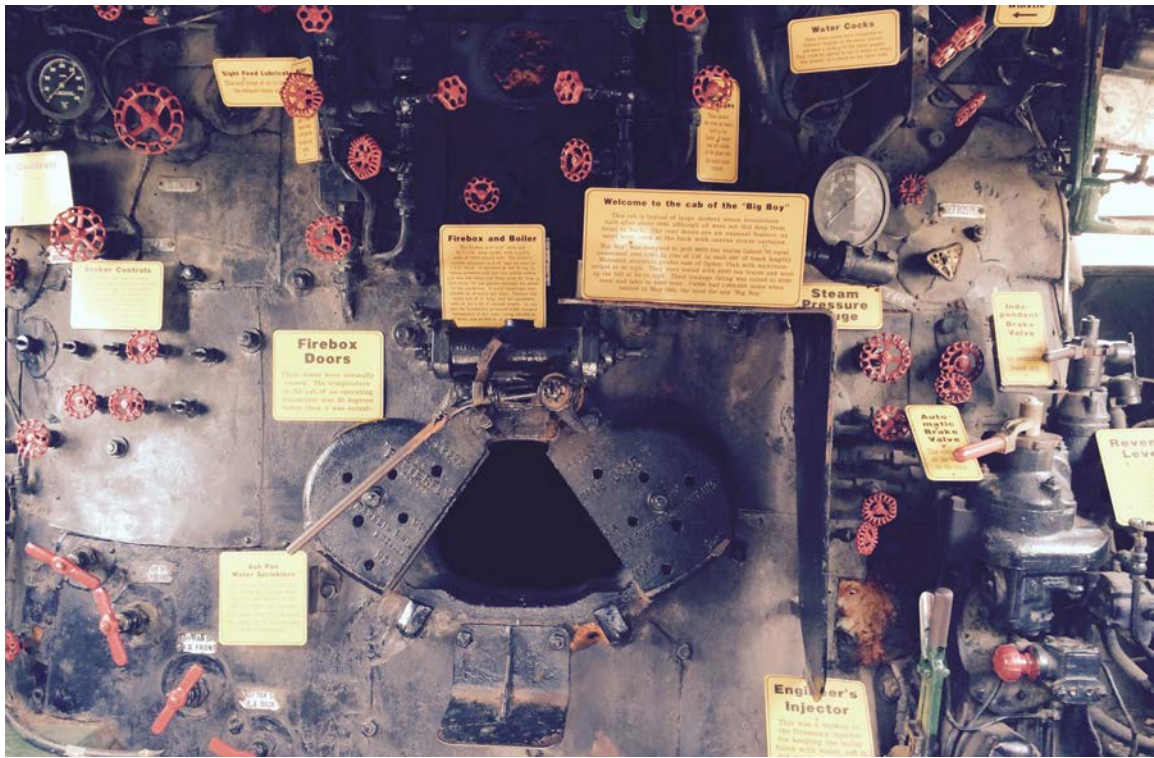
PLEASE, if you see any piece that looks like anything I've made, anywhere, I will be very grateful if you will tell me where you saw it. Thank you!!!



*1939 Burlington Silver Spoon dining car outside – and – looking in above.*

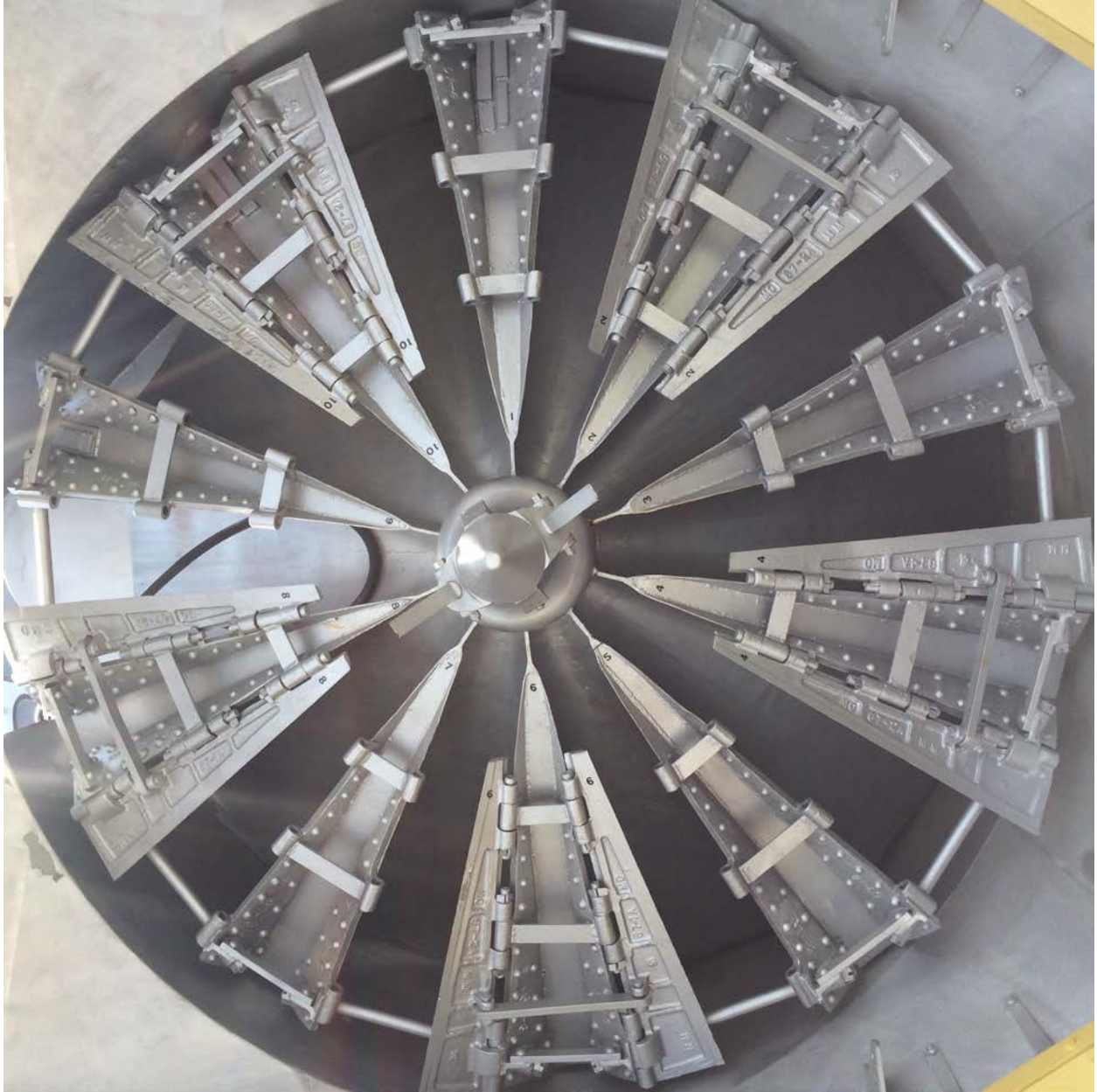


I believe this is a Pullman dining car. The most recent owner's executives used it, but after two years the shareholders must have thought they were living too well and donated the car to the Museum of Transport. I wish I had recorded our guide. He shared a wealth of knowledge.



This is the engine room of a Big Boy. I love the mechanics and, of course, the fire pit in the center. From the coal car behind an auger drives the coal up into the fire pit. It's fascinating, at least to me. Big Boy is the popular name of the American Locomotive Company 4000-class 4-8-8-4 articulated, coal-fired, steam locomotives manufactured between 1941 and 1944.





Above is a HUGE rotary snow blower. I imagine the entire machine is at least 15-20 feet high. It is really hard to believe. In addition to vintage trains, the Museum of Transport has vintage cars including a one-of-kind, wildly contemporary, candy apple red vehicle created for Bobby Daren. Bobby donated it to the museum in 1970, three years before his death. I understand there are also streetcars, but we got there at 2:15, and we did not have time to venture deeply into all the good stuff before it closed at 4pm.

Go early on a pretty day and if you have any interest in this sort of thing, you will be happy you went.

*Jump back to January...*

JAN. 20, 2015: Spring is here in San Miguel! Brian recalls the temperature always moderates about January 20. The indoor morning indoor temperature today is closer to 62 degrees than 55. Every degree north is good, considering there is no central heat in the stone walled apartment we rent. No place has central heat.

JAN. 23, 2015: We walk toward a favorite restaurant for dinner, when it starts to pour! We find a taxi and arrive at Mare Nostrum, Umaran 56 where a delightful Italian aroma greets us. We order Ensalada Parmesan to share and I order, Camerones Marroqui – wild-caught Gulf shrimp with white wine, tomatoes, red and yellow peppers and capers. Yum! Brian states his dinner is good, but that mine is better. This beautiful and delicious shrimp dish is slightly less than \$10 US Dollars.



When we return to our apartment after dinner this beautiful photograph below, by George McMonigle, is in my inbox, courtesy of Patty Delahanty of National Sculpture Society.

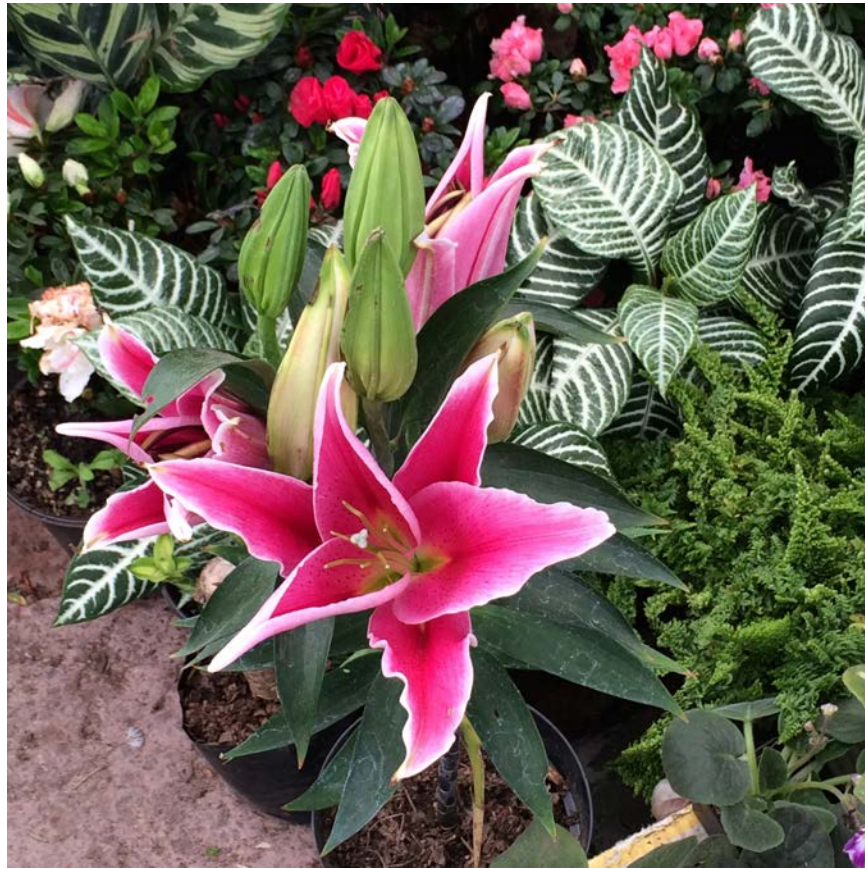


*"Siesta" SS snoozes soundly in the Butterfly House at the Naples Botanical Garden.*

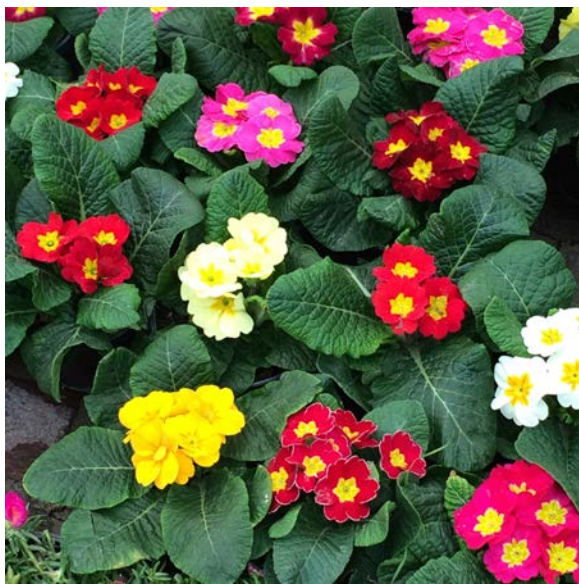
JAN. 25, 2015: Today I finish my 3/5 Facebook Art Challenge to post 3 photos of my work for each of 5 days. It was hard to narrow 25 years of work into 15 pieces. I couldn't. I forgot early sculptures, so I post six days to present a more full spectrum of my work over the 25 years since I returned to art.

FEB. 2, 2015: Candelaria is in full swing in Parque Juarez. Come. Walk with me!















*Charming chairs of cactus are each handmade!*

The Parroquia is the cathedral to the right in Brian's nighttime picture of San Miguel. He took this from the Mirador on the Salida de Querataro.



FEB. 3, 2015: It is almost dusk and a white burro glows as it is quickly lead before the Parroquia.



**FEB. 6, 2015:** A catalog arrives from the Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington, DC. "A Good Life" Long is Best Sculpture in this, the 81st Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature - and - the piece sold! Thank you!

**FEB. 7, 2015:** Today we awaken to a 55-degree apartment. It is as cold this morning as it has been during our entire time in San Miguel this year. This afternoon, I delete duplicates from my iTunes folder, listen to my Five Star musica and compile the above pictures from Candelaria for you.

**FEB. 11, 2015:** What a beautiful day. I walked to Solutions where I pick up mail, and 10 photocopies of Bo Duke photos, and am very comfortable in a t-shirt and jeans, even on the shady side of the street.

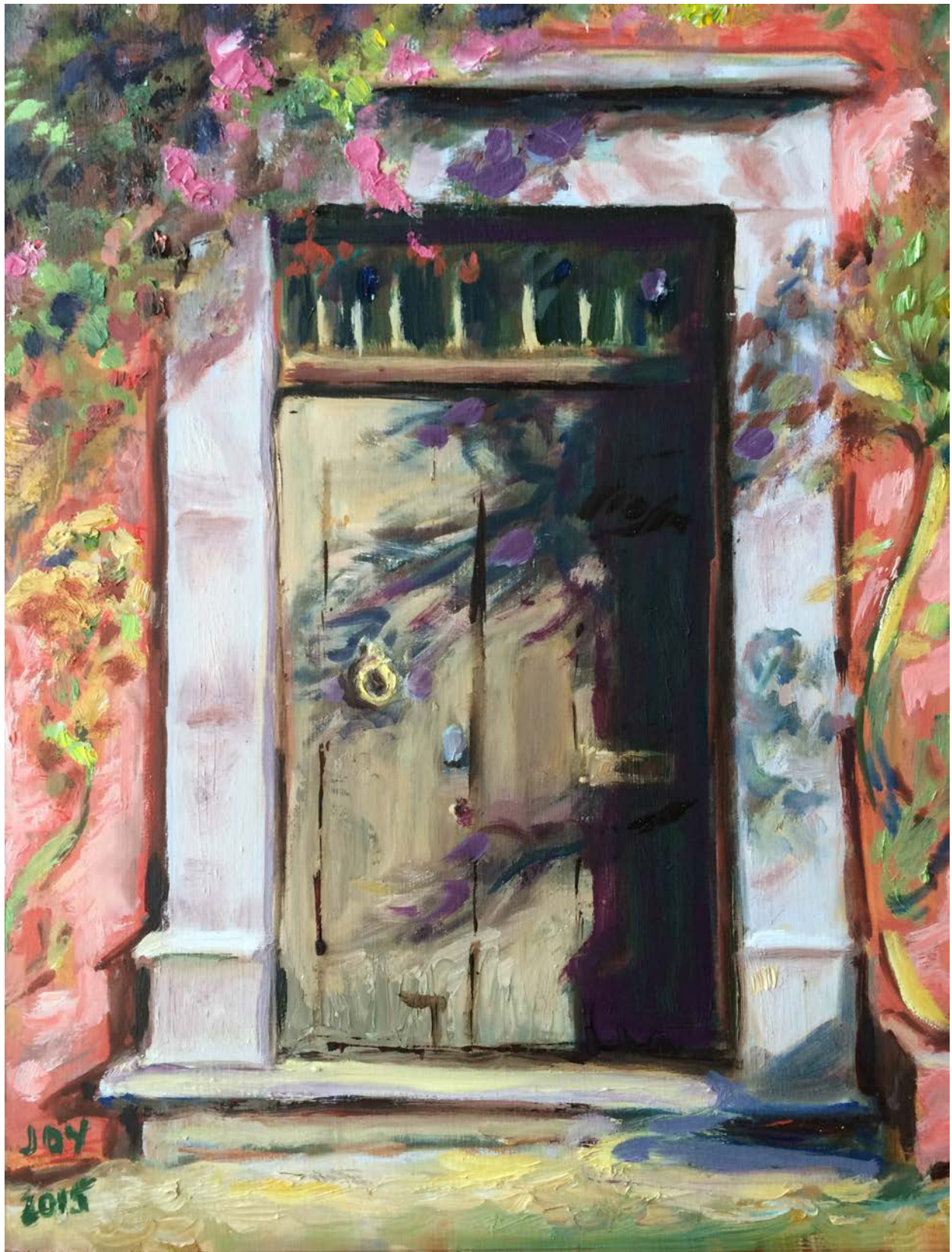
*Happy Valentine's Day!* What a difference a few days make. The last two days have been cold, damp and drizzly. It's turtleneck and sweater weather again. We dine with Brian's former Minneapolis client and his wife who we discovered rent next door to us. What a coincidence for Brian to bump into them while walking Bo Duke. Brian has not seen Hugh in about 20 years. This is indeed a small world.

**FEB. 16, 2015:** Today we awaken to 65 degrees outside. Yay! On the other hand, we learn that a friend's wife passed. Jean Gantz' lungs gave up. About 5 years ago she and Annette Olson, my most wonderful mold maker/friend, were each diagnosed with cancer. They struggled differently. Annette passed several years ago and I miss her every day. She was the best mold maker – at least for me! I'm sure Jean will be deeply missed by her husband Bill, and those who knew her better than I. Our hearts are with Bill.

*When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.*

**FEB. 19, 2015:** Today is the last of six painting classes. Did I tell you I found a bunch of unopened oil paints in the basement and the receipt is dated July 7, 1990? My first painting in 25 years is of a door here in San Miguel. It was done from a photograph (right) in the studio of my teacher, Donna Dickson. It took about one and a half class sessions. Donna helped with the straight lines. It will hang in our bathroom.





*"San Miguel Light" Oil on Panel, 9" x 12" Joy Kroeger Beckner ©2015*



*"Going my Way" Oil on Panel, 9" x 12" Joy Kroeger Beckner ©2015*

I created this painting from two photographs. It was a fun and freeing after dealing with the door.



*"Playing with Scarves" Oil on canvas panel, 11" x 14" ©2015 Joy Kroeger Beckner*

I paint this from a highly pixilated image that was sent to me by my dear friend, Jaye Gregory.

JAN. 30, 2015: These three paintings are in the first "Art Students" show I have been in since the sixties!



FEB. 20, 2015: Lawrence Dimirjian trained at Vidal Sassoon and is quite the perfectionist! He is better than anyone who has ever cut my hair! Photos are by Brian Beckner. (In April this year I finally find a good Sassoon-trained stylist here in the St. Louis area!)



FEB. 21, 2015, 10AM: Just in time for our February 28 trip toward home, the weather is glorious! After walking Bo, Brian announced that it is above 70 degrees already this morning. Yay! This is what most persons think Mexico is all about.

FEB. 25, 2015: Gee, it is 68 degrees in our casa. This morning we see "Finding Vivian Maier." It's a very GOOD documentary about a very talented, if disturbed, woman.

We can all learn from my friend, Jackie Brummund, who recently had both knees replaced.

**"ATTITUDE AND GRATITUDE  
ARE MY 'WALKING CANES."**

FEB. 27, 2015: After walking Bo, I alert our landlord Ernest to a water leak inside right by the front door to our little complex of five apartments. By the time I return from my Pilates reformer class with Sue Lawrence, workers are fixing the problem. We decide to pack our stuff into that hallway *tomorrow* morning.

FEB. 28, 2015, SATURDAY, 7AM: Bye, bye pretty pink daisies until we see you again in January 2016.



FEB. 28, 2015: We are lucky that no vehicles come down our narrow street, Calvario, while Brian mostly packs my Suburban. Calvario is barely wide enough for pick up trucks with side mirrors tucked in, to pass.

7:24AM: We drive off into the wild cold yonder. Hot air balloons glide over the city. We pass 153 Salida de Queretaro where our friends rented - waaaaay on top of the hill. The sun shines brightly. It is 44 degrees. By the time we get to the city outskirts it is 40 degrees. Seven miles outside the city we are greeted by dense fog and 37 degrees as we drive this narrow two-lane road toward Queretaro.

8:00AM: After forty minutes we arrive at the junction of Highway 57. It is four lanes wide and has a rather wavy and occasionally lumpy feel to it. Ah, here it has been smoothly resurfaced. The sun tries to peek through as we head north toward San Luis Potosí.



**9:09AM:** We stop at the first major rest stop just past the first caseta (toll booth). Inside, At the Latte Express, I get a Latte Verde (green tea latte). I shake canela (cinnamon) over the top, put on a lid, and taste it. Wow! I think they put vanilla in it! It is unbelievably delicious. I will try adding vanilla to my lattes at home and hope that is the secret of this wonderful taste. Hmmmm. The recibo (receipt) says Chai Te Verde. Hmmmmm... Is chai tea in it too?



**10:03AM:** Exposed to the elements, a new truck without a cab passes us heading south. I gleaned this image from the Internet. A man named John Teth uploaded a video to You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRap3BFVNXQ>



*Fan palms gleam in sunlight along the shoulder.*

We gas up at San Pedro rest area. There I present a nice young woman the receipt for my first green Tea Latte, except the word Chai is also on my receipt. She grabs a large can marked Oregon Chai, scoops powder into a to-go cup along with milk, steams it and it is ready in no time. I ask to see the can. Why am not surprised that the first ingredient is azucar (sugar)? Between the apple pie a la mode at El Pegaso's last night and two tea lattes, I am sugared up for several days. I'm still going to try vanilla in my tea at home.

**12:01PM:** Yay! Men at the military checkpoint have no interest in us. They save us 30 minutes.

Along the shoulder, farmers sell large bags of papas (potatoes) from their pickups. We also have seen farmers selling cebollas (onions) and frescas con crema (strawberries with crème.)

**1:09PM:** We enter Monterrey where an inversion prompts me to push the recirculate air button on the dash. It was 70 degrees in Saltillo and is 56 here.



*Mountains peek through the inversion coming into Monterrey.*

**1:21PM:** It is 48 degrees. We pay a toll. How soon will we get to good air? Brian is driving 85mph.

It dropped a degree to 47, as we pass multiple huge power lines and plants belching smoke. A friend once stated that Monterey manufactures dust. It is my least favorite part of our drive to and from San Miguel.

Boxy houses, painted purple, yellow, gold, blue and coral, line the highway. Then, THEN, we pass a delightful herd of goats along my side of the highway 40, which is the outer road around Monterrey. Now it is just cloudy and 48. Dead concrete trucks, relics of Monterrey's concrete manufacturing businesses, rest rusting in a field.

**1:42PM:** Take Hwy. 85, toward Reynosa and Nuevo Laredo.

**1:45PM:** We are finally out of Monterrey. High clouds hover. The temperature is back up to 53 degrees. The road and visibility are good. We are 120 miles from Nuevo Laredo.

3:39PM: We are on the outer road headed to immigration and, Puente Int. One Two. Or, will we take Bridge one? It is 44 degrees.

Bear right to get to immigration. We get through in about five minutes. We turn in our vehicle sticker in about three minutes. We do this so we will get our vehicle deposit returned.

Turn right out of the immigration parking lot and when you get to a traffic signal, make U-turn and follow the four lanes of very slowly moving vehicles, most with Mexican license plates. You will be greeted by vendors: from energetic young men washing windshields to persons selling crucifixes, cups of fruit, Chiclets, accordions, stuffed toys, bobble-head dogs, CDs, candied nuts and more, to women simply carrying babies and needing a handout. We gratefully pay to have our windshield washed and help a couple of mothers.

It's 4:05 in Nuevo Laredo as we slowly pass under a big structure with a sign wishing everyone Feliz Viaje (happy journey) before the tollbooth to cross Puente International Juarez-Lincoln. On the bridge more vendors are all trying to make a living in the 44-degree temperature. Here is one selling hot tamales and another with sunflower seeds.

Brian just commented that it was 44 degrees when we left San Miguel and it is 44 here in Laredo.



4:28PM: We cross the border on the bridge. Now we need to get across the bridge and through immigration into the States.

It has taken Brian just nine hours to drive 556 miles from San Miguel. Brian had fun driving one huge newly "carpeted" stretch of highway. Was he mentally racing his motorcycle!

4:59PM: We have only one car in front before we move forth to our Immigration. A nice Mexican woman agent checks us and opens the back of our vehicle. We get through quickly. It helps to have a dog. Topes are high and closely spaced. No one will get through to Laredo in a hurry. I turned off airplane mode on my phone and have Internet again.

It took an hour to cross the bridge and get through customs. We follow I-35 north to TX59 and turn right. We go 5 miles and turn left on Bob Bullock Loop. Turn left at Jacomon. Follow your nose to the LaQuinta. You'll need to turn right at Rossin.

Bob Bullock (1929-1999) was a native of Laredo. He was the Lieutenant Governor of Texas from 1991-1999. He had more power than the governor. I understand Rick Perry rediscovered how to bring power to the office of governor of Texas.

In Laredo, gas is \$2.19 for regular. That's still pretty good as it was \$1.86 when we left home Dec. 30.

**MARCH 1, 2015, 7:20AM:** Leaving Laredo, the 44-degree temperature of last night dropped a degree to 43. Clouds follow us as we pull out of the Laredo Airport LaQuinta to drive home to snow country.

**1:32PM:** We are in drizzly Dallas. Roads have been consistently good since we crossed into the U.S. We just passed the old book depository from which President Kennedy was shot. Mucho trafico.



*Lake Eufaula, north of McAlester, OK.*

**MARCH 1, 2015, 4:35PM:** A light dusting of snow covers the ground as we near the LaQuinta in Muskogee, OK, I booked on line from my phone; how DID my parents find hotels on their 1940 trip to the Colorado Rocky Mountains?



**5PM:** Oklahoma's Lake Eufaula is HUGE! We finally pass the end of the lake!

**6:14PM:** We are settled into a new LaQuinta, complete with tiny green lights rimming the roof. Bo has had dinner and half of a Merrick steer ear, commonly known as "Beef Chews." He squirmed like an unruly child a good part of the afternoon causing Brian to reintroduce him to his crate. This is better for him and definitely better for me.

We've been on the road for 11 hours. It feels good to be here. Brian watches basketball. I see an IHOP and early sleep in our near future.

MARCH 2, 2015, 8:13AM: We leave the LaQuinta in Muskogee to see gray skies punctuated with three bright red stoplights above US-69. Road are dry and the temperature is 28 degrees. Brian comments that there is not a lot of water in the Arkansas River.

9:50AM: In Missouri we have only 274 more miles to go! It's sunny through the overcast, and 34 degrees.

1:42PM: It is 36 degrees, sunny with blue skies. What a difference a day makes!



*Close to home on MO Highway 100, just east of Purina Farms.*

MARCH 3, 2015: Our mail lady Darlene delivers two weeks worth of mail. In it are two really nice surprises. First, a brochure from the Naples Botanical Garden show, "All Things Great and Small." Second, is a catalog for the forthcoming 100th Anniversary Exhibition of the Allied Artists of America, at the Canton Art Museum, Canton, OH. I am grateful to have been invited to show among those whose work I have admired for many years.

MARCH 4, 2015: Bo and I christen our new, very deep, bathtub! My, oh my, did Bo need a bath!

*Happy Birthday, Bo!*

MARCH 6, 2015: To celebrate Bo's 10th birthday, we visit the vet. Bo's toenails are clipped and he has a general check up. He has a heart murmur, and, I think, a small infection from where the beef chews got under his gum. No more beef ears for a while!

MARCH 7, 2015: On PBS, we watch Audrey Hepburn's Academy Award winning performance in her first movie, "Roman Holiday" which was filmed in 1953. She and Gregory Peck are shown with a mysterious convertible. Check out Gregory's stance trying to stay upright. They made a fine shot. I take at least an hour searching to learn about this car. Can you imagine how long it would have taken before the Internet?



This is a 1937 Fiat Topolino! Thanks to <http://www.oldclassiccar.co.uk/topolino.htm>



### *Squirrel season at the Beckners*

**MARCH 8, 2015:** It is 67 degrees and an absolutely beautiful day! I cut and bag some small branches for yard waste recycling, when Brian announces a squirrel has built a nest on our front balcony. He has his blower out. "I want to see it before you blow." A moment before he wants to blow, I suggest I throw it down off the porch at which time he says he hopes there are no baby squirrels in the nest. Too late! I've thrown a good portion of the nest off the porch, complete with a hidden screaming baby. Yikes!

I find one baby in the nest and quickly take it downstairs and out front. It doesn't have its eyes open yet. Now what?



Mama squirrel darts around the garage roof looking for her little squeakers. I find her softest nesting material, wrap the tiny girl in it and place it by the trunk of the redbud by our driveway. I found the male with its head wedged between two branches in a yew bush. I extracted him and coozied him in with his sister.

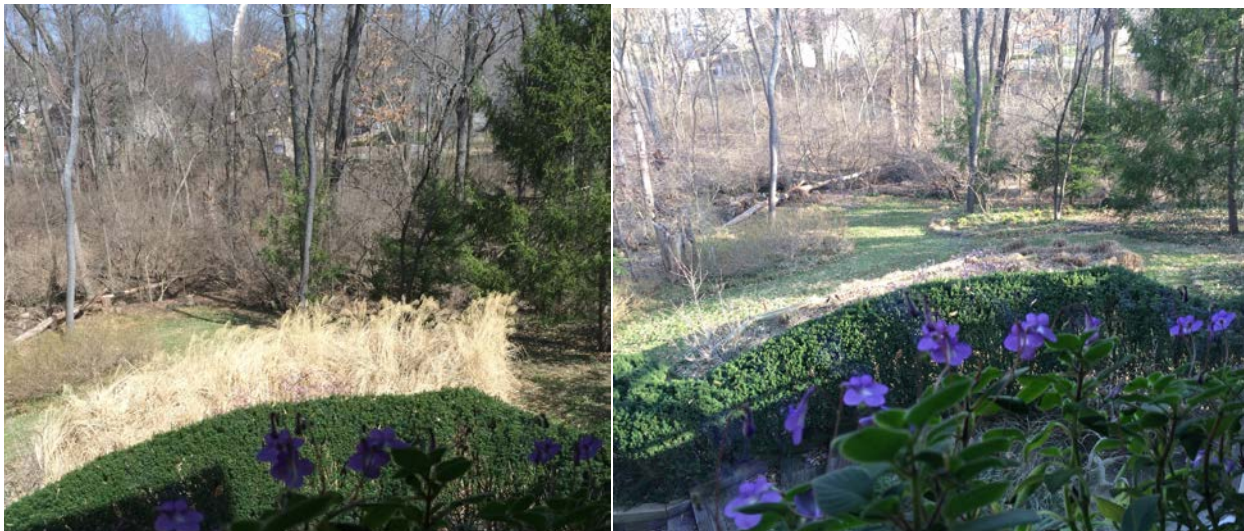
After trying one other location, I finally place the babies in mama's soft nesting material by the trunk of a tree in a little wilder area in the back. Each time I moved them, they squeaked letting mama know their location. She darted to and fro look over the back edge of the garage roof as I placed her babies in the final spot. Twenty minutes later, the babies were gone. Yay! Oh, we stupid humans sure made her day exciting! I hope the babies make it.

I felt so foolish; the nest wasn't hurting anything on the porch. But, oh am I glad I think mama squirrel located her little girl and little boy. My friend Claudia wrote: "Good for you, Miss Nature, trying to restore order to the squirrel family! Job well done." I feel better now. Thank you, Claudia.

MARCH 8, 2015: Two small squirrels try to enter a birdhouse through a hole that is sized for sparrows. I laughed as the second one tried to get its behind in. Are these mama and papa? Is this where she carried them? Can they get out? Oh my...

MARCH 16, 2015, MONDAY: Wow! For the first time in many moons I actually have a modeling job. It is for Mercy Virtual and I play a patient. That was easy! What a good day, not only do I have a job, but the sun is shining and it is 83 degrees. I needed a fun day!

MARCH 21, 2015, SATURDAY: I cut back grasses for SIX long hours! I am tired and SORE! Thank you Brian for my Black & Decker hedge trimmer! We have 12+ big grasses that have been in for 25 years.



Here are before and after pictures photographed from our great room window. My topiary of Edgar is in front of the grasses. I do not know the name of the purple flowering fuzzy-leaved houseplant in front of the window.

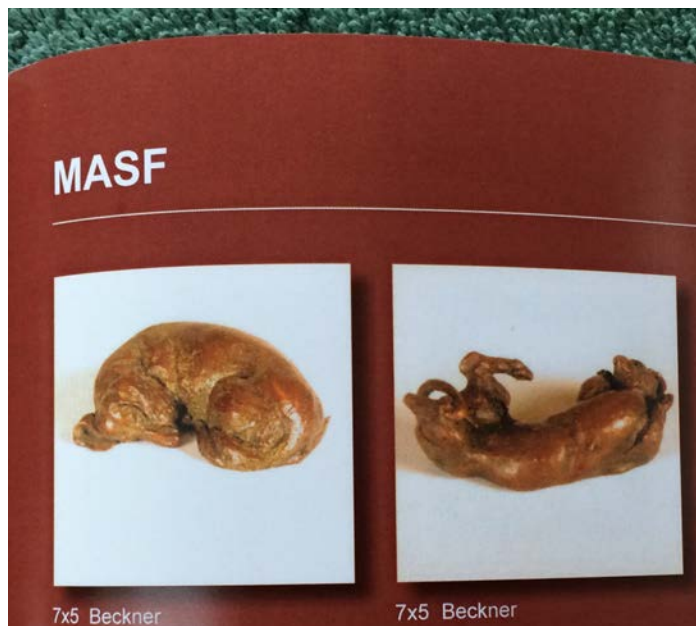
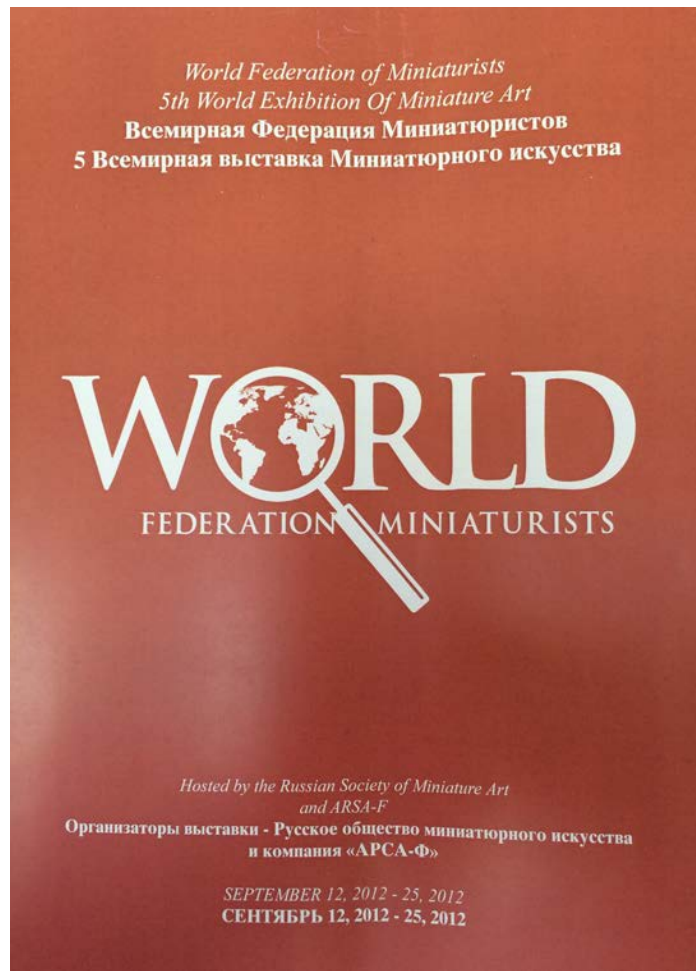
*The buckles are ready! The buckles are ready!*

MARCH 20, 2015: Today I pick up the "Coming & Going" buckles that I took to have modified so they lie flat when worn. Here they are, shiny and beautiful for your wearing pleasure!



YAY! I learned my wonderful Taos, NM leather smith is still making gorgeous vegetal-tanned cowhide straps for an incredibly reasonable price. Ask for 1¼" width. Give Larry Knapp or his wife, Jaya, a call at Cordon y Cuero Fine Handmade Leather Goods. Phone: 505- 751-3411

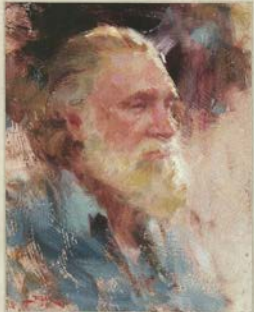
MARCH 24, 2015: The catalog of the World Federation of Miniaturists "5th World Exhibition of Miniature Art" arrived from the show that was held in Russia, Sept. 12 – 25, 2012. It's beautiful! I am one of only three sculptors in the show. The catalog and photos surprise me.




MASF is the Miniature Art Society of Florida that collected entries and shipped artists' works together.

MARCH 25, 2015: I see on Facebook where my wonderful gallery, RS Hanna in Fredericksburg advertised "Sunnyside Up" SS, in the April issue of American Art Collector! Thank you, Shannon!


RS HANNA GALLERY




DAN BEEK - "Tim" - 10" x 8" Oil




ROBERT SPOOVER - "Look at Ft. Martin Scott" - 18.5" x 23" Oil




HODGES SULLIVAN - "FEBRUARY WINDS" - 10" x 8" Oil



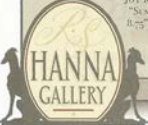
DAVID CHEFFETI - "SICK LIGHT" - 11" x 14" Oil



JOY KROEGER BECKNER - "SEASIDE 11" BROKER - 8.75" x 12.5" W x 15" D



GEORGE H. JONES - "GOOD FRIENDS" - 36" x 48" Oil


 RSHANNA-gallery.com | 208 SOUTH LLANO ST. | FREDERICKSBURG, TX 78624 | 830 \* 307 \* 3071  
 LOCATED IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS. GALLERY HOURS: TUE - SAT: 10 - 5:30

MARCH 27, 2015, 8:57AM: It snowed last night, just a little. Note snow beyond our pond and the blue sky!



MARCH 31, 2015: Tonight is all about spring! Between 8 and 9, as I talk with a dear friend, spring peepers trill their "first trill of spring" from our pond. Their sound is so exuberant, I wish I could record and send it to you! My friend thinks it is a mating trill. :-))



*The spring peeper, Pseudacris crucifer, is a tiny chorus frog with a big voice. Photo by Harvey Bird.*

Google Spring Peepers to access a YouTube video and audio of this exciting sound.

APRIL 4, 2015: I receive an email from Alibaba stating that I have been "verified". I figure out how to upload images and file a complaint.

APRIL 7, 2015: Severe storms spread hail everywhere! I am so glad my periodontist appointment is at 10:30, after the hail has stopped. My next attempt at a tooth implant is scheduled for May 26, at 10am.

APRIL 9, 2015, 6PM: This morning, while showering, Brian sees our unofficially adopted Great Horned Owl sitting high in a tree in the common ground well behind our home. He comments about how its color and silhouette blend perfectly with the tree, as if it was part of the tree. I had seen it yesterday from our shower window and thought the same thing. I think this is the owl that inspired "*The Eyes Have It!*"





*Looking north from our shower window, we see many birds and squirrels. Cumulous clouds build again.*



*For my dachshund loving friends, a table at Café Rama, San Miguel de Allende. Photo by James F. Quinn*

*See, touch and be touched by my work in these upcoming shows...*

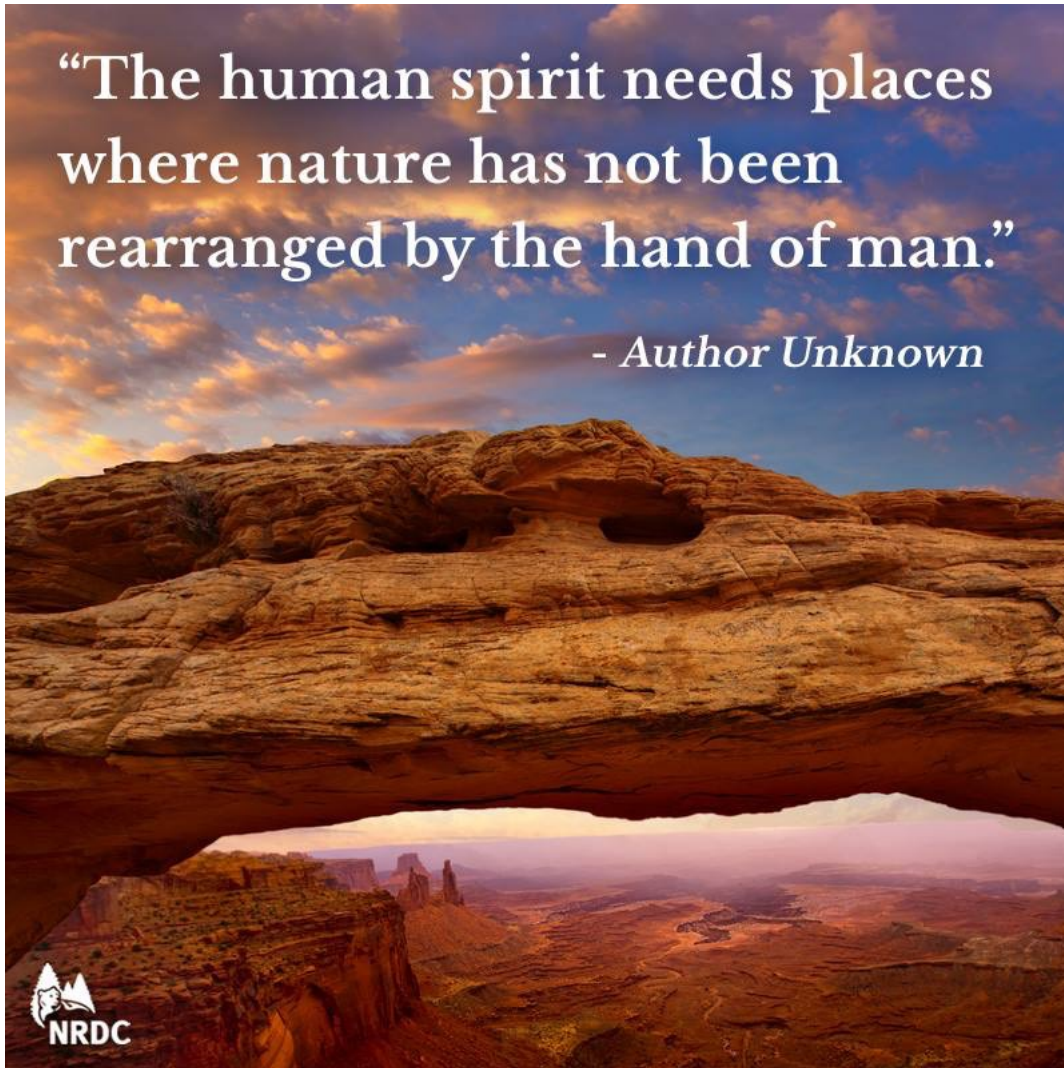
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THROUGH MAY 2015: Art on the Avenues, Wenatchee, WA: [www.artontheavenues.org](http://www.artontheavenues.org)

THROUGH MAY 2015: David A. Straz, Jr. Center for Performing Arts, 1010 Macinnes Pl., Tampa, FL.

“Good friends are like quilts - they age with you, yet never lose their warmth.”



*Thank you for being in my life.*

*please keep in touch.*

*Good luck!*

*Joy*

*Brian and Bo say hello, too!*