

JKß – JOY KROEGER BECKNER – JKß

classical realism, from hounds to humans & and more!

NEWS & JOURNEYS OF JOY! :: VOL. THIRTEEN, NUMBER TWO :: AUGUST 2017

greetings!!! It's been GOOD to hear from so many of you! Thank you for writing. I'm happy you enjoy our travels as well as my work. I sincerely hope you are well and enjoying life.

My heart is back in business!

MARCH 24, 2017: My ejection fraction is perfect: 55%. Many thanks to my Arrhythmia doctor, Dr. Andrew Krainik, who agreed with my Primary doctor, Dr. Varsha Rathod to get me off all "heart" meds such as Eliquis in favor of heart strengthening supplements which included Ubiquinol and Acetyl Carnitine. Now I can stop those as I run out! Thank you, Thank you, thank you to you both! Love you both!

Fresh from the Foundry...



"Sweet Dreams"

1:6 Scale, 2 7/8" L x 2 1/8" x 1" H, Bronze Edition: 8AP ©2016

Due to production difficulties, "Sweet Dreams" is limited to just eight casts! Order now.



"So Good to See You" ML
 14 1/2"L x 12"H x 12"D BRONZE ED. 10 & 1AP ©2011
The final two casts of "So Good to Se You" Long are available for adoption.



"Miss Me" MS
 19.5"L x 11"D x 7"H BRONZE ED. 20 & 2AP ©2015



"Over the Rainbow"

10"H x 8 3/4"W x 8 1/2"D, BRONZE ED. 20 & 2 AP ©2005

February 27 is great!!!

Adele Wolford, long time director of Art on the Avenues, in Wenatchee, WA, calls to say my life sized bronze standard dachshund, "Sweet Roll" has been selected for their permanent collection!!! Yippee!



My 2010 MacBook Pro is clean of extraneous stuff, including corruption!!!! It has plenty space, about 250GB, to easily last another few years. What a treat! I will buy and a 480GB SSD drive and have it installed for a little more than a tenth of the cost of a new MacBook Pro. Thank you Derek Burrows for your expertise!

FEB. 28, 2017, 6:12am, 55 degrees: We depart San Miguel de Allende in darkness as the city awakens. A few persons walk to work. Children wearing uniforms walk to school. White knee high socks are de riguer for girls.

6:38am, 45 degrees: Along the two-lane road we pass through a small town with many large, unmarked topes. (speed bumps) A colorful grocery store displays frutas y verduras under large pinatas. To the left we hear music and see dancing feet under a pair of swinging doors – yes – at 6:38am! The sun is rising behind the mountains. Here comes another beautiful day!

7:13am, 44 degrees: Quite by accident, we discover a gorgeous rest stop, La Estacion Café & Chocolate Artesanal Xocolate! This could be anywhere!



This is just the first view of this gorgeous rest stop.

Do you see the train engine behind the arch to the left???



Is the best part of this rest stop the train engine, OR???



If this wasn't so unusually beautiful, we might be complacent about rest stops! Rest stops come all ways in Mexico!

11:58pm: We have adventures in driving: a doble remolque (double 18-wheeler) loaded with rock, concrete or something VERY heavy crawls uphill in the right lane. It follows a single 18-wheeler loaded the same way.



A doble remolque carries dairy products.

12:43pm: We drive the outer road around Monterrey, the city of dust, toward Nuevo Laredo. It is the end of February and 90 degrees!

1:00 pm: It's 94 degrees in Monterrey. Grohe and American Standard fixtures are made here. Hey! It's part of the Americas. Now it's 98! It's never been this hot on our drive home at the end of February.

2:08pm: We pass through the flatlands before Laredo.

4:06pm: After crossing the bridge at Columbia we switch our reservation from the Laredo LaQuinta airport to the LQ in New Braunfels with a savings surprise of around \$25. Oh! Will we sleep tonight!

4:12pm: We head north on I-35! It is 89 degrees. Coming home, the bridge at Columbia saves time. It's only two more hours to New Braunfels.

6:42pm: We arrive at LaQuinta in New Braunfels. Gas is a mere \$1.84! We paid \$60 to fill my Suburban in SMA.

MARCH 1, 2017: An observation: From San Miguel to the US border there are about 7-10 semi trucks for every passenger vehicle. In the US there are more like two semi trucks for every passenger vehicle.

5:29pm: We are 2 hours and 15 minutes from home! The sun casts long shadows on Missouri's rolling hills. It is 49 degrees with gusty winds.

MARCH 3, 2017: I am excited to learn that "A Good Life" Long earned a Certificate of Merit as well as The Alphaeus P. Cole Memorial Award from the Salmagundi Club 108th Annual Thumb Box Exhibition. Thank you Jurors!



"A Good Life" Long
1:6 SCALE: 4 3/4"L x 1 3/8"H x 2 1/2"D, BRONZE ED. 50 & 5AP ©2011

MARCH 6, 2017: I order my SSD, 480GB Solid State Drive and download Carbon Copy Cloner.



"Merry Sunshine"
QUARTER LIFE, 10.5"L BRONZE ED. 50 & 5AP ©2011
LIFE SIZE, 42.5"L BRONZE ED. 5 & 1AP ©2015

MARCH 14, 2017: Hudson Valley Art Association accepts "Merry Sunshine" for their 84th Annual Juried Exhibition at the Salmagundi Club, 47 Fifth Ave., New York, NY.

Back in business!

MARCH 23, 2017, 12:08PM: RE: My 1Password app! All is well after spending a week off and on with Rick Fillion, a developer at AgileBits updating to the latest version of 1Password. All records are synced between my computer, iPhone and iPad. Happiness!

My computer

MARCH 29, 2017: It's been a long time, three months, getting my mid-2010 MacBook Pro running perfectly. But, thanks to my Mac Gurus, Nonnie Markeset, Derek Burrows and Bill Young who recommended Sayed Ahmed at iTeckshark, my new SSD, Solid State Drive is installed and my computer feels like new! All is well.

MARCH 31, 2017: My front yard pond is FULL after what must have been EIGHT inches of rain this week!



APRIL 1, 2017, 4PM: "Million Dollar Quartet" is fabulous! It's our first time at the St. Louis Repertory Theater at Webster University. Afterwards, we are "up" and dine at our favorite Italian restaurant, Sapore, in Kirkwood, afterwards.



- DECEMBER 5, 1956 -

Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis and Carl Perkins at Sun Records! Catch it if you can! It is exhilarating!

APRIL 2, 2017: Ridge Art Association of Winterhaven, FL, tells me "Deli's Open" (Wire) has earned the Third Place Award of \$200 in their juried Miniature Art Exhibition! Yay!



Deli's Open Wire

APRIL 29, 2017: On a lark, we drive to the National Equestrian Exhibition for the Clydesdale Show and Sale. WOW! These are magnificently strong animals!









April 29th is a perfectly wonderful day!

MAY 5, 2017: "Life's a Ball" MS, has been commissioned and is underway. Watch me complete the enlargement!



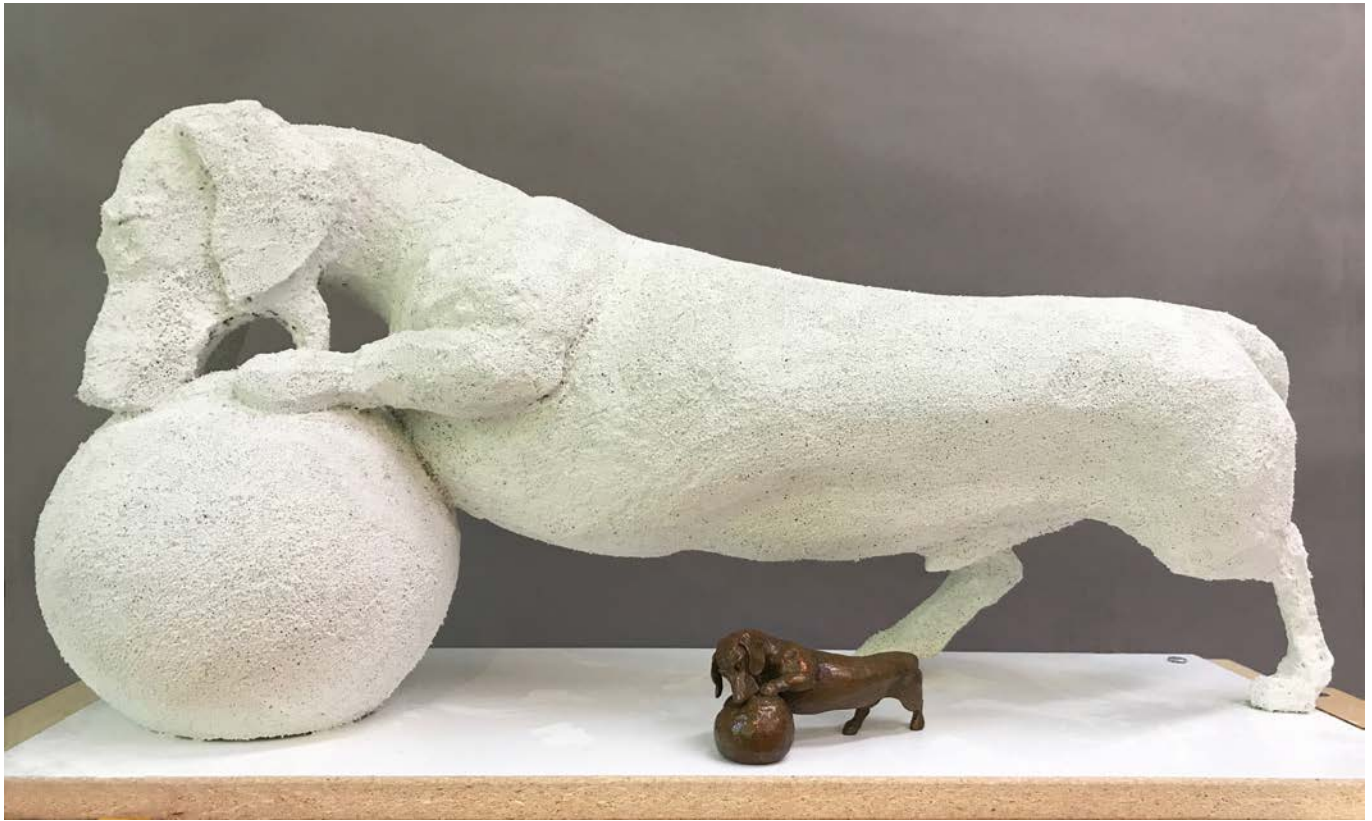
Raw Foam Enlargement by Gary DuChateaux



Raw Foam Detailed and Partially Painted



"Life's a Ball" MS, painted. Ready for clay.



"Life's a Ball" MS, painted. Ready for clay.



And, surprise of surprises, a female 1:6 Scale miniature version, "Her Life's a Ball!" will debut in December!

MAY 7, 2017: [DEGAS, IMPRESSIONISM AND THE PARIS MILLINERY TRADE](#). Friends and I visit the St. Louis Art Museum for this last day of this fabulous show.



Degas and the Millinery Shop

By the end of the 19th century, there were approximately 1,000 millinery shops in Paris with roughly 8,000 people—generally women—working in the millinery trade. There was a strict hierarchy of workers in the shops with the shop owner, often called the *première*, who designed the hats, at the top. Below the *première* were the trimmers, who added the decorative elements, the formers, who made the essential hat shape, and finally the *trottins*, or errand girls, who delivered hats to clients around Paris.



Caricatures of hats



My Favorite

MAY 28, 2017: We arrive home from DCA in time for Brian to happily watch the Indianapolis 500! DCA was good. We saw old friends and collectors and met some new ones.

My four tomato plants greet me from a higher stance than when we left; one is 21" tall at the top of the highest leaf; three have three tiny tomato blossoms and the tallest one has SIX!!! FYI, tomatoes are not all that easy to get to produce ripe juicy tomatoes. Undaunted, I will try again next year.



JUNE 16, 2017: Brian and our friend Frank Benavides depart on their motorcycles to ride the Lewis & Clark Trail.



Frank, left, and Brian are ready to depart.

The Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery – an Overview

Brian writes, "I expect there might be a question(s) regarding Mr. Benavides and my "Lewis and Clark Trip".

“Somewhere along the road the subject of how to describe our adventure came up. I think Frank came up with the thought that there is so much out there that it becomes sensory overload, which is truly the case.

“As I rode, I thought back to Robert M. Pirsig’s, “Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance” and, remembered that part of his analogy was based upon a Chautauqua, meaning a learning experience.

“If you not familiar with the term Chautauqua, ‘Chautauqua’ was an adult education movement in the United States, highly popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Chautauqua assemblies expanded and spread throughout rural America until the mid-1920s”; I remember my grandparents talking about attending a Chautauqua. I don’t know the subject, but it certainly registered with them.

“As such, any trip of this magnitude is a learning experience, and I believe what I took away from this trip was the vastness and the diversity of the land, and secondly, the differences between now and when the Corps of Discovery traversed the land.

“Gone are the “High Plains” in their natural state. Gone are the herds of animals that made the lands a vast savanna plain. Gone too are the indigenes peoples who roamed this land, and yet, by sticking as close to the river as we could, we could catch snippets of what had been.

“This kind of ride can also be a test, as we were buffeted by gale force winds for 6 or 7 days, and were in 100 degree temperatures for 6 or 7 days. On a couple of occasions, we started off with the temperatures reading in the lower 40s, and as the day progressed we would strip a couple of layers of clothing.

“We were in a number of states that had 80 MPH speed limits, but because of the winds, we couldn’t go much faster than 65 to 70 MPH. It was hard to judge which direction the winds would come from next. One second they would be coming out of the south, then suddenly switch and come out of the north, gusting from 30 to 35 MPH, which meant you had to be on your toes and ready for the change.

“On several occasions we had problems finding lodging and in Ely, NV we ended up in a room that was built on a slab of concrete and the concrete had broken in half and settled six inches! Because it was carpeted you could not tell it was broken until you tried to get in bed and stared downhill. Both beds were leveled with blocks of wood placed under the head post. The bed cover smelled like dust and like it had never been cleaned. Over coffee the next morning Frank said he had dreamed of being bitten by bed bugs. I was stunned, as I had a similar dream.

“Speaking of Ely, Ely sits on “America’s Loneliest Highway” - US HWY 50. The one and the same as US HWY 50 that runs from Union, MO to Jefferson City, MO. Nevada’s loneliest highway may also be one of its prettiest highways too.

“So, just like life, it was a great trip and at the end of the day we knew that we’d accomplished something.”

Thank you, Brian for your Tale of the Trail.

Meanwhile, back home...

JUNE 26, 2017: I drive toward Loveland, CO, where I will take “Life’s a Ball!” MS, and, two small pieces to be molded.

JUNE 28, 2017: I check finished metal and take it for patina.

JUNE 29, 2017: I head toward Grand Junction, CO, where Brian and I meet at his 96 1/2 year old mother Jeanne’s home. Brian cleans his bike while I clean the fridge and sort through many mounds of old magazines. I heap more and more onto a pile for recycling and the others into boxes for Brian’s little brother to give to nursing homes or wherever folks need reading materials.



Jeanne enjoys her coffee.

JULY 4, 2017: I drive to work in Loveland. While Brian cleans his mom's stove, oven and a bit of the house. In Loveland, I chase waxes like a mad woman until 9pm, Sunday, July 9.

JULY 5, 2017: What a day!

1. In Loveland, CO, I pick up my new mold of "Life's a Ball!" MS.
2. I take the mold to Amy Hosterman to pour three waxes.
3. In Ft. Collins I pick up 10 waxes of my new 1:6 scale "Dreaming of Tomatoes II" and more.
4. Then, back to Loveland to my patinuer to pick up patinaed bronzes of "So Good to See You" ML, and "Miss Me" MS, to take for custom boxes.
5. I pay my wonderful metal chaser, Nancy Palm, for her expert metal work.
6. The rest of the afternoon I finishing wax chasing a "Siesta" MS while I wait for the new waxes of "Life's a Ball!" MS. Leftovers from Grand Junction are quite fine for dinner.

JULY 8, 2017, SAT.: My friend Eva Stanley and I take a break and drive to Wellington, CO, to see and hear my patinuer Dale Cisek, play music on the patio with the glorious tree at the Wellington Grill. I LOVE this tree!



July 9, 2017: Brian's brother Charles arrives home after a highly deserved vacation that started June 29.

JULY 10, 2017: Brian departs Grand Junction for home. I deliver waxes to my foundry in Eaton, CO and head for Hays, KS, where we meet that evening.

JULY 11, 2017: Brian leaves Hays at 4:30am due to high heat (103) and wind warnings. I visit friends, Bob & Susan Fay in Overland Park, KS on the way home. At home we discover no air-conditioning in the house. Fortunately, my studio AC is working, so we sleep on the couch in the great room above my studio. It is GOOD to see Bo, for whom we had a dog and house sitter this trip.

Hot, Hot, HOT!!!

JULY 22, 2017, 5:02PM: It is 104.9 degrees Fahrenheit on our deck! Today's St. Louis, temperature of 108 degrees broke the record of 107 set in 1901!

JULY 24, 2017: The AC motor no longer talks with the panel. We will sleep on the couch another night or so. Thank goodness it is only supposed to get up to 90 degrees today and the next two days!

JULY 25, 2017: I remember my childhood without air conditioning. My parents had an attic fan in our heat-retaining brick house that they built in 1929. Brian places my Aunt Florence's beautiful turquoise fan at the top of the stairs to suck cold air from the first floor to our offices and bedroom. It's pretty effective! Thank goodness the studio AC works and also the great room above my studio! Thanks to this elderly fan, cool air is now making the upstairs bearable until the motor comes for the main air conditioner.

JULY 27, 2017: After four attempts, our AC guys finally have our air conditioning working well. I think our bodies are close to being recovered from the weeks of sitting, too, thank goodness.



BACK TO TUT! JULY 19, 2017: [KING TUT!](#) Friends and I visit the St. Louis Science Center for this brilliant exhibit.

Ask the expert! Do you have Questions about your Dog?

My dog guru friend, Charlotte Peltz, hosts a radio talk show, "Living with your Dog" available at KMUD.org. It airs on Tuesdays at 9am Pacific Daylight Time. You may listen to prior broadcasts by looking through their Archive.

See, touch and be touched by my work at these upcoming Events...

THRU SEPT. 3, 2017: Society of Animal Artists 56th Annual Exhibition, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, VA. (540) 662-1473; themsv.org

THRU DEC. 23, 2017: Small Works Show, The Bennington Center for the Arts, 44 Gypsy Lane, Bennington, VT.

OCT. 1 - DEC. 31, 2017: Audubon Artists 75th Annual Exhibition, Online: www.audubonartists.org

MAY 2 - 5, 2018: The Dachshund Club of America National Specialty, Columbus, OH.

I've heard it said
That to Love a dog
Surely is not very smart.

For all too soon
They pass away
And take a piece of your heart.

I know that some
Will take that advice
And never know what they miss.

But I have walked
A different path
And my dogs have left me with this:

In the end
The love they take
Will never equal
The love they make.

Author unknown

Stay cool & enjoy life. Please keep in touch!

Joy

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