

JKß – JOY KROEGER BECKNER – JKß

classical realism, from hounds to humans & more!

NEWS & JOURNEYS OF JOY! :: VOL. FIFTEEN, NUMBER FIVE :: DECEMBER 2019

Happy Holidays! Happy New Year!!!

*Please join Brian and me in Pawley's Island, SC, for
The National Sculpture Society 86th Annual Awards Ceremony.*

Then, ride south with us to St. Augustine!



OCT. 25, 2019, FRIDAY, 8:36PM: After a day of flying and driving, Brian and I arrive at The Chive Blossom Café, a wonderful little restaurant in Pawleys Island, SC. It is behind Walgreens, at Ocean Highway and North Causeway. It's 73 degrees and perfect for dining outdoors! Wow! Foliage is large and happy.



The Arthur Ravenal Bridge, Charleston, SC

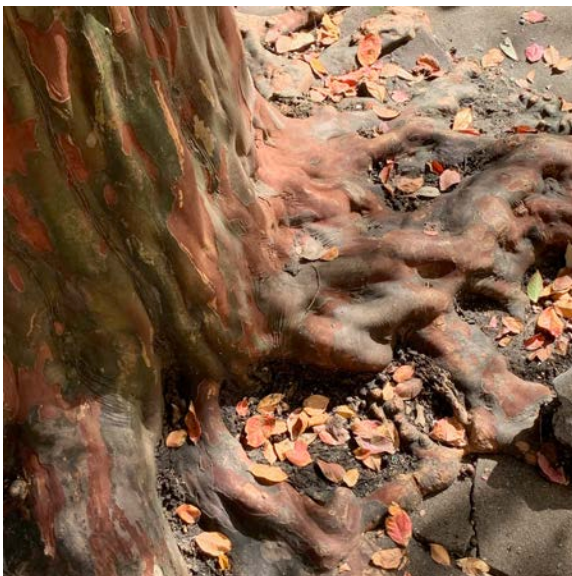


OCTOBER 26, 2019: On this cloudy, comfortable, 68-degree Saturday morning, we head to Charleston to meet my gallery owner, Jaynie Spector, of Dog & Horse Fine Art. The live oaks are absolutely spectacular, as is the wide variety of foliage and trees that love living here.

11:43AM: It's getting hot! 87 degrees! Time to remove my cardigan. Blue skies! Nothing but blue skies do I see...

US Highway 17 south of Charleston is dotted with small stands where weavers sell their handmade baskets.

It's GREAT to meet my gallery owner, Jaynie Spector, and her family! Charleston is charming. Beautiful architecture abounds. We see several Monarchs!



What IS this tree to the left?

6:55PM: Brookgreen Gardens, Pawleys Island, SC, is the site of the 86th Annual Exhibition of National Sculpture Society. The gardens are incredibly beautiful with lights on live oaks and pines.





"Cozy"



Sixteen sculptors in the NSS show are in attendance. It was great to meet many.

OCT. 27, 2019, SUNDAY, 10AM, 79 PARTLY SUNNY, HUMID DEGREES: Brian takes a scenic route, Kings River Road through golf courses, mansions, trailer parks, churches and everything in between

In Georgetown, SC, Liberty Steel is HUGE! Started in 1992, the buildings are rusty enough to have been built in the 1930s! Search Liberty Steel; the company is amazing.



11:38AM: Brian takes a side trip to McClellanville, SC, beside the Francis Marion National Forest.



This beautiful little church is in McClellanville, SC. Just look at this handmade siding!



1:13PM: It's pouring rain and great to be riding in a car rather than on a motorcycle or in a buggy.



1:23PM: We love our peach cider smoothie at Carolina Cherry Company! And, it comes with a PAPER straw!!! Yay! The clear cup says, 'Saving the Earth, One Cup Earth Cup at a time. One Karat Earth Cup made from renewable resources. Recyclable and Compostable' Way to go!!!



1:41PM: The views from the Port Royal Bridge along SC21 in Seabrook and Beaufort, SC.

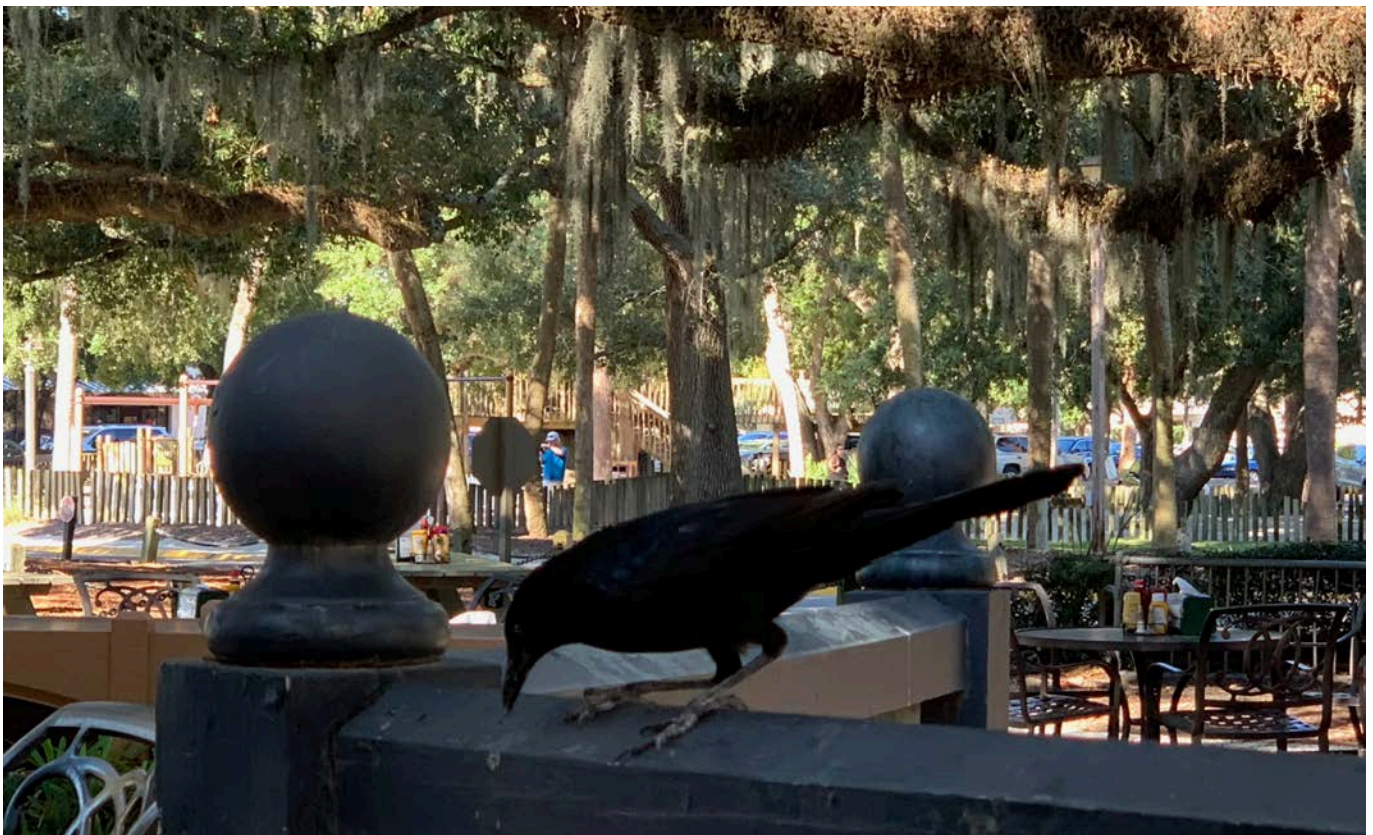


SC116 takes us off the beaten path to Laurel Bay. Small willows, Sweetgum trees and maybe Eucalyptus trees line this two-lane road.

We are surprised to find three lanes each way into Hilton Head. We imagined a two-lane road. US278 becomes four lanes after two outlet malls! We dine early at Alexander's.



Hilton Head Island has exactly one public beach with free parking! Above is the boardwalk to the beach.



OCT. 28, 2019: MONDAY, 10:36AM: After checking the beach we drive get lattes at Harbour Town Bakery & Cafe. Among the live oaks and tall pines southern-sounding grackles serenade us.



Pine needles in this part of the country are at least 10–12 inches long! In St. Louis, we are lucky to have 4-5 inch pine needles. I love the pine bark, pine needles and local geckos.

1:01PM: After checking several Hilton Head shops, we head toward Savannah.

Bluffton is a sweet little town. I love the shade from the tunnels of live oaks on May River Road and the beautiful Spanish moss. Spanish moss, in spite of its name, is native to this area.

1:35PM: Georgia welcomes us! At **1:42PM**, in Savannah, which is below sea level, many homes are three and four stories tall, with tall stairs leading to the front door.

4:18PM: After touring the magnificent world famous Mercer Williams House in Historic Savannah Georgia, home of the famous composer Johnny Mercer and the famous Jim Williams who preserved and restored 60 or 70 charming southern houses, we settle into the Marriot. Learn more here: www.mercerhouse.com

OCTOBER 29, 2019, TUESDAY, 10:41AM: On the four lane coastal highway, aka US17, sweet gum leaves have turned burgundy. Where pine forests have been cut, small pines have been planted. Good! Raindrops fall.

The price of regular gasoline has ranged from \$2.89 to \$2.19.

In Eulonia, GA, we pass the second Piggly Wiggly of the trip. As a child, I remember seeing a Piggly Wiggly on the way to church.





12:45PM: After sharing a barbecue sandwich in Brunswick we cross the Little River into St. Simons Sound and see the 655-foot long cargo ship, Golden Ray, which capsized and caught fire on Sept. 8. It was loaded with about 4000 Hyundai and Kia automobiles. Twenty-four crewmembers were rescued alive. Although over 315,000 gallons of the ship's fuel were pumped out, the autos leaked unknown gallons of gas and oil.



The capsized Golden Ray can be seen from the St. Simons Island Pier.

St. Simons Island, GA, looks a lot like Hilton Head. This drizzly, rainy afternoon Brian finds a room at the sweet little St. Simons Inn, and drive around St. Simons Island.





Tabby is building material made of oyster shells - a bit of concrete - and sand slathered on lathe. It was used around 200 years ago for slave quarters.

Wow! I learn that the Juror of Awards is the acclaimed Harry Bower, Curator of the John F. Peto Studio Museum, Island Heights, NJ. Mr. Bower awarded "*Life's a Ball!*" MS, the Elliot Liskin Memorial Award for Academic or Realistic Sculpture from the Audubon Artists in its 77th Annual exhibition. The show is at the Salmagundi Club, 47 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY. Thank you!!!



OCTOBER 30, 2019, WED., 10:42 AM, 79 DEGREES:

After walking for a latte and a bit of shopping, I try to put my arms around a live oak. I'm lucky to get halfway around it!

On US-17, we pass a huge German cargo ship, similar to the overturned ship we saw yesterday, and fields of shiny new cars.

Housing on this trip seems to consist of poor persons' trailers and small square houses, some middle income housing and a ton of rich persons' housing in gated communities.

We feel for persons living in the fire areas in California. A National Geographic article says the state's temperature has risen by 3 degrees since? This, coupled with dry air and high winds increases fire hazard.

11:37AM: Florida!

II:52AM, 86 DEGREES: The famous **A1A** highway to Amelia Island and St. Augustine is under expansive major construction! Too many people!

Retail stores on Amelia Island look just like they look in the Midwest except for the vegetation. Homes along the water are smartly above water level. Some are built behind what appears to be a man made sand dune to protect them from storm surges. Farther south we find still more gated communities.



Here, A1A is two lanes and beautiful! The above photo was taken near Amelia Island.

In Jacksonville we are back on A1A, looking for the scenic highway. It must be beyond the urban sprawl. ;-))

I:36PM: Finally, we have a sunny 86 degree day to travel on a two lane highway in the land of beachfront gated communities and/or mostly big beach homes. Bye bye urban sprawl!



Brian treats us to the Casa Monica Hotel in St. Augustine. This stairway leads from the garage to the hotel!

"Downtown" St. Augustine...



Aah.....Take a breath of fresh air.



A giant rusted anchor rests to the right of “The oldest wooden schoolhouse in the US” in St. Augustine, FL.

OCT. 31, 2019, THURSDAY: Good morning, Halloween! It is 81 beautiful degrees in St. Augustine. At 9:39 we are on our way to Jacksonville to return the car and board our flight home. We are on US-1 that goes all the way up to Canada. It is 31 degrees at home.

We pass a Hoegh Autoliner, like the fully loaded one that sank off St. Simons Island. Now we know that this type of automobile carrying ship is known as an Autoliner.

11:56AM: House approves Trump impeachment procedure.

5:22PM: We sit in the plane on a runway in Charlotte, NC, waiting for heavy rain to subside. It’s better than being in the air in these conditions, right? AROUND 6PM EDT: We are airborne...



The Kincade Fire in California may not be contained until Nov. 7. So very sad...



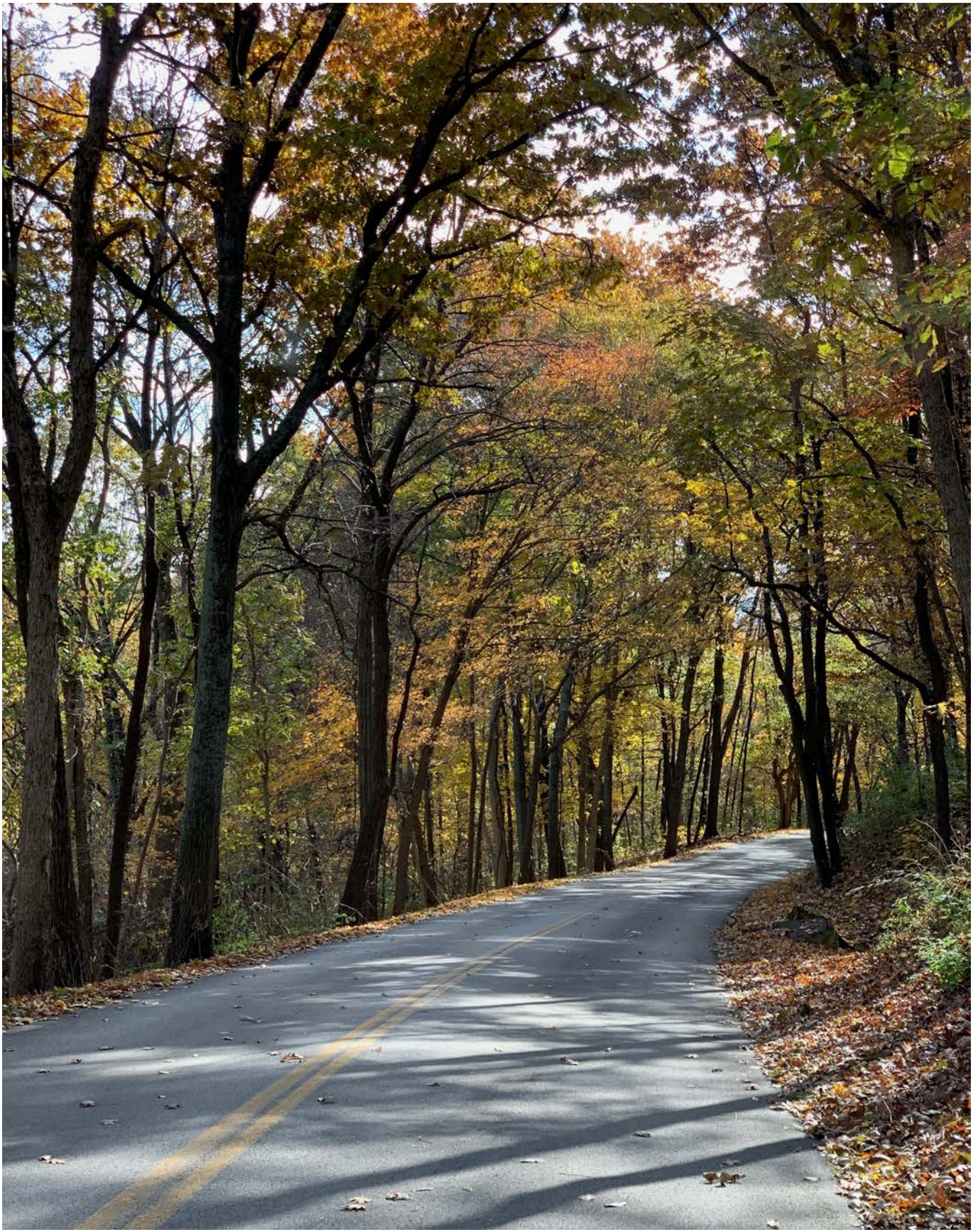
Nov. 6, 2019, 9:10PM: My sleepy boys relax in front of the tube. One of Brian's toys is beside the couch.



Nov. 8, 2019: It's great to see snow geese at the Audubon Center, Riverlands, West Alton, Illinois. On our way to Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton, IL, we drive The Great River Road on the Illinois side of the Mississippi to Pere Marquette, and take a ferry across the river to drive back home on the Missouri side



The Great River Road in Godfrey, IL



The Pere Marquette State Park lodge reminds me of the gorgeous Lodge at Yellowstone.



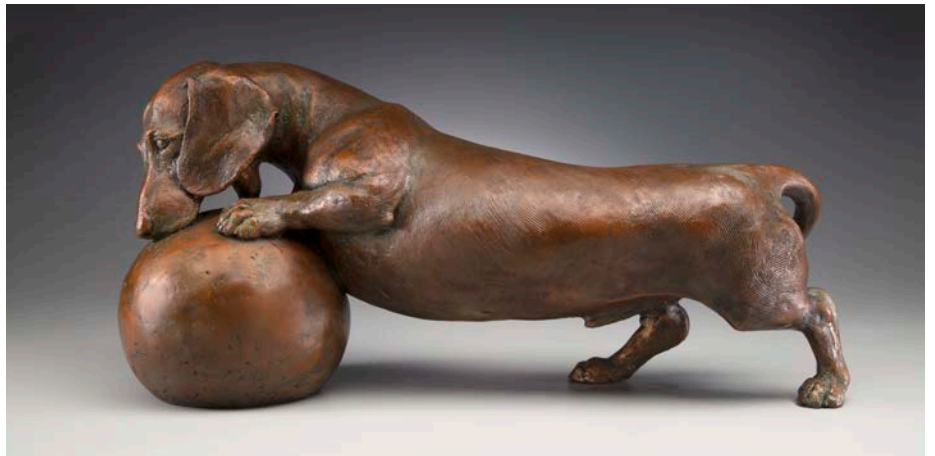
The road to the Brussels Ferry

Nov. 11, 2019, 8:07AM: Julie Housley, a friend from the Wildwood Garden Society, calls to discuss canceling the Garden Club outing for the day. Yes! Predicted are rain, sleet and snow this morning. In a few moments, Beau's coat is on and he does his business outside. In the next few minutes I fill the bird feeder and it's drizzling. Next is sleet. By 10:14 big fat flakes are falling. It is 19 degrees! Beau takes a nice warm "Siesta" next to a heat vent. Brian just walked in and said this photo of Beau reminds him of a little curled up turd. ;-))



Nov. 14, 2019: Happiness is having stitches removed from where my upper left rear tooth was pulled ten days ago. The Doc says it is healing just fine. One more visit to remove something else from the bone transplant and I will be home free until next March when he will implant a new tooth! Yay! No more pain.

Nov. 15, 2019: Surprise, Surprise!
A large envelope arrives from
Audubon Artists. *Life's a Ball!* MS
has earned the Elliot Liskin
Memorial Award for Academic
Realism and a check for \$400!



Nov. 16, 2019: Simple pleasures: I found this glorious Sycamore leaf in our front yard. Brian and I think it is the largest we ever seen; it measures 11" across! Compare this leaf to the penny.



Nov. 17, 2019: The Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society of Washington, D.C. awards "Sweet Roll" 1:6 scale, Best Sculpture in their 86th Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature. Yay! This award comes with a \$200 check!

Life is GOOD!

Nov. 22, 2019: Dr. Andrew Krainik, the WONDERFUL doctor who performed my ablation in 2015, says my heart is good!!! I need to only come back for one more check up to make it five years with a good heart. Between my preventive medicine doctor, Dr. Varsha Rathod, and Dr. Krainik, I was off of all heart meds in about a year. If you live in the St. Louis area and need terrific doctors, ask me for their numbers.



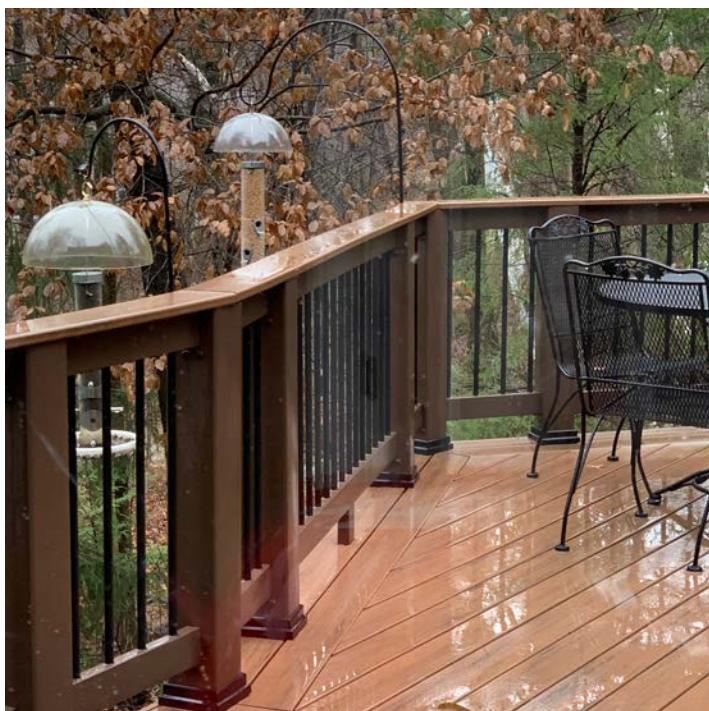
Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Nov. 28, 2019

Nov. 30, 2019, 8:05AM: Mother Nature power washes our deck and everything else! I remember when this little storm stream was five feet wide. Farther back, the major stream rages with water covering common ground, too!







... Our power washed deck ...

I love seeing and feeding all the birds, but do need to use a scrub brush next spring.

A whirlwind work trip to Colorado!

DEC. 1, 2019, 6AM, SUNDAY: We drive fourteen hours straight through to Loveland, CO. The winds are so strong that a mobile home blew off a flatbed truck and landed across I-70 causing a long delay. Traffic beyond Hays, KS looks heavy, so Brian takes two lane highways across northern Kansas to Colorado.

DEC. 2, 2019, MONDAY: I pick up two “Big Heart” waxes from mold maker and wax pourer Dan Ochs, who, afterwards, will head to his doctor to find a cure for an infection in his back. Next, we see my metal chaser Nancy Palm to check metals before taking them to Dale Cisek for patina. After that we drive to Ft. Collins to give my mold of “Over the Rainbow” to maker of small molds and waxes, Ben Cordsen.

Then, back to Nancy to check more metal and take to Dale. Then, nap and very early dinner at Perkins where Brian loves his eggs, bacon and hash browns and I enjoy a salad, broccoli and salmon. Early to bed...

DEC. 3, 2019, TUESDAY: I pick up the five Professional Beauty Association plaques and take them to Shippers Supply to send directly to Pro Beauty Assn. Then, back to the La Quinta to chase wax. Next, I see Nancy to check and pick up more metal for Dale. Early dinners are soups at the Pour House.... It's bedtime.

DEC. 4, 2019, WEDNESDAY: I finish chasing the first “Big Heart” wax. At Dale's, I pick up pieces that need foam-in-place boxes and take them to Shippers Supply. Back at the hotel, I chase the second “Big Heart” wax (five hours) while Brian takes my 2018 Tahoe for an oil change and tire rotation. I drive to Dale's to pick up pieces that have been patinaed. He will ship the rest.

To celebrate being finished, I take us to the 4th Street Chop House for our favorite chopped salad and their wonderful scallops.

DEC. 5, 2019, THURSDAY, 9:39AM MST: After dropping off the two “Big Heart” waxes at Dragon Castings in Eaton, CO, and winding our way to CO-34, we are on our way home.

Indeed, this 1800-mile round trip has been quite a whirlwind! Today, Thursday, it is 38 degrees with glowing overcast skies and a bit of light rain. By 4pm, CST, it is 56 degrees, and overcast with interesting clouds. Plus, there are insects on the windshield! We need to be grateful for all insects. They are bird food and ... pollinators are GOOD. We need pollinators for our own food supply! LIFE is GOOD!!!

DEC. 6, 2019, 5:48AM CST: Beau jumps out of bed, announcing his day has started. Within an hour we are on the road again from Salina, KS toward home. It's 34 degrees and windy as the sun tries to rise behind the clouds. My Tahoe's heated seats feel good.

DEC 17, 2019: WOW! Today I have been on this planet three-quarters of a century! Brian treats me to dinner at Kreis'. My walleye with lemon, capers and quinoa is VERY good, as are our Greek salads and his steak. A shared slice of Birthday Key Lime Pie finishes our excellent meals. *Thank you, Brian!*

DEC. 18, 2019: President Donald Trump is impeached! What next?

DEC. 19, 2019: Don Casper, one of my two dear photographers, finishes his beautiful works of "Cozy" Long, "Cozy" Wire, and a Gordon Setter commission, "Trooper." Enjoy!



"Cozy" Long

1:6 SCALE: 3 3/4"W x 3 1/4"D x 1 1/4"H, BRONZE, ED. 10 & 1 ARTIST'S PROOF ©2019
Select Patina, Red or Black & Tan.



"Cozy" Wire

1:6 SCALE

3 3/4"W x 3 1/4"D x 1 1/4"H BRONZE

ED. 10 & 1 ARTIST'S PROOF ©2019

Select Patina: Red or
Wild Boar/Black & Tan



DEC. 19, 2019, 2:40PM: My first collector of "Cozy" Wire leaves a voice message, "Hey Joy, it's only N---, "Cozy" came today and they are very, very nice and extremely intricate. I am surprised that you could get so much into the faces with them turned like that. They're beautiful! You and Brian have a Merry Christmas!"

"Trouper"

5"W x 7"H x 5/8"D

BRONZE

ED. 5 & 1 AP ©2019

I modeled this in wax on wood for bronze from a photograph given to me by the couple that commissioned "Trouper." It is designed to hang.

Enjoy!

Photos by Don Casper



DEC. 20, 2019: We take the afternoon to see “Dutch Painting in the Age of Rembrandt” at the St. Louis Art Museum. Afterwards we drive old haunts: The Central West End and the Delmar Loop! Fun! Following are some of my favorite paintings from the exhibit.

I love the looseness in the way Nicolaes Berchem painted St. Peter's hair. And look at this exquisite frame!!!

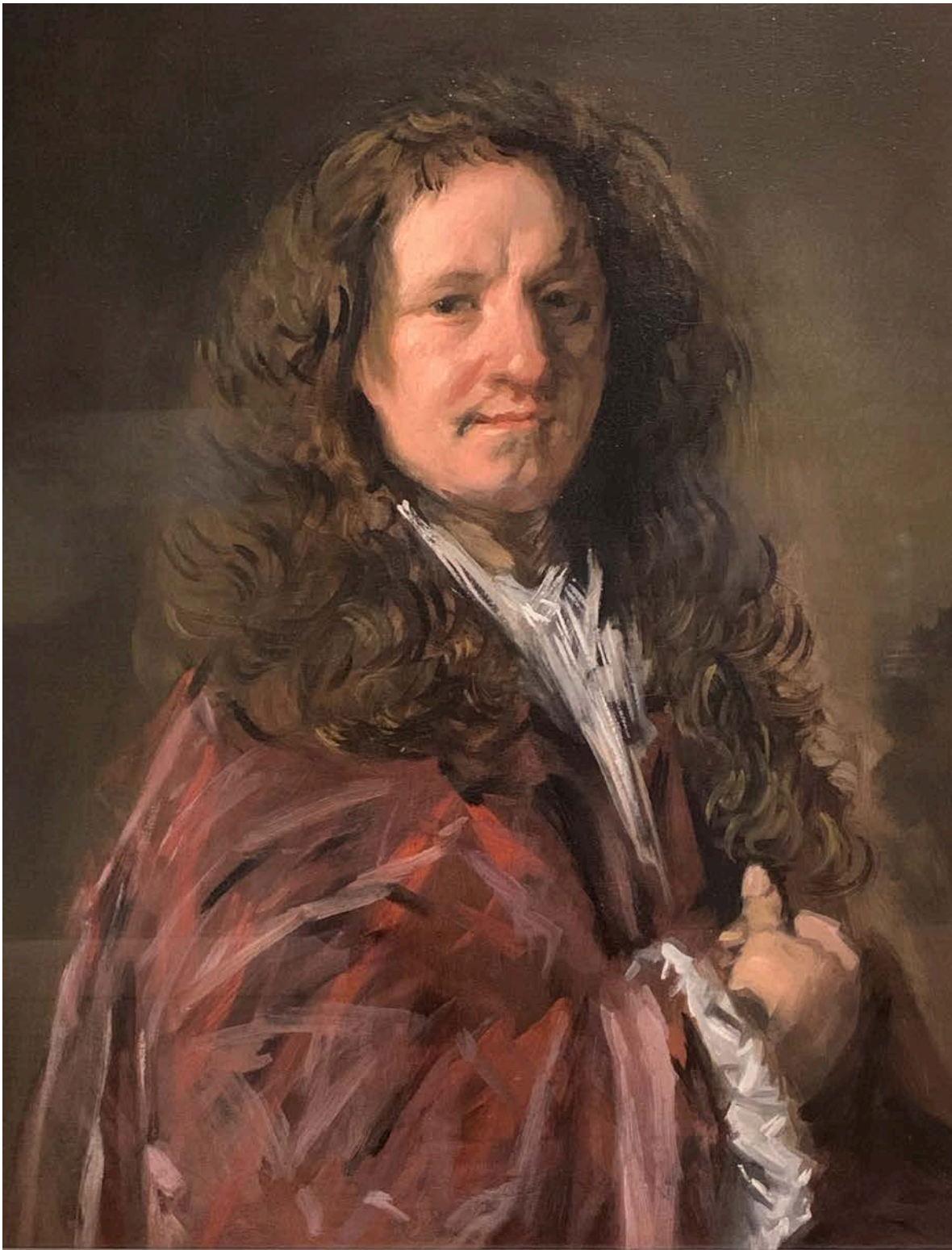


"St. Peter"

c. 1644

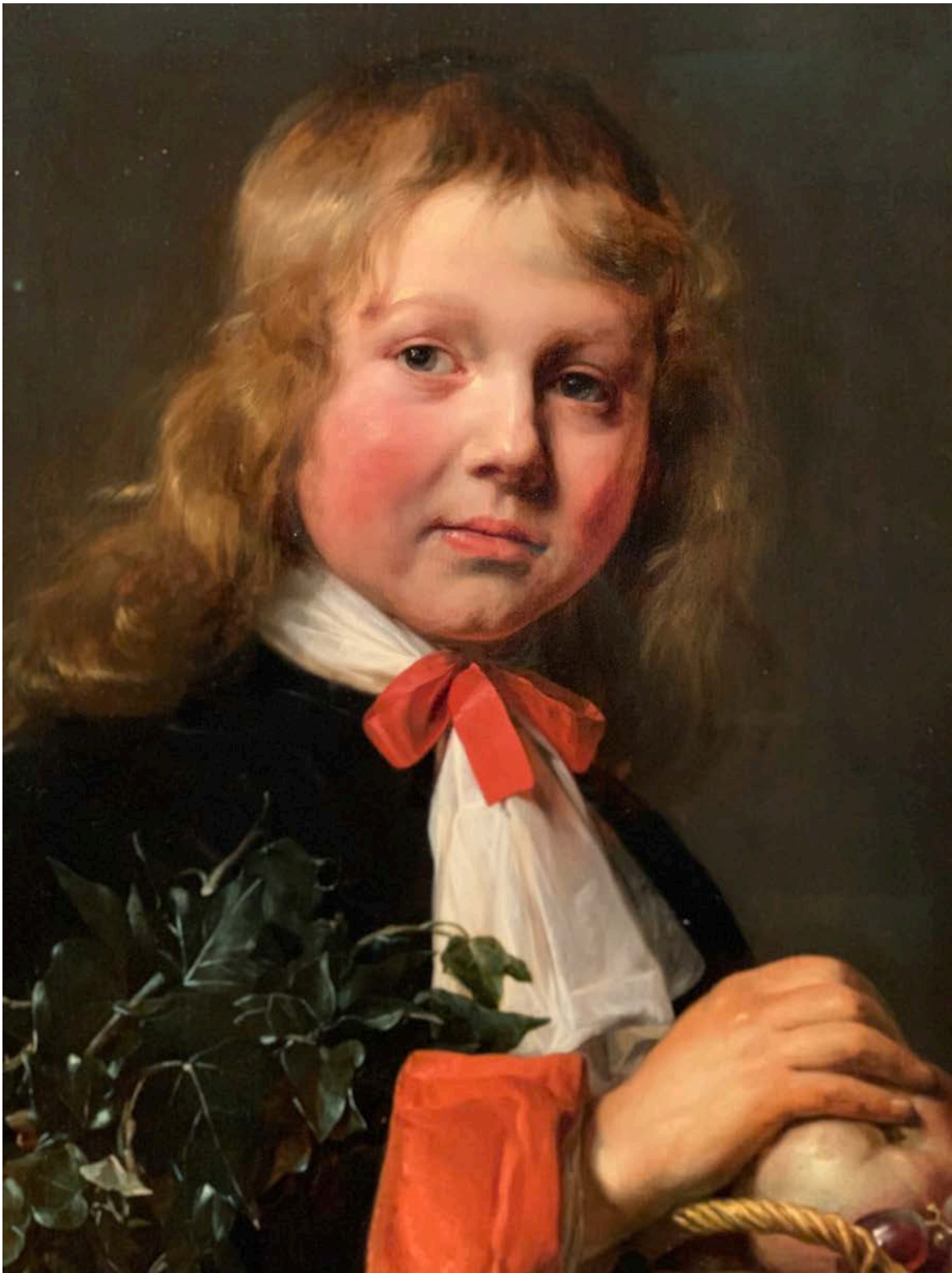
Oil on Panel

Nicolaes Berchem
Dutch 1620 – 1683



Portrait of a Man c. 1665
Oil on Canvas

Frans Hals
Dutch, c.1582/1583-1666



Portrait of a boy holding a basket of fruit" 1658

Oil on Panel

Jan de Bray
Dutch, 1627-1697

*I hope you enjoyed this
brief visit to the sixteen
hundreds.*

There are far too many beautiful paintings to send more. See this exhibit at the St. Louis Art Museum through January 12, 2020. After that, check the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, for the next venue.

AlbuquerqueJournal

10:48PM: WOW! A collector's Christmas letter arrives and includes this April 5, 2019 article from FETCH, in the Albuquerque Journal. While I was not given credit for creating "A Good Life" I am highly honored that this newspaper chose my work for the center of its article! Thank you!

And, Thank you, Lisa and George!

Below, please find the April 5, 2019 Albuquerque Journal website image of "A Good Life".

FETCH
ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL, THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2019 / PAGE A3



Portraits of dogs abound at the Museum of the Dog, where you'll also find historical dog-related artifacts, sculpture and a library.

The Museum of the Dog is unleashed in Manhattan

American Kennel Club collection explores all the 'good dogs'

BY MAURA JUDKIN
THE WASHINGTON POST

Sure, there are lessons to be learned at the Museum of the Dog. About the symbolism of dogs in art history, and the ways that artists humanize them, and their role as a worker and companion. But if you are a Dog Person—and if you're here, you're probably a Dog Person—they won't even register, because your brain will remain stuck in "good dog" mode.

As in, "Look at that good dog."
"Look at that other good dog."
"What a good dog he is."
To paraphrase a popular meme: They're all good dogs. And they're all here, in this two-story museum at the bottom of an office tower near Grand Central Terminal in New York, where the American Kennel Club has moved its collection of dog art and artifacts from the museum's prior home in St. Louis. The Museum of the Dog opened in February during the Westminster Dog Show, and it will be a draw for dog lovers curious about the contents of a museum dedicated to man's best friend.

Enter, and right away, you'll stand before a large screen that invites you to find out what breed of dog you, a human, are—like a BuzzFeed quiz in real life. The screen will take your picture, analyze it and show you the dog you most resemble. A woman with long, red, curly hair was naturally deemed an Irish setter. A handsomely dressed man was revealed to be a miniature poodle. I am not sure what I was expecting, but it wasn't to be told that I am a Norwegian houndhound, a "kind, energetic, alert" dog that looks like an anxious Chihuahua crossed with a wolf. "I can see it. It's in the eyes," a friend later proclaimed, examining the photo as if it were of my grandfather.

A museum devoted to dogs seems like it could be viral Instagram candy, like the Museum of Ice Cream. But the Museum of the Dog is serious, and its initial exhibition of collection highlights is composed of digitized paintings of dignified dogs, whether they appear as companions for the wealthy, masters of the hunt, or in proud portraits of champions. A great deal of the work is from the late 1800s to the early 20th century, with little abstract or contemporary art. Wall text with each work identifies the breed of dog it depicts, whenever possible. This being the AKC, the museum is devoted to purebreds. There are a few celebrity dogs, such as a portrait of Camel, "King Edward's Favorite Terrier," and of Millicent, President George H.W. Bush's English springer spaniel, accompanied by a framed letter from first lady Barbara Bush.

Perhaps ironically you'll admire the brushstrokes that capture the elegance of a terrier's fur, or the regal majesty of a hound on the hunt. But, at some point, your inner monologue will devolve into more familiar and banal observations: "That looks like my Mimi!" "What a dorky face." Because here's the thing about portraits of dogs: As an art history lesson, they can get a bit repetitive. As a goofy, sentimental attraction, they're a delight. Dog people are tribal, so owners of purebreds will gravitate toward portraits that most resemble their own dogs. (The hound and terrier groups are well represented in art.)

Maybe that's why the experience starts with learning what breed you are. You'll look for yourself in the portraits of dog lovers and identify with the various breeds.

"Me in 40 years," I teased some friends, holding a picture of John Henry Frederick's portrait of "Maud, Daughter of Colonel Temple," an elderly bespectacled woman holding two poorly whippersnappers. "Wholesome brunch," I Instagram-captioned a painting of four champion Afghan hounds.

The Museum of the Dog plans to rotate its exhibitions, but this Norwegian houndhound suspects they will get a similar reception no matter what's on the walls or in the display cases.

"What a good boy!" a woman asked of a bronze sculpture of a hound resting on its back.

"It's a good boy," said her friend, in the dog's voice.

If you go

WHAT: American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog

WHERE: 101 Park Ave., New York City

INFO: 212-696-4060, museumofthedog.org

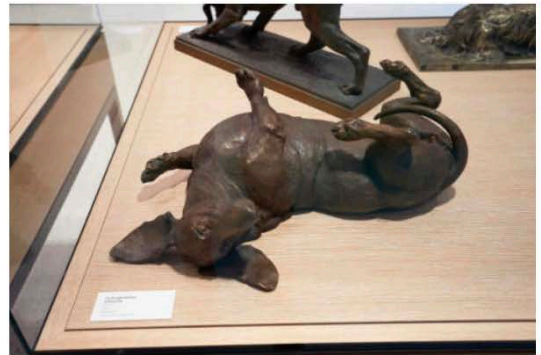
HOURS: Open Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets: \$15 for adults, \$5 for children.

"A Good Life" is the title of this bronze of a dachshund at the American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog in New York City.



MAURA JUDKIN is a writer in New York City. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, The New Yorker, and The Washington Post.

To paraphrase a popular meme: They're all good dogs. And they're all here, in this two-story museum at the bottom of an office tower near Grand Central Terminal in New York, where the American Kennel Club has moved its collection of dog art and artifacts from the museum's prior home in St. Louis. The Museum of the Dog opened in February during the Westminster Dog Show, and it will be a draw for dog-lovers curious about the contents of a museum dedicated to man's (and meme's) best friend.



"A Good Life" is the title of this bronze of a dachshund at the American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog in New York City. (David Woo/American Kennel Club)



"A Good Life" SS, 6/20, is available on the secondary market!

upcoming Events...

THRU DEC. 31, 2019: The Society of Animal Artists, 59th Annual Art and the Animal, at the Briscoe Museum of Western Art, San Antonio, TX.

THRU JAN. 5, 2020: The Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society of Washington, D.C., 86th Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature, The Mansion at Strathmore, 107 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD.

JANUARY 19 – FEBRUARY 9, 2020: The Miniature Art Society of Florida, 45 International Miniature Art Show, 1143 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin, Florida.

APRIL 30 – MAY 3, 2020: Dachshund Club of America National Specialty, Mesquite Convention Center, 1700 Rodeo Drive, Mesquite, TX 75149.

THRU MAY 2020: Art on the Avenues, Wenatchee, WA.

THRU JUNE 2020: Performance in Sculpture, David A. Straz Center for the Performing Arts, Tampa, FL.

THRU SPRING 2020: Sculptureworks, Inc., Heber Springs Public Library, Heber Springs, AR.

Tweet as you would be Tweeted (New Golden Rule.) Thank you, Lisa & George!

ISLAM: Do unto all men as you would wish to have done unto you.

BUDDHISM: Hurt not others with what pains yourself.

HINDUISM: Treat others as Thou wouldst thyself be treated. Do nothing to thy neighbor which hereafter Thou wouldst not have thy neighbor do to thee.

CONFUCIANISM: What you do not yourself desire, do not put before others.

CHRISTIANITY: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

JUDAISM: What is hurtful to yourself do not to your fellow man.

Thank you for being in my life.

May you enjoy Great Wealth of Good Health!

Happy Holidays & Happy New Decade!

Joy

Beau and Brian wish you well, too!

WWW.JOYBECKNER.COM

314-378-7032

