

JKß – JOY KROEGER BECKNER – JKß

classical realism, from hounds to humans & and more!

NEWS & JOURNEYS OF JOY! :: VOL. THIRTEEN, NUMBER ONE :: FEBRUARY 2017

*Happy New Year!
Happy Valentine's Day!*

I hope you are well, warm, and enjoying life.

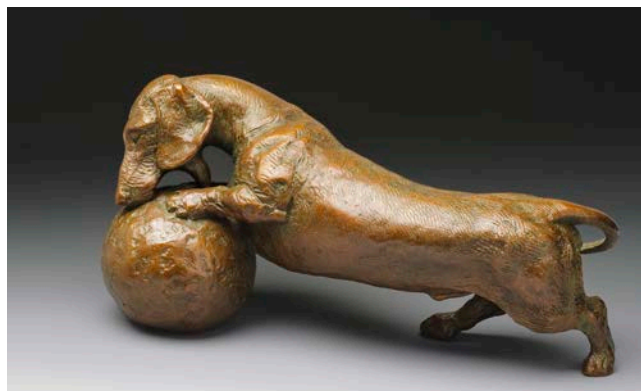
JAN. 13, 2017: Friday the 13th is GOOD! Life is GOOD! A couple commissioned "Life's a Ball!" MS, a life-sized Miniature Smooth, in honor of their departed 13 year-old male, Goober Pie. It will be ready in bronze this late this November.



Above, "Life's a Ball!" SS, Standard Smooth, ©1998 - AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE ACQUISITION.

"Life's a Ball!" MS, Miniature Smooth ©2017

ORDER YOURS TODAY FOR A PRECAST PRICE FOR CHRISTMAS 2017 DELIVERY!



"Life's a Ball!" Smooth, 1:6 Scale ©1998 – SOLD OUT

The Art Renewal Center – The ARC Salon

“Congratulations to all of our 12th International ARC Salon Finalists. This year we have 1006 finalist works by 640 artists, representing 32% of works submitted.” See the list of finalists at artrenewal.com



“Miss Me” is among the selected ARC finalists. I feel highly honored!

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See, touch and be touched by my work at these exhibitions:

OOPS! I AM EMBARRASSED! I forgot to mention that my work was in the 26th Annual Miniature Show at The MonDak Heritage Center, Sidney MT. The show was Nov. 9, 2016 - Jan. 14, 2017.

THRU FEB. 19, 2017: AKC Museum of the Dog, “Dogs of St. Louis Artists” St. Louis, MO

THRU MARCH 12, 2017: The Society of Animal Artists 56th Annual (touring) exhibition of Art & the Animal, The Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum, Oradell, NJ

Thank you Jeff Birchill for including “Miss Me” in your Facebook post. For larger views and all the 56th Exhibition sculpture and 2D media go to the Society of Animal Artists page on Facebook.



MARCH 25 – MAY 15, 2017: The Society of Animal Artists 56th Annual (touring) exhibition of Art & the Animal, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS. (785) 628-4286; sternberg.fhsu.edu

MAY 25 - 27, 2017: DCA! The Dachshund Club of America National Specialty, The Crowne Plaza Hotel, 830 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY. 888-233-9527

JUNE 3 - SEPTEMBER 3, 2017: Society of Animal Artists 59th Annual Exhibition, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, VA. (540) 662-1473; themsv.org

THRU 2017: “Performance in Sculpture” exhibition at the David A. Straz, Jr., Center for Performing Arts, Tampa, FL

THRU 2018: Art on the Avenues, Wenatchee, WA: www.artontheavenues.org

Come, ride with us from Laredo to San Miguel de Allende, MX.

JAN. 1, 2017, 9:33AM: Aside from the excitement of the “Life’s a Ball! MS, commission, Brian and I are happy to once again travel to San Miguel de Allende, GTO, Mexico.



Look carefully at wind turbines & electrical lines along the Autopista, Saltillo-Monterrey, Santa Catarina, MX.

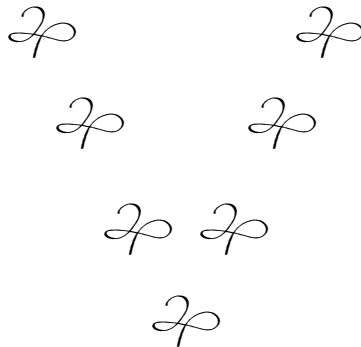


The Autopista, Saltillo-Monterrey, Santa Catarina, Mexico.



A Forest of Spanish Dagger Yuccas lines the Autopista for miles.

JAN. 1, 2017: About 4:45pm, we arrive in San Miguel via a two-lane road from the Autopista.





JAN. 2, 2017: On the rooftop of Callejon de la Balloneta 12, this glorious Purple Trumpet Vine enjoys sunshine on the pergola. At roughly 6250 feet above sea level, the daytime temperature is in the low eighties. Nighttime temperatures are usually thirty degrees cooler than daytime.

About the temperature...

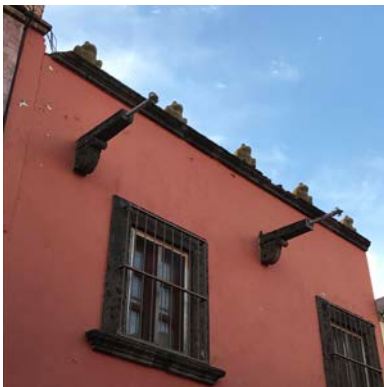
A daytime temperature of around 80 sounds lovely - and it is - outside. Homes and apartments in SMA have no central heat and, so when it is in the 30s, 40s or 50s at night, the concrete walls do not heat. Therefore, it is often cold inside. We shower or go outside to warm up. When a cold front arrives a week into our trip, 60s and 70s during the day, we really appreciate the central heat at home in St. Louis. We *love* the longer days here with sunset well after 6:30.

About roof drains...



Many San Miguel buildings have roof gardens and, in order to drain water from the plants and therefore from the roofs, roofs must have drains. Here are examples, from basic, to my favorite!







A toss up with the bunnies, my favorite fish drain is on this sunny yellow wall on our tiny little walkway/street, Callejon de la Balloneta, in Colonia San Antonio.

Who would like a dachshund roof drain?

Who lives behind the walls?

We are sorry to share that this past June our landlord of eight years passed away, and therefore we needed to find a new apartment with an owner who would let us bring Bo Duke. Our former apartment was on Calvario, a narrow little street in Centro. Across the street on Calvario is a

sprawling block-long, non-descript, walled, mansion. The distributor of ALL Coca Cola products in Mexico owns that mansion!

This year, two doors down from us, is a non-descript four-story mansion owned by a family who probably provides your produce! A neighbor said the “onion king” owns the property. Another neighbor told me the owner distributes tomatoes and much more to the United States! I have never seen a member of either family. These are vacation homes for both families. Who knew?



This is the four-story mansion on our little street. The plant with the seeds, in the middle below, intrigues me.



JANUARY 4, 2017

The Parroquia at sunset

"Our Tree!"

Photo below by Sharon Draper





A donkey eyes the camera as we walk home beside the Parroquia.



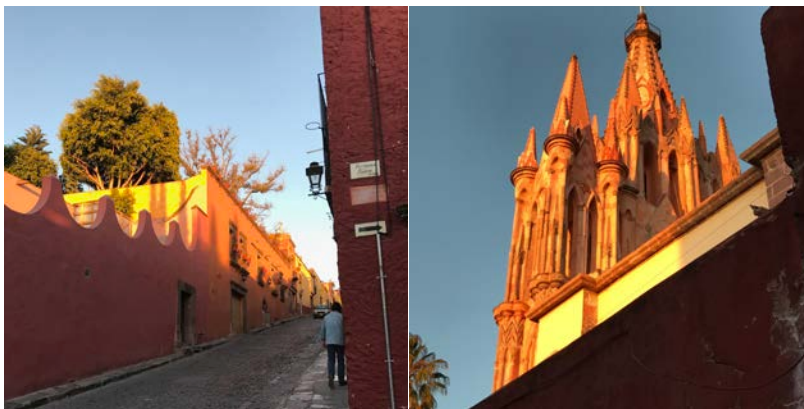
*Carnevino Grill is a good restaurant on the Ancha de San Antonio, the main road that is close to our rental.
Below, old sewing machines offer décor in Carnevino Grill.*



I have no idea if any of these machines are like my mom's direct drive Singer from the 1920s.



Miniature horses, soldiers, furniture, and now, tiny sewing machines are in a little shop along Hernandez Macias as I walk toward the Jardin. Enjoy!



Look up Cuadrante from Aldama. Jog left on Aldama and the Parroquia is on your right.



Old, carefully pollarded Ficus Benjamina trees line walkways and provide shade for persons on the many park benches in the Jardin, San Miguel's main square in El Centro.



JAN. 9, 2017: Three Kings Day signals the end of Christmas festivities! The Jardin is PACKED! Every child receives a gift from The Three Kings. The person who finds a tiny Jesus in the Sweet Bread gets to have a tamale party for friends!



Sweet Bread ... On The Three Kings Day



FEB. 1, 2017, 8:45pm: We walk five blocks home from a sweet little family restaurant, El Ronconcita, where Mercedes greets us and Miguel prepares delicious Chicken Poblano with jicama salad for us. Our \$27US dollar dinner is enough for tomorrow night, too. Gentle rain starts about 9pm.



FEB. 2, 2017: At the Biblioteca, (library) I see a documentary by San Miguel resident Derek Burrows. It's about his experience with discrimination. Derek was born and raised in Nassau, The Bahamas, where he was treated as white. That changed when he moved to Boston and was treated as black. I think everyone should see this film that took Derek three years to edit from over 700 hours of film down to 85 minutes. "Before the Trees was Strange" will soon be shown at several US universities, and is entered in a number of Film Festivals. I hope it will be shown on PBS.



*While walking home on Mesones I am drawn into Petit Four. Mexicans prepare exquisite sweets!
A building is reflected in the lower right of the Petit Four sign.*



... Candelaria 2017 ...





This year's finale at Candelaria!

"What's new?" you ask.

My life in San Miguel to date has been all about sorting and organizing twenty years worth of contacts in preparation for moving them to a newer email program.

FEB. 3, 2017: I meet with my Mac Guru, Nonnie Markeset, to move my email contacts from MS Entourage 2008, the "Outlook in a tuxedo" program I have used since the late 1990s, to a newer Outlook 2011, so that I can send newsletters. However, Outlook doesn't work! So, Nonnie moves my contacts into Mail, the email program that came with my elderly 2010 MacBook Pro.

Now, since my contacts from my iPhone are also in Mail, I must delete duplicates. What a job! I want this fixed now so I can get a new computer and not transfer problems to it when we get home.

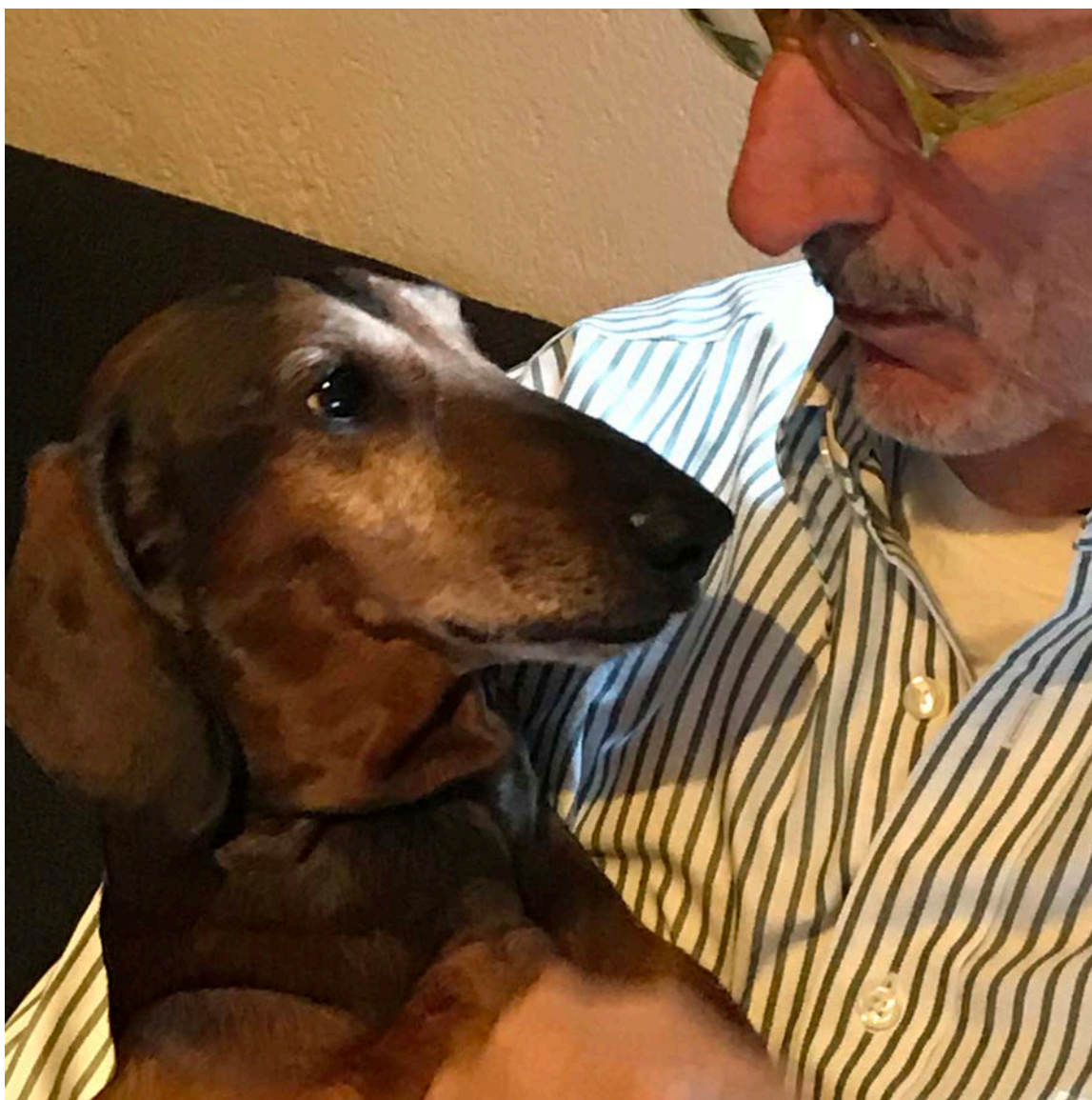
FEB. 5, 2017, 4:51PM: After dealing with Mail, and doing laundry, it's time to get a rotisserie chicken from a street vendor and make a salad for dinner. It's the day before Constitution Day and the city is PACKED! Police are on every corner directing traffic!

This is the first evening we need no heat from the one heater that is in the kitchen. This is GOOD.



FEB. 8, 2017: The BEST news today is that we *finally* received our third mail package from home. Items inside were postmarked January 17! In it is the deposit for the life-sized miniature "Life's a Ball!" MS. Now I feel comfortable about announcing the commission and can send my newsletter to my web master so he can put it on my site.

I hope, all duplicates are out of my Mail program. Tomorrow I will call Apple to hopefully get my three IDs and passwords synchronized into just one. Oh, let's hope that works and that I can get into Outlook. I will keep you posted. Next Newsletter...



Champion Turning Point What was I Thinking - Bo Duke

Bo Duke adores Brian. Bo is shown a month before his eleventh birthday, March 6, 2017.

Thank you Pam Reed Crook for making this retired show boy available to us, and, thank you, Dr. Randy Eltringham, for breeding our sweet boy.

Brian, Bo and I wish you a healthy, happy and secure 2017.

All the best to you!

Joy

www.joybeckner.com

Please keep in touch!