

# JKß – JOY KROEGER BECKNER – JKß

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

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News & Journeys of Joy! :: Vol. Seventeen, Number Two :: June 2021

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*Greetings!*

*I hope you are healthy and happy! Please join me as we three journey through spring 2021.*



March 2, 2020: Snow drops in sunshine! Imagine Beau in my garden wearing his blue and green horse blanket!

## *An Interesting Commission...*

*The Mirrored "So Good to See You, Too" SS, will soon come to life!*

March 3, 2021: I heat clay with a reflector lamp and add clay to "So Good to See You, Too" SS, which is the foam mirror of "So Good to See You" SS. Gary, who made the foam mirror, advises I use "Great Stuff" to glue the foam to the board. "So Good to See You, Too" SS, was commissioned as a mirrored piece for my collector to place on a pedestal opposite of the very last "So Good to See You" SS. The two dogs will face each other on each side of an entry!



I add clay to "So Good to See You, Too" SS, down to the very bottom because it is easier now than when glued. I also start adding clay to "Merry Sunshine" Half Life-Size.



March 7, 2021

*Beau enjoys a bone on his 15th birthday!*



*"It's 'So Good' to be with my sisters!"*



March 8, 2021: Brian and I drive to Alton, IL, to meet with Steve Potter so I can get a photo with this good man who reminded me that I painted his grandfather, C.E. Potter, the principal at my high school, Normandy, here in St. Louis. I painted this right before graduation, and signed it June 1, 1962! I am super pleased that Steve's curiosity led him to contact me on Facebook.



*It's a perfect day for a drive up the River Road north of Alton.*









March 9, 2021: Finally, I bravely use Great Stuff to glue my foams to their boards. “*Merry Sunshine*” and “*So Good to See You, Too*” say “Here we come!”

*The One Year Anniversary of the first notice of Covid-19!*

March 11, 2021: Wow! Today is the one year anniversary of the first notice of Covid-19. President Biden will soon sign the 1.9 trillion dollar Covid relief bill, giving at least \$1200 to each family that qualifies.



March 12, 2021

*I love Beau and his flopped over ear!*



*"Miss Me" MS*

19.5"L x 11"D x 7"H, Bronze, Ed. 20 & 2 Artist's Proofs @2015

March 13, 2021: Thank you, Kodner Gallery for selling "Miss Me" 6/20!

The rest of today is devoted to upgrading my iPhone 10XS to a fancy 12, and getting a rebate on our AT&T bill. First, Apple store, home, then AT&T Store, find something to do for 1.5 hours, Nordstrom Rack has nothing, groceries, then AT&T and finally home at 5 something. It has been a long day. Whew!





March 17, 2021:

*My first daffodil blossoms in my new favorite arrangement with  
pine needles!*

*Happy St. Patty's Day!*

March 19, 2021: Yay! Brian has his second vaccine shot! We are now both protected!

Our AT&T bill is \$100 less for switching to AT&T TV vs. our old U-Verse! Yay!

*Beau is hanging in.*

This afternoon he walked on the sidewalk to the far side of our neighbor's yard to pee. He'd have walked farther except, while it is still sunny, the wind is blowing at 49 degrees. I nudge him toward our house.

March 20, 2021: A friend in San Miguel emails she waited in line for 7 1/2 hours to get her first Covid vaccine shot. Another San Miguel friend waited 5 hours in line to get hers. We are lucky!

March 22, 2021: All eight burning bushes are pruned! Next are the big grasses.

March 24, 2021: My three 1:6 Scale bronzes arrive at the Red River Valley Museum for their May-July show: "*Life's a Ball!*" Long, "*Sunnyside Up*" Long and "*Cozy*" Smooth.



*"Life's a Ball!" Long, 1:6 Scale*





*"Sunnyside up" Long, 1:6 Scale*



*"Cozy" Smooth, 1:6 Scale*



## *DCA*

March 29, 2021: I'm sorry to have to decide not to show at DCA this year. Between too much to do for the ANIMAL GROUPS show at the Dane G. Hansen Museum in Logan, KS, and dear Beau being his 15 year old self, I just can't.

You may recall that January 25, we were blessed with a dead doe, below. I drag her by her hoof into the common ground. After that, I feel ambitious and cut back all of my grasses! Big job. Next BIG job: prune my topiary of Edgar!







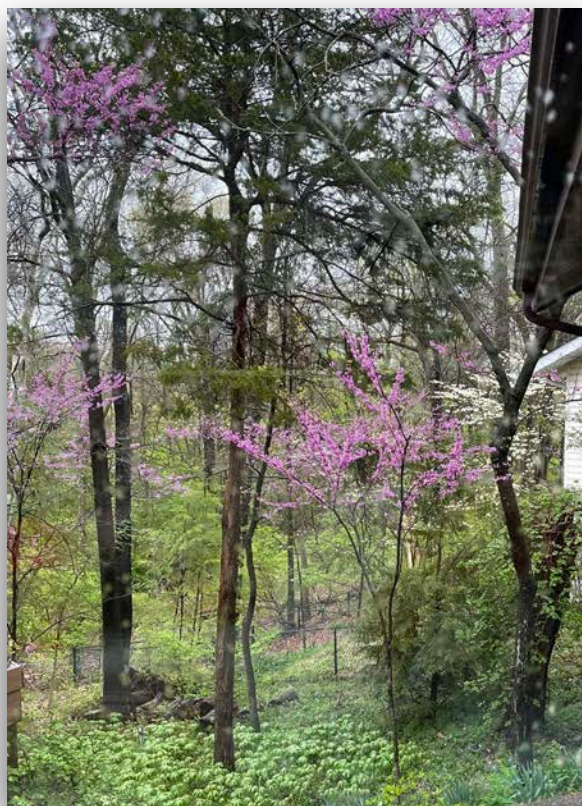
April 6, 2021: I love these white daffodils, the last of the season.



April 8, 2021: “Merry Sunshine” half life-size, clay is finished! Thank you, Golden breeder, Kathy Wood, for your help with the first, “Merry Sunshine” in quarter life-size! I drive it to my new local mold maker who quoted \$800 for the mold of “So Good to See You, Too” SS.

April 10, 2021: A morning of **FLOWERS!!!** Look out of my laundry room window! WOW! Redbuds, dogwoods and mayapples!

Below is the gorgeous begonia that was given to me many years ago by **Jaye Gregory**, my dear friend and sculpture teacher. I so wish she was still with us ...





## *The challenges of being a sculptor in St. Louis...*

April 12 week: The same local mold maker, whom I have never used and who quoted \$800 for a silicon mold of "*So Good to See You, Too*", SS, now states a silicon mold will cost \$1500 and each raw wax will be \$200. NO WAY!!!

I pick up "*Merry Sunshine*" half life-size, and will drive it and "*So Good to See You, Too*" to my Loveland, Colorado, mold maker. Dan, my trusted Colorado mold maker, estimates a urethane mold will cost around \$300 each, plus \$80 for each wax. Two molds; maybe \$350 each, = \$700, plus \$320 for the four waxes. Total: \$1020. Hey! \$3800 local plus overnight for four waxes: \$400 if I'm lucky = \$4200. I know I can do this for less. \$3800 - \$1020 = \$2780 saved. Urethane will last as long as I need it to last!



*"Life's a Ball!" MS*

25.25"L x 11.75"H x 8"D, 35#, Bronze Ed. 5 & 1 Artist's Proof (c)2017

April 22, 2021: "*Life's a Ball!*" MS, 2/5, is on its way to the Salmagundi Club New York, for its Annual Members Exhibition at 47 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY.



### *"A Good Life" SS, 6/20*

©1996, 6/20, 25"L x 13"D x 8.5"H, 28#, Bronze Ed. 20 & 2 Artist's Proofs (c)1996

April 29, 2021: "A Good Life" SS. 6/20 is the only available "A Good Life" SS. First, it will be in the Hudson Valley Art Association's 88th Annual Exhibition at the Lyme Art Association Gallery, Old Lyme, CT.



### *"Deli's Open" Smooth*

Thank you, Melanie Smith, owner of Seaside Art Gallery, Nags Head, NC, for this sale from your 30th International Miniature Art Show!

"Deli's Open" is available in Long & Wire coats, too!



## *"Beau"*

Ch. Turningpt What was I Thinking? Bo Duke  
March 7, 2006 - April 30, 2021

*Sweet man, Beau, you've been with us since June 2011...*



April 30, 2021, 11am: Dr. Christine Scudder, with Lap of Love, eases Beau across the Rainbow Bridge. Our sweet man has had a Stage Four Heart Murmur and liver issues since we got him from Pam Reed Crook. His sebaceous matter grew to about 3 1/2" long and 2 1/2" wide and covered his left chest and was working its way to his outer upper arm. It oozed and was surely uncomfortable, though he never complained. If his heart and liver had not been compromised, we would have operated at least a year ago, but, now it is time. Thank you, Randy Eltringham, for breeding this sweet man.





*We miss you sweet Beau ...*



*Sweet Memories of Beau...*



May 1, 2021: *Brian's 77th birthday!* He drives us through the rolling countryside for a restful day of reflection on all that is beautiful in our world. Yesterday was hard, as is today... We make the day as happy as possible.



*coming this Fall...*

*"Dreaming of Tomatoes, Too" MS*

Approx. 14.5"L x 8 3.4"D x 5"H :: Bronze Ed. 9 and 1 Artist's Proof  
Copyright 1995 :: Created in 2021.

May 5, 2021: Happily, a Chicago area lady's deposit arrives for a mirrored version of *"Dreaming of Tomatoes" MS*. It will be known as *"Dreaming of Tomatoes, Too" MS*. With this, I will have mirrored two of my sold out works. This is the very first time I will use 3D printing to create the mirrored version. I will have *"Dreaming of Tomatoes" SS*, mirrored and reduced to the above size for a life-size miniature smooth dachshund.

I am detailing clay on the mirrored *"So Good to See You, Too" SS* for another lady.

*Happy Mothers' Day!*



May 9, 2021

*Jeanne, Brían's mom*

May 13, 2021: Jeanne's picture from about 35-40 years ago popped up on the screen of Kimberly Simpson, daughter of Jeanne's dear friend Fran Simpson. When asked, Kim shared she had airbrushed her skin. Jeanne lived into her late 90s and is no longer with us. Nor is her friend Fran.



## *Brian's Motorcycle Trip to the East Coast*

May 15, 2021: Brian's trip to starts crazy. My dear husband's motorcycle does not start! He is to be off on a week long journey to the east coast with three friends. After he starts it (the battery was not connected quite properly) he is at the bottom of our short driveway, gets on and immediately drops the bike to the right, with him on it! I run next door and get neighbor, Carl, to help get the bike upright. Brian gets back on and immediately drops the bike to the left! Thank goodness he is wearing his helmet and padded riding suit! The third time was the charm! At 9:54am, he waves bye-bye and is off! Around 9pm he calls to say they made it safely to Cincinnati. Please wish them fun and complete safety!

May 17, 2021: Most of my houseplants are fed and outdoors. My azaleas, which bloom on new growth, are mostly pruned. We have had gentle rain over the weekend. Days have warmed to around 72 degrees.

May 19, 2021: My web master is completely updating my site. He last updated it in 2013. He said it is 300 pages to update in several months. What a JOB!



*"Siesta" & "Dreaming of Tomatoes" 1:6 Scale*

*"Cuddling Dachshunds"*

Photo by Gayla Weidenhef

May 20, 2021, 8:04am: Gayla sends a sweet message today...

Hi Joy, Wanted you to know how special your sculptures still are to us. Of all of the bronzes and sculptures we have around the house, our sleeping pups probably have the strongest emotional connection to us. I rearrange them now and then, add a heart between them on Valentines Day, put fall leaves under them in autumn and winter greenery in December. Neither Kevin or I have ever owned a dachshund ~ so our bond to them isn't about the breed, it's about the sense of calm and companionship, they so beautifully convey. As an artist, I believe that the highest accomplishment any creative person can achieve is to touch the hearts of others. You do that so well! Thank you.

Hope your spring and summer are filled with new and delightful things,  
Blessings, Gayla



Hannibal DeBellis & Richman Sculpture Award, \$500: 98. Joy Beckner, "Life's a Ball! MS"

May 20, 2021, 3:18pm: Great news! Salmagundi awards "*Life's a Ball*" MS the Hannibal DeBellis & Richman Sculpture Award & \$500! This is the highest sculpture award in this show!!!





May 20, 2021, 8:34pm: "A Good Life" SS 6/20 earns the Pietro Montana Memorial Award of \$800 in the 88th Annual Juried Exhibition of the Hudson Valley Art Association, The Lyme Art Association Gallery, Old Lyme, CT!

*Two Awards in one day is a First! Thank you!!!*

*Happy 37th Anniversary, Brian!*

May 23, 1984

I am so happy you arrived home safely from your east coast journey!

*Johnson's Paste Wax works Miracles!*

May 24, 2021: Dale Cisek, my patinuer, shares a terrific secret with me. I recently received a bronze from a gallery that closed. My bronze had little white specks of wax in many places. Dale told me to use Johnson's Paste Wax, applied with a natural bristle brush in small spaces, then quickly wipe off! Indeed it takes nearly all the white specks away. A second try, using a toothbrush, fixes all the white spots. From now on, I will ONLY use Johnson's Paste Wax to protect my bronzes. I hope you use it too!

May 29, 2021, 8:37, 49.4 degrees Fahrenheit: This temperature is up from 48 degrees earlier and is not a record cold, but it is close! My supplements are packed for my drive to my mold maker in Colorado, and my Tahoe is mentally loaded for my Tuesday trip. The weather appears to be good for the 900+ mile drive, and for the return the following weekend.

*onward to Loveland, CO...*

June 1, 2021, 11:30am: I drive to work in Loveland, CO. The Black Angus cattle, horses, rolling hills and cumulus clouds in Kansas are beautiful!!!

I happen upon "40s Junction" on Sirius XM. It's romantic and energizing. The funniest song today is "*Strip Polka*" by the Andrews Sisters!



7:34pm: In Hays, KS, I drive to Gella's Diner where I enjoy their Brewben sandwich and the BEST Coleslaw, ever!

*Charlie*

While I drive to Loveland, Brian rides his motorcycle to Stillwater, OK, to visit his 96 year old friend, Charlie Lowery. They used to work together.

I wish I could have seen him, too.

He is a sweetheart.





### *"Dreaming of Tomatoes, Too"*

**June 2, 2021:** In Loveland, CO, I pick up my 3D print of "*Dreaming of Tomatoes, Too*" MS. Before I left home to have my two clays molded, a Chicago woman really wanted a "*Dreaming of Tomatoes*" MS which is sold out. She commissioned a mirrored version. Since I own the copyright, I had my very first bronze dachshund scanned and 3D printed. So far so good. I will chase the wax starting June 21. Dinner tonight is simple at Perkins.



**June 3, 2021:** "*Merry Sunshine*" Half Life-Size, above, is for ANIMAL GROUPS, the show to which I have been invited at the Dane Hansen Memorial Art Museum, in Logan, KS.



I take the “*Merry Sunshine*” clay and my commissioned, mirrored “*So Good to See You, Too*” SS, and my commissioned, mirrored “*Dreaming of Tomatoes, Too*” MS to my mold maker who says he can have the molds made and waxes poured by June 21.

My three custom foam-in-place boxes for “*Siesta*” MS, “*Life’s a Ball!*” MS, and “*Big Heart*” are at Shippers Supply to have soft crates made around them for shipping from the Dane Hansen Memorial Art Museum. The crates should be ready by June 21-24. After I chase all the waxes, if there is room in my

Tahoe, I plan to deliver these works to the Hansen on our way home, June 25. I also need to deliver waxes to the foundry. Dan, my mold & wax man, said he could not get hardener so I need to deliver the waxes to the foundry. It’s hot!

June 4, 2021, 6:30ish: I’m home after this grueling 1800+ mile round trip drive. WOW! I had forgotten how long of a drive this is, especially to drive alone!





## *My Kindergarten Girlfriends...*

Above, **Vicki Lynn Orr** sends this photo of her blooming Hoya. My bisque and leather-bodied doll reminds me of Vicki because of her big brown eyes.



**June 8, 2021:** **Shirley Allison**, another Kindergarten girlfriend, arrives with Jeff, her significant other, after their six hour drive from Delafield, WI. Vicki, Shirley and I grew up on the same block on the same street. ;-))

Our last visit with Vicki was nine years ago at our 50th high school reunion. What a treat!!!

## *The Magic House*



June 9, 2021: I have always wanted to go to “The Magic House” AKA The St. Louis Children’s Museum. Shirley & Jeff enjoy it with me!

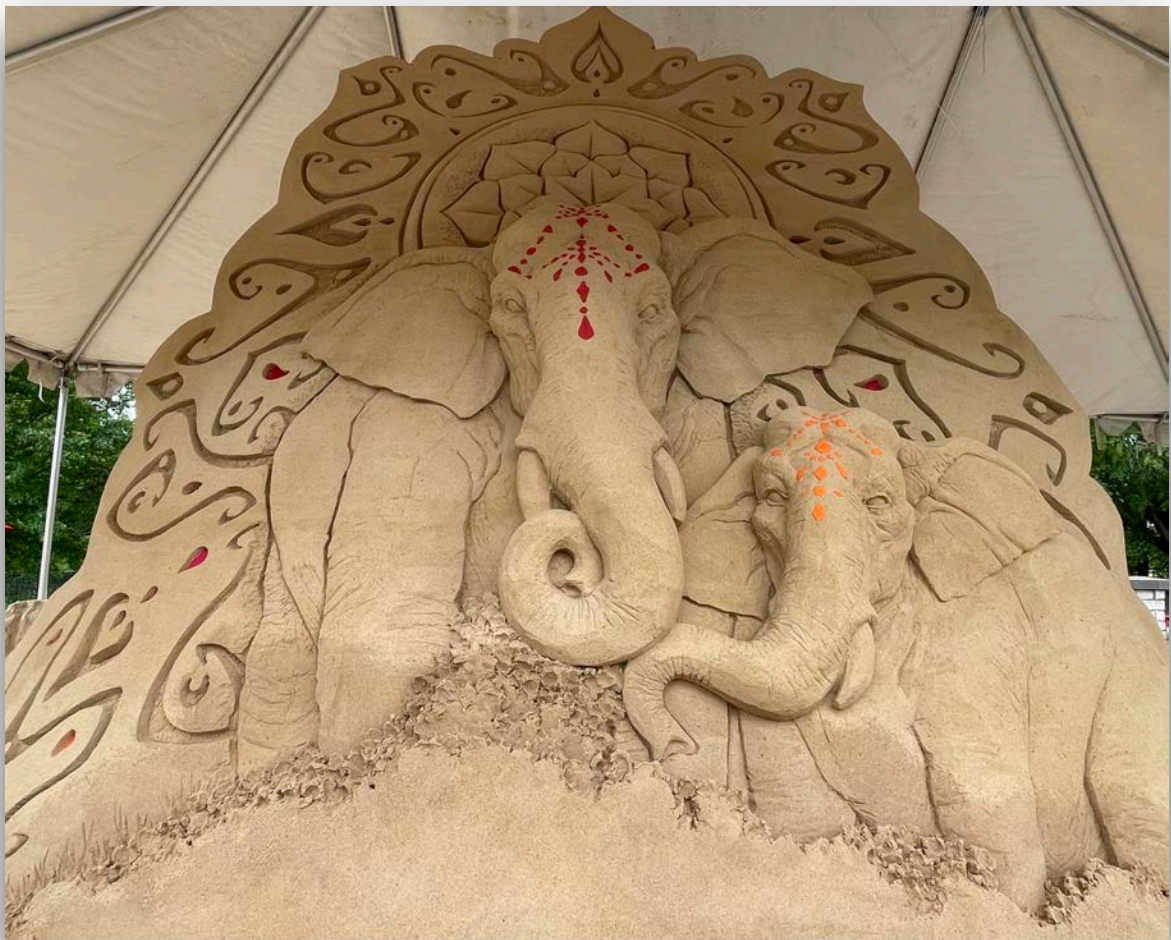
This boy is making make believe ice cream cones for his “customers”. He is a pleasure!

*A stairway leads to the children's village Library.*



*Next...  
Magic sand  
sculptures!*







This beautiful fixture shines against the cool, cloudy sky at The Magic House!  
*I love it!*

I drive Shirley and Jeff through our old neighborhood and see our old schools. We ride through Wellston, where I went to church when I was little. The town is not quite deserted; a few windowless brick two-story buildings exist among many vacant lots and a few livable brick buildings. Easton Avenue, now MLK Drive, is wider with no street car tracks. I barely recognize my old church. Our Normandy High School looks well maintained, but, oh! how things have changed in the last 59 years since graduation!





## Mary

June 12, 2021: Mary, my younger, long time friend, modeled for “*Fascinator*” in 1996. It is great to see her again - even in a loud restaurant. We’ll meet in a more quiet place the next time, likely our house.

Please wish Mary well as she and her two sisters rotate driving to Wisconsin for two weeks each to care for their 90 year old mother.

It’s been a long time since my parents passed and I feel for Mary as my Mom had cancer and Daddy had Alzheimers. Best wishes, my friend.





### *"Siesta" SS*

"Siesta" SS, Standard Smooth, 20 1/2"L x 10 1/2"W x 6"H  
Bronze Ed. 20 & 2 Artist's Proofs ©2005. Approx. 25 Pounds.

I am so lucky! Curator Robin Salmon just told me that "*Siesta*" SS, was shown this spring at Brookgreen Gardens in their show, **Wild World: 200 Years of Nature in Art**, Brookgreen Gardens 90th Anniversary Celebration. Pawleys Island, SC. "*Siesta*" SS, and "*Life's a Ball!*" SS, are often displayed at the Offner Center in Brookgreen Gardens, Pawleys Island, SC.

June 18, 2021: The **Jardin** is open in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico! The Jardin (har'deen) is the main square where everyone meets, greets, sits, talks and watches people. YAY! Now, we just need to find a new rental for January and February 2022. Our dear landlady Sharon is hoping to sell our little one bedroom, one bathroom rental apartment. Adios, Calvario 8. We will miss you!

Juneteenth, June 19, is now a federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Good for the USA!



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

Thru June 24, 2021: **Salmagundi Annual Members Exhibition**, Salmagundi Club of New York, 47 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY. SCNY since 1871.

July 2 – Sept. 5, 2021: **“ANIMAL GROUPS”** Celebrating the Reopening of the newly renovated Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum, Logan, Kansas. Curated by David J. Wagner, Ph.D.

Thru July 16, 2021: **Red River Valley International Juried Art Exhibition**, Red River Valley Museum, Vernon, TX.

Thru July 22, 2021: **88th Annual Juried Exhibition**, Hudson Valley Art Association, The Lyme Art Association Gallery, Old Lyme, CT.

Sept. 15, 2021 - Jan. 15, 2022: **“ANIMAL GROUPS”** Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS.

Thru June 2022: **Performance in Sculpture**, David A. Straz Center for the Performing Arts, Tampa, FL.

Thru August 1, 2022: **Allied Artists of America**, 107th Annual Exhibition.

Online: See the award winners works here: <https://cdn.flipsnack.com/widget/v2/widget.html?hash=1pioas8hp8&bgcolor=EEEEEE&t=1540204623&play=1>

*Into Perpetuity –*

2020: **National Sculpture Society:** Fellows Invitational Exhibition. Online: [www.nationalsculpture.org](http://www.nationalsculpture.org)

2021: **The 15th ARC Salon Finalists**, images and awards are posted on their site here: <https://www.artrenewal.org/Salon/Finalists>

*Thank you for being in my life!*

*Please stay healthy!*

*Joy*

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