

JKß – JOY KROEGER BECKNER - JKß

classical realism, from hounds to humans

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SCULPTURE HAPPENINGS :: VOLUME FOUR, NUMBER TWO :: OCTOBER 2008

Greetings! I hope this news finds you in good health and grateful for all the good things in your life.

In Fall 2007, I found I had worked so hard, creating five pieces,* that in early 2008 my shoulder started talking to me -- and -- I did NOT like what it said! By February, I could not raise my right arm past 30 degrees, and certainly not to parallel to the floor. Between acupuncture, herbal tea, chiropractic, deleting sugar, wine and coffee from my diet, several months later my shoulder was -- and remains -- much better. Walking the dogs and yoga help me maintain balance and a good range of motion. But, I am not going to tempt fate by acting as if I am still seventeen -- working as if there is no tomorrow. Your patience with me is very much appreciated.

*TWO LIFE-SIZED MINIATURE SMOOTHES (MS)



"Dreaming of Tomatoes, MS"



"Siesta, MS"

*THREE 1:6 SCALE MINIATURES



"Sunmyside Up"



"Squirrel Season Long"

Photography by Mel Schockner



"Life's a Ball Long"

"Dear to my Heart, One"
Bouvier des Flandres
Pendant
Wax for Sterling



"Gentle Cloud" Clay for Bronze. Approximately 22½" L

This year I completed two commissions: a Bouvier des Flandres pendant and a half-life Akita with a cloud-like 3-4" long, hard, dense, double coat. Each was a hairy challenge!

Commissions coming up: A handsome half-life Gordon Setter, 1:6 scale "Life's a Ball-Wire", 1:6 scale "Sunnyside Up-Wire", and 1:6 scale "Lord of the Couch-Smooth". These will be available for delivery by summer 2009. I also hope to complete a new 1:6 scale piece of Sophie and her family by that time.

Speaking of families, my husband Brian and I feel very lucky to have had four good dachshunds for friendship and models: First, Anna, (Dreaming of Tomatoes) our first dachshund, was bred by Audrey Nick; second, Lizzie was given to me by Rita Toombs who bred our third dachshund, Lizzie's grandson Edgar; and finally fourth, the most comical of them all, Sophie, was bred by Tim & Marilou Callison who made Sophie available to us after Lizzie crossed the bridge. I am also very grateful for my sculpture collectors, many of whom feel like family to me. *Thank you all for being in my life!*



Speaking of family, my wonderful 87 year old mother-in-law Jeanne thought *she* was 17 recently when she moved some heavy furniture. She must have strained something and was in a world of hurt, until she went to an acupuncturist. Several more sessions and she thinks she will be as good as new!

For fun, I entered Sophie in the Dachshund Club of St. Louis Earthdog tests on Sept. 6 and 7. She determinedly tried twice to earn her first of three legs toward her Senior Earthdog title. Sophie had just a wonderful time digging. I believe she'll figure it out the third time! Barb Tiegen, our American Kennel Club (AKC) representative wrote an article in which you can learn more about Earthdog tests.

Sophie and Joy anticipate the judge's okay for Sophie to enter the senior den, Sept. 6, 2008. Photo: Barb Tiegen.

Click here to read Barb's overview of the event and see more pictures: http://www.akc.org/events/earthdog/dachshund_club_of_st_louis/2008/index.cfm

Monday, September 22, Sophie practiced hunting --ALL by herself! Brian's report is below.

I giggle when I think about Sophie. Monday, I was in Grand Junction, CO, at Brian's mom's when I got an email about noon from Brian, who is home dog sitting. He said that at about 9:30 that morning, Sophie ran off before he could get her into the truck to go for a walk in our favorite wooded park. For three hours, he walked the woods, spied her a of couple times, but she was in her own world... and would *not* come. Brian wrote:

"As predicted by Marilou, the "Diva of the Forest" reappeared about 8:30 PM, looking like a swamp-rat, beaten, bedraggled, with a keel coated in $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of mud, eyes swollen and puffy, and a preponderance to drag her little nose on the floor. She looked like 40 miles of bad road that had been put out wet and left to dry.

"I fed her two rations instead of her normal ration figuring she had probably used this many calories, if not more, then gave her a bath. It took three washes to get rid of the dirt and she was so tired that she slept with her head on the bathtub rim as I washed her. After drying her off she went immediately to her throne in the bedroom and slept until 8:00 this morning.



"This morning she still drug her nose on the floor and upon further examination I discovered her nose was swollen. The swelling is right at the break of her Roman nose making the angle more severe, so she must have been stung. [As it turned out she had a $\frac{1}{2}$ " twig stuck in the roof of her mouth. Ouch! What relief she must have felt when Brian found and removed it!]

Tired Girl, after the hunt and -- the bath. Brian Beckner Photography

"As we speak she is recuperating and dreaming of probably the best time she had in life doing what her DNA is hardwired to do." Brian. [It is Friday now and she has a good appetite.]



"Life's a Ball Long" 1:6 scale. Bronze shown in three patinas. Photography by Mel Schockner.

You are invited to see, touch and be touched by my work at these events!

Thru Sept. 28 - Bosque Conservatory Art Council, 23rd Annual Conservatory Art Classic, Clifton, TX.

Thru Sept. 30 - Fourth Annual Miniatures Show, Blackhawk Gallery, Saratoga, WY.

Thru Nov. 2 - Society of Animal Artists 48th Annual Exhibition, Neville Public Museum, Green Bay, WI. <http://www.nevillepublicmuseum.org/art-animal/>

Thru Nov. 2 - PAWS & REFLECT: ART OF CANINES, The R.W. Norton Art Gallery, Shreveport, LA. <http://www.rwnaf.org>

Thru Nov. 14 - National Sculpture Society Elected Members Invitational, 237 Park Ave., NYC, NY.

See the show here: <http://www.nationalsculpture.org/nss/exhibits/elected08/>

Oct. 25 - Nov. 9 - American Art in Miniature 2008 Exhibition & Sale. Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, OK.

Nov. 22 - Feb. 15, 2009 - Society of Animal Artists 48th Annual Exhibition, The Wildlife Experience, Parker, CO

Dec. 5 - Dec. 27 - American Women Artists Master Signature Members Exhibition, Gallery Gabrie, Pasadena, CA. americanwomenartists.org

TIP from the jeweler who casts my work: Simply use baking soda and water to restore sheen to your fine jewelry: just wet your fingers, dip in baking soda, and gently rub over the piece until the desired sheen appears!



*"Dear to my Heart-Smooth, Three"
Sterling Slide*



Art mimics life, or, does life mimic art?"

So Good to See You, MS" with Smokey of Atlanta, GA.

Photography by Karen Sicner -- Thank you!!!



"Sweet Roll" Wax for Bronze. The original 1:6 scale wax in my hand.

If you long for a certain piece of my work, may I suggest that you acquire what has already been cast, as new casts may be more expensive due to rising metal costs. Now is a great time to reserve your piece for a special occasions. IF your piece must be cast for you, I must order and chase a wax for you now for pre-Christmas delivery. My newly completed CLAY TO BRONZE explains the process in detail. To learn about this labor intensive process, please click here: <http://www.joybeckner.com/clay-to-bronze/clay-to-bronze-sculpture.html>

There you have my second newsletter of 2008! Please let me know if you receive this twice so I can correct the duplication, or, if you prefer not to receive my news, just email me and let me know. On the other hand, if you know someone who might like to receive this newsletter, I would be grateful to you for sharing it with them.

Thank you for your time and your past support. Please tell me what's happening in your life.

Be Well! I hope you have a wonderful day! Joy



*Edgar says "Hi!" Shown at age 9, he's still going strong at 12½!
James Quinn Photography, February 2006*