

JKß – JOY KROEGER BECKNER – JKß

classical realism, from hounds to humans & more!

News & Journeys of Joy! :: Vol. Eighteen, Number Two :: March 2022

Welcome to San Miguel de Allende, México!



Feb. 5, 2022, 11:58am: Our first day out, we visit Candelaria, the annual two week flower show and sale in Parque Juarez.

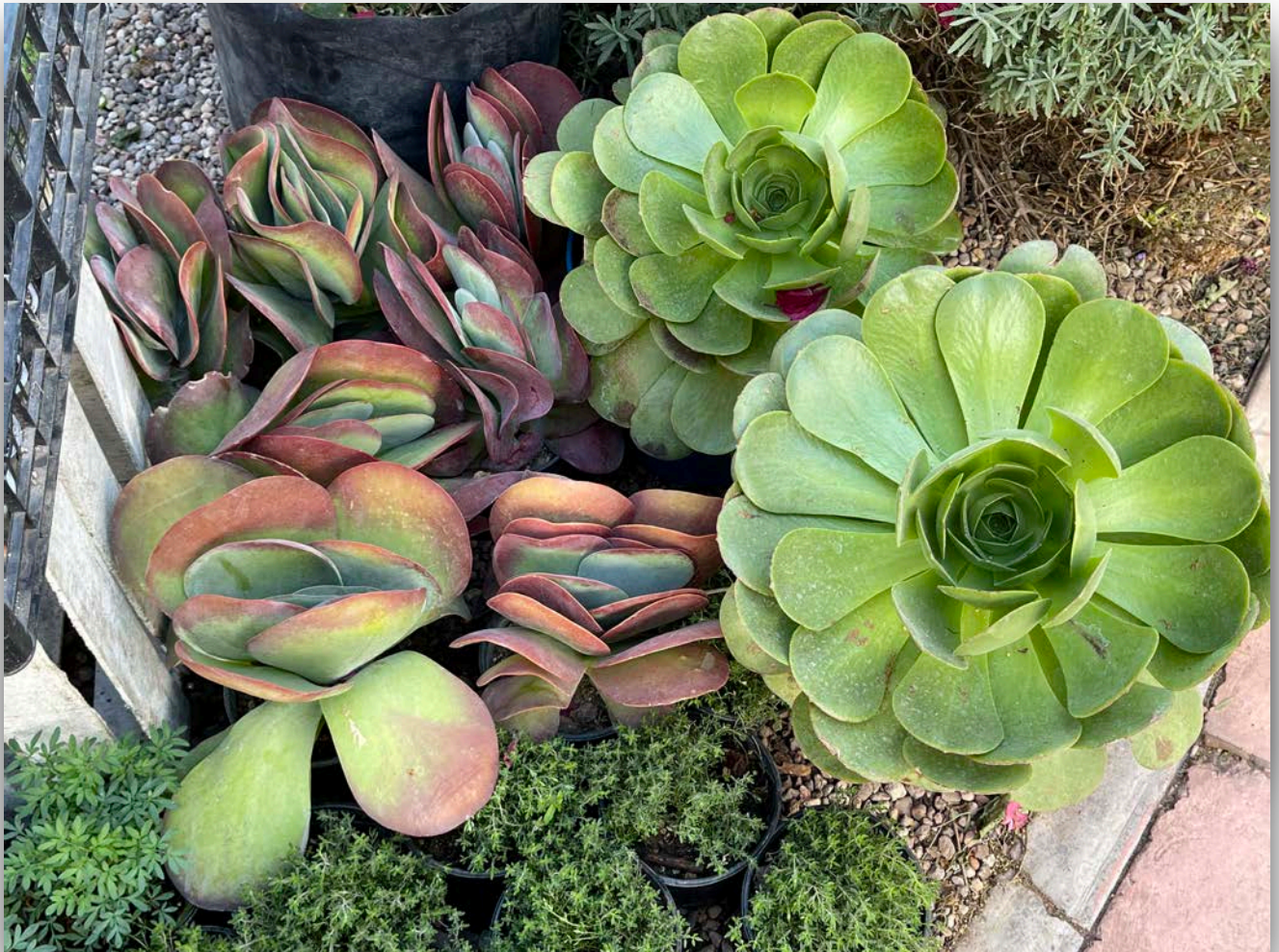


Mohigangas greet us!

Mohigangas, large paper mache puppets, worn by persons who can see out at a little below the puppets waist level.



Bonsais & Succulents





Flowers & Furniture



6:38pm: The sky above Plaza Civica reminds me of upside down meringue. Here, two ladies enjoy their corn on the cob.



6:42pm: A typical shoe store...

We meet the kind young owner of Hotel Sautto, Ricardo Sautto, for our first glorious Italian dinner in San Miguel: Ensalada Caprese, Margareta Pizza, and Pasta Carbonara.

We are warm and walk home.



Feb. 7, 2022, 6:17pm: A quiet evening in the Jardin.(Har-deen)



Feb. 10, 2022, 1:42pm: WOW! The new City Market is amazing. I hate to say it but, it makes Whole Foods look puny. Of course, WF has MUCH more organic food than City Market, but, just look at the CM produce department. Everything is beautifully presented.



Feb. 11, 2022: I am so happy to hear from Alejandro who orders a “Sunnyside Up” Smooth 1:6 Scale to be shipped to him in California when we return home.

Thank you, Alejandro!



Feb. 12, 2022: Brian’s photo of curious dogs peeking from the top floor of Victoria Pet House on Calle Relax.



A wall at The Food Factory

Feb. 12, 2022: Finally, warmth! We eat enough dinner at The Food Factory in the Fabrica Aurora Art center; exquisite French Onion soup, Greek salad with minutely shaved beets, salmon and Pino Grigio for me and chicken fried steak and beer with Clamato juice for Brian. Excelente! We are warm. For a while.....



A little girls dress shop on Mesones, not far from our rental.
One dress is 1400 pesos, \$65.68US Dollars!



Happy valentine's Day!

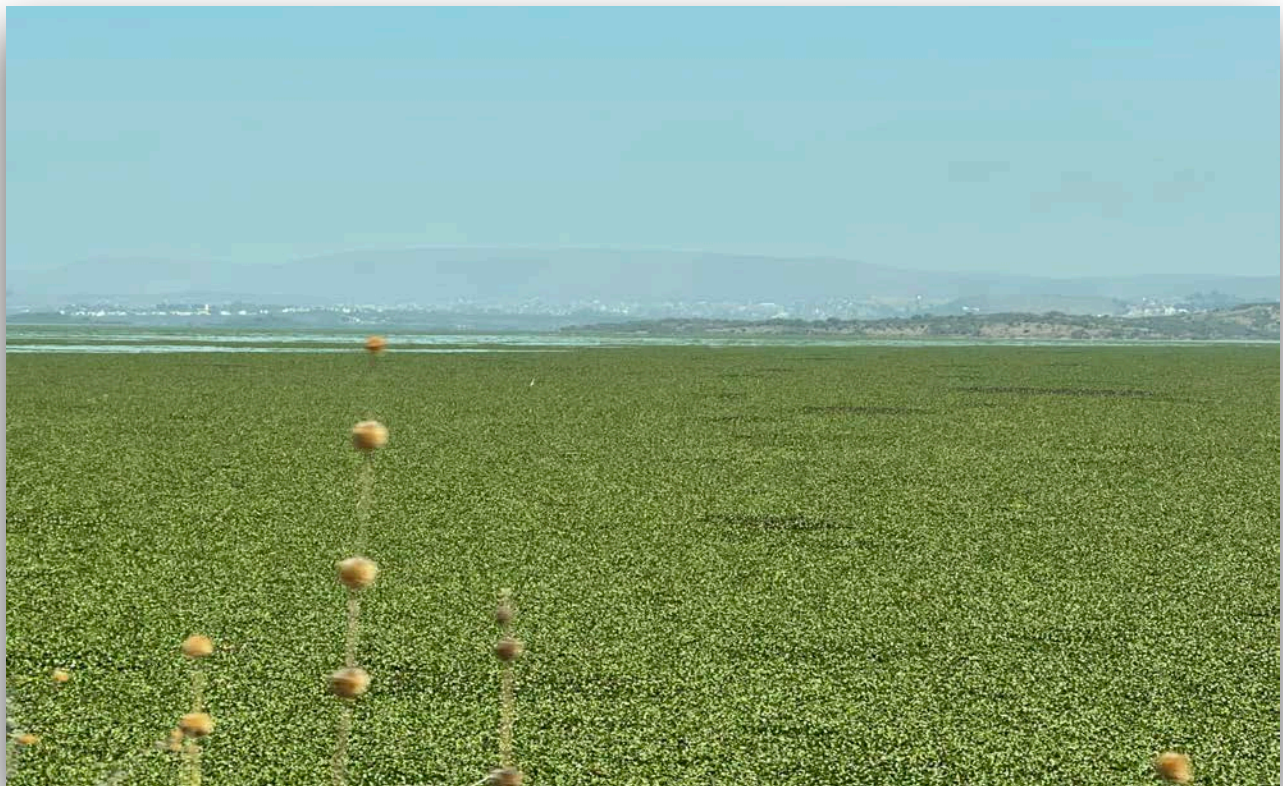
Brian is so sweet; he brings me handmade Johfrej chocolates for Valentine's Day. He saw this woman walking her pet pig in front of the Johfrej chocolate shop.

Feb. 15, 2022: It is finally up to 73 degrees here. Our windows are open as we wait for the concrete walls to warm. It was 60 inside this morning. Gee, can I take off my long underwear?

Feb. 17, 2022: Whew! Yesterday Mac guru Derek helped me and today I work another 3+- hours fixing my contacts. Please let me know if you get more than one copy of this newsletter.



Feb. 19, 2022, 12:19pm: We drive to pick up friends Frank & Ellen at the Leon airport. Water hyacinths cover much of the Presa, lake, outside San Miguel. Enlarge and look very closely to see an egret!





Cows and a chapel along the road to Leon



*what a beautiful
day to pick up
friends in Leon!*

Feb. 20, 2022: Frank discovers an \$8000US bottle of Single Malt Scotch for sale at City Market!





"Zandunga"

Feb. 20, 2022: Zandunga is an all afternoon Sunday event led by Gil Gutierrez, a guitarist best known for Gypsy Jazz. We enjoy great memories of listening to Gil (Heel) for at least 15 years.





A fun day dancing at Zandunga.



On our way home from Zandunga, Brian drives us to see “The Goose” which was built by a Chicago gentleman named Arvino who was once the business partner of Dick Weber who had Romano’s, an Italian restaurant with delicious food in San Miguel.



6:36 pm: After parking our vehicle we walk up hill just past the Jardin and wait for a cab outside of Companio.

What a gorgeous sunset!



This beautiful dog waits for its owner, who is inside Companio. The open window allows the dog's owner to dine inside the open window, and have her dog secure on the sidewalk with her leash.

Stand with Ukraine!

Feb. 24, 2022: I am so happy to not be in Ukraine. Putin is creating a nightmare war we haven't seen in 80 years. **God bless Ukraine...**

Stand with Mother Nature!

I am also very happy to not be a wolf in Idaho. Defenders of Wildlife reports: "The state government has approved an extermination fund of over \$1 million to kill hundreds of wolves."

What a shame... **PLEASE, let Mother Nature Live!**



Feb. 24, 2022, 8:18am: For several days, this worker next door pounded bricks to fit between concrete blocks in order to equalize the spaces for this wall next door. Today he adds hand mixed concrete over the blocks. These guys work HARD.

9:59am:
We think the little square addition is for a water tank.





Feb. 28, 2022, 9:12am: The morning light is beautiful to my eye.



Indeed, a water tank is inside the little square addition.



May the dream of
Peace take flight
around the world!



Heaven help Ukraine!

Thank you, Laura Toombs, for posting this wise dog on Facebook.



February 26, 2022: Just another evening in the Jardin

Recycling in San Miguel

In general, stores provide no take home bags. Stores sell reusable bags for customers to use to take home their groceries or whatever. Some produce stores provide compostable bags. Some restaurants provide paper take home boxes. We used to be able to recycle plastic, glass and metal, but now, nada. No obvious recycling containers are provided. It pains me to toss into the trash what we can recycle at home, but, I am glad for these improvements.





"Dreaming of Tomatoes, Too" MS

February 27, 2022: "Congratulations, your work, *"Dreaming of Tomatoes, Too,"* has been selected and is a welcome addition to the 89th Annual Juried Exhibition of the Hudson Valley Art Association." The HVAA Board of Directors.



El Charco del Ingenio



March 1, 2022: El Charco del Ingenio is the Botanical Garden of San Miguel. In the early 1990s, around 165 acres were purchased to save this area from development. In the late

1500s the dam was built to provide water and electricity to the textile Fabrica Aurora.

THE WATER MILL

Remaining vestiges of what probably was San Miguel's first hydraulic work (called *ingenio*), at the end of 16th century. Water spilled from the aqueduct spinning a vertical wooden wheel with its axis on a stone base, thus generating energy. This technology was applied to milling of seeds and also to treatment of wool at the textile factories during the Spanish rule.





The Water Mill

The wooden water wheel is long gone. I estimate it was at least 15 feet in diameter. The above space for the water wheel is located at about the same elevation as the dam shown above.

Our English guide tells us orchestras and even a grand piano have been



hailed to the large flat rock shown above. Listeners sit on surrounding rocks and appreciate the amazing acoustics in this deep area.



A fountain in the El Charco entrance to the new visitor center. This was a great experience this morning, all for \$150 pesos, or \$7.16!

Thank you, Sharon Draper, for inviting me to join you!



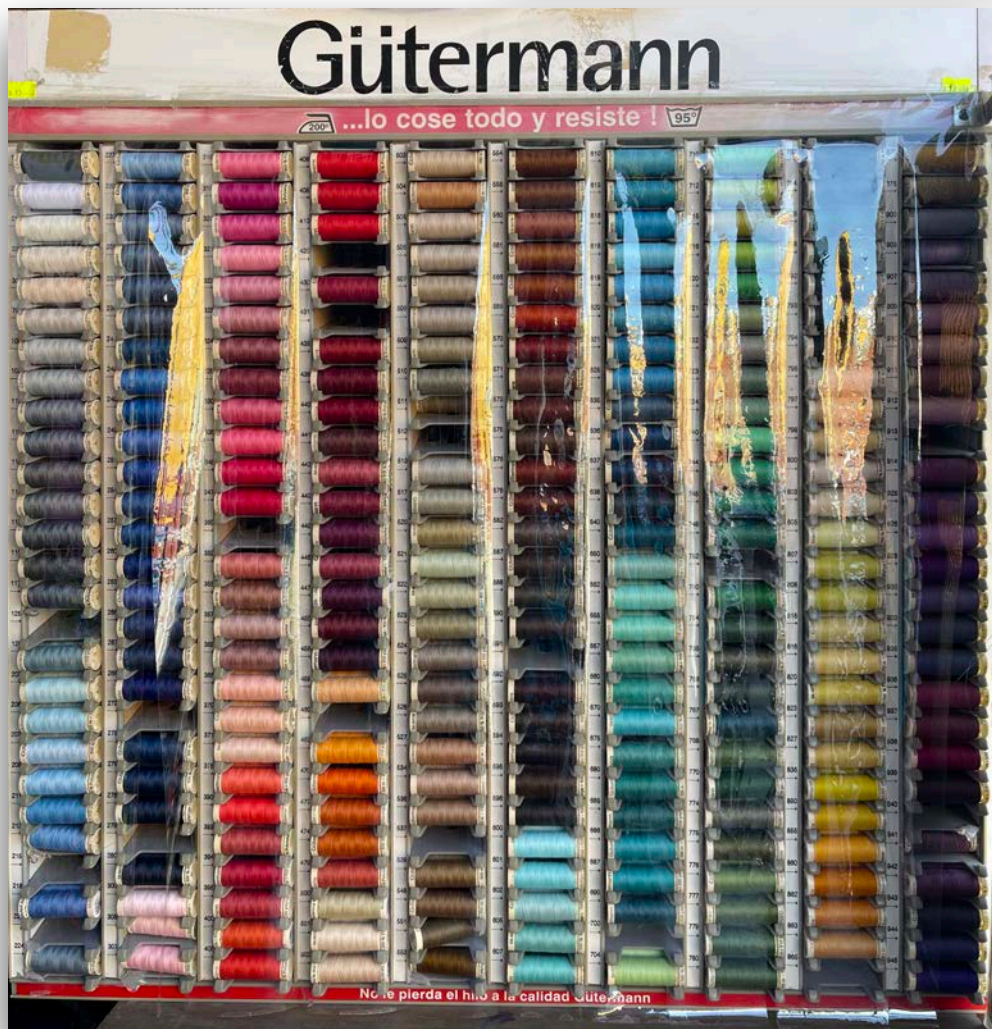
March 1, 2022, 6:47pm: Tonight's view from our rooftop.

March 3, 2022: On our walk home, we find not just another shoe store...

Where else can one find an assortment of colorful shoe laces to adorn your footwear?

A spool of Gutterman thread is just 13 pesos. Yep! \$.07 US!

Unbelievable!





This sweet, freshly washed dog greets customers at Botica de Santa Teresita, a gorgeous old pharmacy on Relox and Mesones.

Manuel, the seventh generation owner, speaks perfect English and states he will have my prescriptions ready tomorrow between 1 and 3pm. They cost \$48US vs. \$80+ at home.

Thank you, Manuel!



Just a few wires on our walk to dinner with Ellen & Frank.



Cacti replicate steeples on our walk to Chamonix for dinner with Frank & Ellen.



March 4, 2022 First Friday of March, Every Year!

*Celebrations for El Señor de la Conquista
"The Lord of the Conquest"*







All day, All night, Dancers in the Jardín

This is the first time I recall attending this event. It is highly energizing, however, LOUD Drummers make me exit ASAP.

All dancers, including children, wear much make up.

Afterwards, we enjoy a quiet dinner at El Pegaso; I have a Natalia Salad with shrimp and Brian has a hamburger.

Photo By Brian



Mask Mandates

The St. Louis mask mandate expires soon, but health director still recommends masks. Here in Mexico, most Mexicans wear masks, where Gringos often do not. However, some wear masks under the nose which makes no sense whatsoever.



“Cozy” Smooth, “Sunnyside Up” and “Life’s a Ball!” Long

March 4, 2022: The Red River Valley Museum site shows visitors enjoying my three 1:6 Scale Miniatures that earned the **Bank of the West Award** in their 2021 Annual Exhibition. Photo by Cooper Alexander, Marketing and Program Director at the Red River Valley Museum.



“So Good to See You, Too” SL

checking Metal...

March 7, 2022: I am thrilled to talk with Nancy Palm, my long time metal chaser. Nancy’s shop, Keystone Bronze, is in Loveland, CO. Although she is now primarily doing patinas, she has hired two highly experienced metal chasers to do the initial metal chasing of my work. Detail oriented Nancy, will do the finish work on my five life-sized dachshund bronzes. We will drive to Loveland from San Miguel, 1633 miles, to check metal. From San Miguel to home it is just 50 miles less. It will save many miles to go directly to Loveland...

Please wish us good weather.

Celebrate International Women's Day & Brave Ukrainian Women!

March 8, 2022: Bill Ebbinghaus, a high school buddy, writes, "Can you imagine what it would be like if you were in San Miguel because Russian troops were attacking St. Louis, and you had to flee to avoid being injured or killed? It's hard to imagine, but that's what the people of Ukraine are facing. My heart goes out to the nearly 2 million people who have had to flee their homes in Ukraine, also, to the brave men and women who have stayed behind to fight for their democratic way of life."

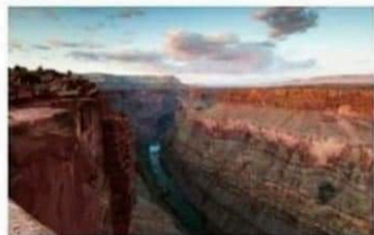
Things on Earth you can see from space:



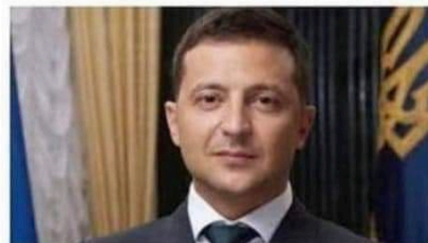
The Great Pyramids of Giza



The Amazon River



The Grand Canyon



The balls of Volodymyr Zelensky

Ukrainian President Zelensky is a miracle worker to stand up to
Putin!!!

Oh, what the Ukrainians must be going through...
They are STRONG.

The US stops importing Russian oil, and our gas prices soar. McDonald's, Starbucks, CocaCola and more, close shop in Russia.



March 11, 2022: I love the Ficus trees surrounding Plaza Civica and the Jardin. I hope you do too!

My New Website is Secure & Personal!

For the past year I have worked diligently with my web guru of 20+ years to make my site more secure and more user friendly. If you find something odd, please let me know. I welcome your comments and help. Note: I do not include prices because buying sculpture is personal. I work with you.

Please note my new homepage address:

<https://joybeckner.com>



Attention, DCA Members!

Thank you, Eline, for ordering “*Deli’s Open*” *Smooth*, and Randy, for ordering your new bronzes, for delivery at the Dachshund Club of America (DCA) National Specialty, in May, 2022! You save shipping costs and sales tax!

Please see, touch and be touched by my works in these shows...

April 15 - June 2, 2022: Hudson Valley Art Association, 89th Annual Juried Exhibition, The Lyme Art Association Gallery, Old Lyme, CT.

May 15-20, 2022: Dachshund Club of America National Specialty, Purina Event Center, 300 Checkerboard Dr., Gray Summit, MO 63039

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>

Thru June 2023: **Performance in Sculpture**, David A. Straz Center for the Performing Arts, Tampa, FL.

Into Perpetuity -

2020: **National Sculpture Society**: Fellows Invitational Exhibition. Online: 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.

Strength for the Journey!

Joy

Please note my new homepage address:

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