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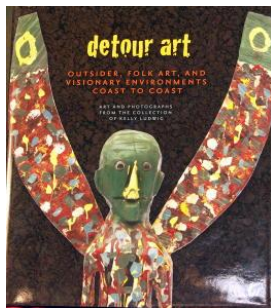


June 8, 2010

Monthly Newsletter Update

First the birthday story I promised you. ----In my mother, Willie Mae's later years she lived alone on a small ranch on Melones Dam near Jamestown, California. Her home sat on a hill of solid granite. Every birthday I was expected to celebrate my birthday with her and my present---"Son, lets celebrate your birthday." "Lets go to a nursery and buy a beautiful rose!" Now, we would take that damn rose home and my mother would have me dig a hole in the solid granite in 110-degree heat and plant the damn rose! Happy Birthday to me! Happy Birthday to me! I miss my mother but certainly do not miss digging that hole!

Now, in honor of my birthday today I am going to give three gifts to you readers. Read about them throughout this letter.



The first one is a great book by a great author, Kelly Ludwig. She has personally autographed the book. I consider Kelly major in this world of folk/outsider art. This is a difficult contest. The winner will be the very first person that emails me with Kelly's last name! This book pertains to "Outsider, Folk Art, and Visionary Environments Coast to Coast".

Let me tell you about a website my nephew, Avery Graves placed on the web. I have it linked to my website. It is

titled www.DandelionKing.net. If you enjoy gardening or health related you will enjoy this website. Great job Avery!



Another website has popped up and it is by Fred Griffings, the San Francisco Homeless Artist. I have it linked to my website. <http://fredgriffing.com/oils-on-canvas/>. Please remember that Fred usually is not easy to contact.

Have you tried facebook? So many wonderful artists are on facebook! I was amazed. I had considered it for teenagers and the younger set until I got my own. Please check it out—also my blogs on the website and the blog Under “linked”.



The latest carver who I represent, Bruce Azevedo is an ex-convict whom I have known for many years. Drugs and women have always been his pitfall. He has served in 12 different California prisons. He was present when a Skinhead prisoner in San Quentin beat the killer of Polly Klass. He’s had personal contact with Ramirez, the Night Stalker. He has so many stories! And he is an outstanding carver! I will be having some of these stories in subsequent Newsletters.

Some lucky reader is going to receive a pair of the birds that he just completed and is listed on the website. Here is how you win these birds. Check out my website

www.gravescountry.com

And go thru his carvings. You will see how Bruce signs his work. Please email me and tell how he signs it. The first person that tells me correctly will win the wonderful birds---a very nice prize!

Watch this carver! He is getting better and better. He has hardly any tools

folks! He basically carves with a sharp knife.

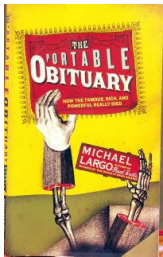


Recently my grandsons and I paid a visit to John Abduljaami’s

place. He has not carved for two years and will not carve again due to Carpel Tunnel and other physical problems. He is quite a man. Did I ever tell you that he is the hero of the 1980s San Francisco Earthquake? He rescued several people who were trapped in vehicles on the collapsed Upper Deck of the Nimitz Freeway—A true Hero!



Here is a photo of one of my favorite pieces by John Abduljaami. It is the Little Monk. The lovely young woman beside the Little Monk is Yanette Pena. She is pictured in order to add a little bit of loveliness and to show perspective to the size.



There is so much more to write about. I hope you enjoyed this update. Perhaps this last gift will make someone smile. It is a book by Michael Largo. Its title is “The Portable Obituary”. It is about “How The Famous, Rich, and Powerful Really Died”. Here is how you win that book. Be the first person to email me with the name of the book.

Oh yes, check out the latest acquisition of Jimmy Sudduth’s painting. It is a marvelous train. One of my favorite subjects of Jimmy’s.



And in closing, Myles Corbin is now home with his beautiful wife, Holly and their little baby daughter Addy. I respect my young grandson so much. As you know, he is an EOD Technician and was serving our country in Afghanistan. He

is died-in-the-wool EOD and recently reenlisted. Here is Addy.

And in closing, thank you for all the messages I received wishing me a Happy Birthday! It means so much to me---and don't forget EVERYONE who reads this letter can try for the prizes!

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