

# Joey

International Fine Arts, LLC  
574 Prairie Center Drive  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55344 USA



## *an artist's journey*

### Chapter Two

#### I. Introduction

*Whew!* The election is over, Black Friday is now starting on Turkey Day, and Christmas decorations were up and glittering way before Halloween. I talked about Hope for the City in my last letter. Hope for the City is an inspiring cause that contributes goods globally, as well as here at home. I am pleased to announce that the event was an outstanding success! Over 500 guests were in attendance and money was raised for medical equipment that will be used in a new hospital in Uganda. I even donated one of my works of art that was auctioned off to aid the fundraising efforts.



#### II. Travels

England was home for four years. My home was in Windsor, a half mile from Windsor castle. I used to walk the grounds daily and enjoyed the magnificent park, manicured to perfection for the Queen. Deer, elk, and other game roamed freely throughout the estate. The Queen's horses were stabled close by, along with the beautiful carriages, trappings, and the Royal Coachmen that lived in the Muse. I attended Royal Ascot on Ladies Day each year and was privileged to get close to the Royal family. My sketches captured the most gorgeous millinery creations worn by some of the most beautiful women in the world. There was one stunning lady, an international model, standing well over six feet tall, wearing a creation that towered above the crowd. Windsor is only twenty miles from the heart of London. In my opinion, London is the most energized place on earth. Every aspect of society is there to be consumed and devoured: business, the arts, cuisine, pageantry, and most important, the history. I visited and toured London every other day. After getting to know my way around, I conducted tours on behalf of the American Women's Society of Berkshire and Surrey. England has some of the most prestigious educational institutions in the world. My son was privileged to attend St. John's Beaumont, a leading preparatory school in Old Windsor. St. John's Beaumont is primarily a boarding school, but my son was a day student. Uniforms and rep ties were the norm and a strict code of conduct prevailed. It was an interesting mix of students from all over the world representing many nations and influential families.



#### III. Culture

Since we're in the United Kingdom, I thought I'd show you around the British art world from the 90's. The National Gallery, located in Trafalgar Square, would be my first choice. Close by is the National Portrait Gallery. The Tate, opened in 1897, exhibits art forms ranging from the sixteenth century to modern day. It houses the largest J M W Turner collection in the world. The Barbican Art Centre, known for its impressionism and noted avant-garde displays, is also home to the London Symphony Orchestra. My short list has to include the Dulwich Picture Gallery. An interesting historical note is that the Dulwich Picture Gallery is close to the former residence of Margaret Thatcher. It is home to Thomas Gainsborough, Reynolds, Von Dyck, Rubens, and Rembrandt.

During my time in Britain, one of my passions was Castling! Britain is steeped with castles beginning with the Romans to modern times. I would lead coach trip expeditions throughout the island visiting these historic castles. Most of these were day trips and sometimes were considered pub crawls. The coaches were booked, lunches and spirits were provided, and good times were had by all in merry old England. Some of the better known castles were Cliveden, Hever Castle (birth place of Anne Boleyn), Warwick, Highclere, and Sissinghurst. The Tower of London could be an interesting experience also.

#### IV. People

Aunt Shirley and Uncle Paul. Shirley and Paul Kunz were not really blood relations, but so near and dear to my heart that I considered them my family. Aunt Shirley passed away a year ago and I still miss her to this day. We would talk endlessly several times a week. Uncle Paul passed fifteen years ago. My son's middle name is Paul, in honor of Uncle Paul.

Shirley and Paul lived in Bellville, Illinois. Paul worked for Anheuser-Busch in St. Louis as an engineer. Their joy was traveling the globe, collecting art, and enjoying the cultural aspects of the St. Louis area. Paul was an avid race car driver, yachtsman, and collector of rare antiquities. Shirley, was a fashion diva, loved the ballet, and was an extravagant hostess.

They educated me on world affairs, other cultures, history of lost civilizations, and how that directly impacted my life today. They gave me a deeper sense and perspective of life in the past and present. My relationship with Shirley was closer and our relationship was like that of a mother and daughter. Shirley was a lady of means and contributed frequently to many global organizations. She was a grand collector of my art and a passionate fan of the St. Louis Rams.

#### V. Giving Back

The Christmas Season is here! With the excitement, also comes a lot of heartache. Everyone conjures up in their minds what Christmas and the holidays should be, but the reality is often disappointing. Added to this season is the devastating loss of life and property on the Eastern seaboard caused by Super Storm Sandy. The loss is felt most strongly by the children. The nation will recover, but it will take time. Children view time differently and cannot share the adult perspective of months and years. I strongly advocate Toys for Tots.

Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. The program started in 1947. The mission of the program is to collect new, unwrapped toys, leading up to mid-December and to distribute those toys as

Christmas gifts to needy children in local communities. Please look up collection centers in your area and be generous with your offerings. Also, don't forget something extra and special for children living on the East Coast. Thank you!

**A Corporate Note:** International Fine Arts, LLC will be contributing 10% of its revenue to charitable organizations to be determined. Two organizations have been chosen:

*Hope for the City*

*Toys for Tots*



**Go to my website... tell your friends... the art is real, and it is spectacular!**

*Joey*

[www.joeyinternationalfinearts.com](http://www.joeyinternationalfinearts.com)

