

Karin Richter Fine Art  
Newsletter  
Season's Greetings 2011



It is that wonderful time of year again when we reflect on the year gone by and look forward to the New Year. 2011 has been great and has left me with immense gratitude for being able to live such a good life surrounded by a loving family, wonderfully supportive friends, colleagues and students! I would like to take this opportunity to thank one and all for enriching my life in so many ways. I am truly blessed and grateful. May your holiday celebrations be joyous and may you all enjoy good health and good fortune in 2012!

Many of my newsletters talk about my travels and impressions while on the road and this one is no different. Since I checked in with you last, I have been to more places for either work or pleasure and have more stories to tell and visuals to share. It is all so much fun and sometimes my head is spinning and my eyes tired from trying to process it all! Earlier this fall, I went home to Germany to see my family and share a special vacation with my sister and mother. The three of us visited the Baltic coast, an area

that used to be East Germany. Twenty years after the lifting of the Iron Curtain, reconstruction is still ongoing to preserve the beautiful villages and towns that were terribly neglected in communist times.



Idyllic spots along the German Baltic Coast

Back on this continent, I took a few days to visit my daughter at NASA where she is directing and performing in a Star Trek Show. Being at the Kennedy Space Centre is always a thrill. To be in a place where people explore and travel into space is awe-inspiring.



The area is also home to beautiful beaches and unique skies





lovely birds



and lush vegetation

however a very depressed area due to the US economy and NASA's reduced activities.

I actually went back to Florida fairly soon as I went on a cruise out of Miami in early December of this year. A little further south, one really notices the beautiful white light. The skies are equally dramatic and the vegetation comparable. What is different here is the strong latino presence, the beautiful women and the way they carry themselves and the way they flaunt their sensuality – quite different from the northern hemisphere – even store mannequins had “work done” !



This is the life, eh?

The Caribbean cruise was a fun experience. Our ports of call were the Bahamas, Jamaica, Grand Cayman and Cozumel. Not being much into shopping, we liked Ochos Rios/Jamaica the best as we found it to be the most authentic experience in terms of how people there live. Yes, there is great poverty but also joy and pride. A guide introduced us to some hidden places, the island's unique vegetation and culture. Local markets have wonderful crafts on display, ideal subjects for great photos and inspiration for future artwork.



the island beat – steel drums



Interesting facades

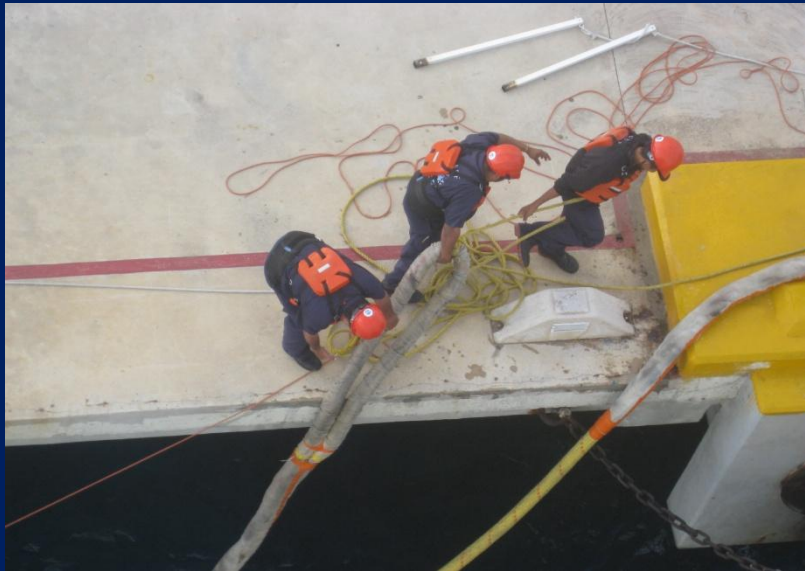


Fellow artist at work

One of the most fascinating things were Ocho Rios' telephone posts and wires. The little clumps were hummingbird nest! How neat is that!



Good shots could also be had while waiting for the ship to dock, quite ingenious to use a thin rope to haul in a big rope to haul in a big ship!

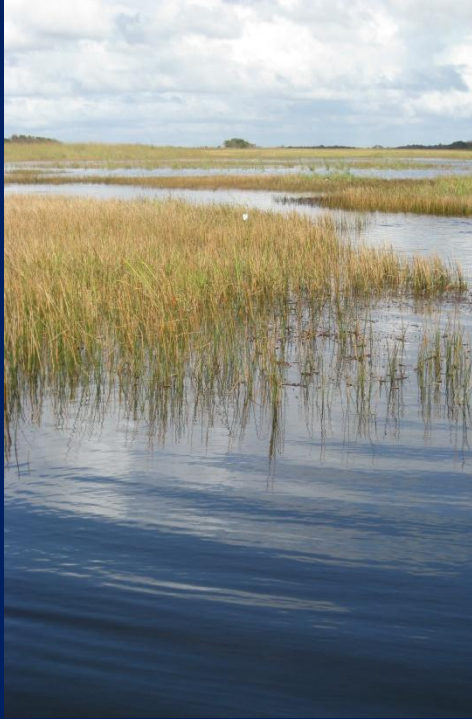


A different viewpoint that would make a great painting!

One of the things I was looking forward to checking out were the art auctions at sea which – as you may be aware – have gotten a bad rap. They lived up to their reputation: a showman auctioneer, a captive audience convinced to spend big money on artwork that does not have much value, fascinating! They are not called “pirates of the 21<sup>st</sup> century” for nothing. However, if you just attend for the fun of it, you can learn quite a bit about artists and how art is made. They just fall short in terms of being honest about how their art is made....



Back on land, we spent an extra day in Miami and took a tour to the Florida Everglades, a beautiful area, in many ways like the prairies, just with a few feet of water and alligators in it!



We learned a lot about these fascinating animals and met Snappy, a 3-year old alligator at the park ranger station.

2011 closes out with many wonderful memories and preparations are underway to create more in the New Year. My two Tuscany painting holidays are full so I will be spending a whole month in that part of the world in April/May sharing my enthusiasm for travel and art with like-minded friends. My next sailing trip “Whales and Totems” onboard the Maple Leaf schooner is coming up in August and I urge anyone interested to sign up soon as we only take 8 passengers.



Sailing the Broughton Archipelago

Discovering other places on this planet is a great privilege but it is also the best way to appreciate the place we live in and not many places in this world come close to the natural beauty we have on our doorstep! Winter is here and the city and the landscape is transformed, trees and buildings are covered with blankets of

snow, great shapes to study as is the colour of snow and its shadows. Deciduous trees have no foliage now, a great time to study how their trunks and branches grow. After Christmas, around the end of January, take time to visit the Ice Sculpture Competition at Lake Louise, some fantastic artwork there!

I hope this hibernating season will make you feel creative. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



As always, all the best in life and art!

Karin

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