**RETIREMENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**MATT BROWAR**

**REVISED**

Well, well, well....Hello everyone!! This year, 2020, has proven to be quite... **special**...... and while we don’t know what the future might bring or how the message and meaning will arrive, one thing is for sure.... it’s been colorful!! 2020 has been unique, to say the least... and by being in tune with the world around us, we’ve discovered that we have the capacity to learn from all that we encounter. I think we’ve probably realized that the circumstances in which we found ourselves this past year have brought a valuable reckoning... one that encourages an even greater appreciation of the gifts we have. I know that I’ve realized, at an even deeper level, that those of us who have been the moving parts of this project have been blessed with ten years of collaboration, education, and an appreciation of this force that we’ve built, which is an even greater and rich reality.

Concurrently, 2020 signifies a milestone... it’s the **tenth** anniversary of Murals of La Jolla. This year also marks the point at which I have chosen to step down as Chairman of the Art Advisory Board, and to congratulate and acknowledge Patsy Marino, our new Chairperson and truly the heart and soul.... or at least the **left ventricle**... (**Wait for the laugh)** of this amazing project.

Alberto Giacometti said, “The object of art is not to reproduce reality, but to create a reality of the same intensity.” While “those in the know” have said, since time immemorial, that true, great art is never completed,” some of us, at the inception of this project and in the process of creating a “new reality” for La Jolla, never thought it would be possible to be started!!! Ten years ago, Murals of La Jolla was a dream. It was an idea to honor the century old heritage of La Jolla as a nascent art colony.... It then became a plan... then a cause... and then an opportunity... to see what might be possible, and to find the tools, the gumption, the artists, experts, and supporters that would converge and make it all happen.

Georgia O’Keefe said, “To create one’s own world takes courage.” Anyone familiar with the creative process knows the inherent struggle to self express and to produce work that reflects a piece of oneself. Building Murals of La Jolla was no different. Like any creative expression, an idea is born. Considerations and roadblocks become part of the “palette.” So does resourcefulness, resilience, and intuitive problem solving. I can honestly state, without hesitation, that those involved, in every aspect, have learned, grown, and sharpened the tools that contribute to who they are and why we value them as advisors, supporters, and collaborators. They’ve allowed this group to bring awareness and enjoyment. They’ve encouraged community and curiosity, they’ve connected us to our history, and they’ve brought all of us together, in conversation, over art, life, and the importance of self expression.... every phase of this project has been a statement of our individual and collective creativity, commitment, and faith in color, form, and art.

I realize that I too, am a work in progress. I’ve grown tremendously as a result of my participation. A long time ago, I heard the expression, “I am part of all that I have met.” That applies significantly to my involvement with this group. To all of the wonderful people I’ve met and worked with... from our core group... Lynda Forsha and Patsy Marino, to our art committee, and our donors, all I can say is **WOW**. Thank you! You’ve transformed an “impossible dream” into one of the highlights of my life. You’ve worked with me to turn challenge into “chiaroscuro.” Murals of La Jolla gave us all a blank canvas upon which to make our beautiful La Jolla even more visually stunning. For that, we should all be very proud.

Remember when I said that great art is never truly complete? We can say the same of Murals of La Jolla and of this city. The first ten years was a good start. We’ve honored the greats and we’ve promoted fresh young talent. The process **IS** evolution, something so apparent when it comes to researching artists and selecting pieces to add to the growing collection. Our art committee has consistently encouraged thought provoking, lively conversation, leading our team to select and display works that enrich our community while glorifying so many aspects of the human spirit. I find that completely inspiring.

The coffee table book we published to honor the first ten years is a beautiful reminder of just how much can be achieved and enjoyed when we come together, pool our assets, and work to make this community even more beautiful than it already is.

A lot has been accomplished in the past ten years and it’s time to see what comes next. Patsy, I am thankful to have worked with you and Lynda on building the foundations that will continue to grow and enhance our way of life. I want to congratulate you as Murals of La Jolla’s Chairperson and I cannot wait to enjoy the continued conversation that is inspired by this project.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude and remind you **keep looking up**!!! ... Thank you!!