

# Blanchette

## Bruce's Studio News

Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution

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### Down and out, but making progress!

Thirty days and counting! That's the number of days since I've been able to spend time in the studio. It hurts!... and I'm not talking about my knees! Four weeks and two days ago, as some of you know, I made the decision to have "bilateral uni-compartmental knee replacements". Simply put, I decided that my mobility was starting to erode because of two arthritic knees and I preferred the potential of being able to continue working, lifting, and doing things around the house and studio, to the real prospect of hobbling around for the next (?) number of years. This, and my desire to stay fit and healthy and capable of walking and biking well into my eighties or whatever... . I picked the winter, thinking that spring would soon be here and I'd be able to rehab the knees outdoors with walks and small excursions... BIG MISTAKE!! Who knew it was to be the "winter from hell!" Will it ever end?

For those interested, I am making progress and can walk unassisted, as well as up and down stairs. I have lost a lot of muscle since the surgery because of the nature of the healing process being relatively inactive. Now that I am doing PT my exercise has increased, but is terribly time consuming because of the need to continually move the joints and elevate the legs alternatively.

This newsletter, consequently, will be a bit short on creative thoughts or comments, but I certainly hope that April will be a better month to return to my artwork and continue where I left off.

I am most thankful to my good friends and neighbors who have stopped in while I have been off my feet. Some have even taken me out for lunch, just to get me out of the house, or sent me little get-well gifts and cards... it's great to have friends! Most of all I owe everything to my wife, Karen, who has had a tough time with me this past year. For her sake, I promised to stay out of the hospital for the foreseeable future! She is wonderful!

Here we are last October on Cape Cod for our anniversary weekend!

