

## Jan's Gems . . .September, 2017

Some say an artist's life is a lonely one. Well, yes, long hours are usually spent working on creative projects, and yes, one working on those projects, can be alone . . . or are they???

Let me introduce you to my studio staff, my silent partners, so to speak. They are Millie, Venus de Millie, and Blanca. They are my life-sized avatars/models/mannequins, and they hang around my studio just waiting for the chance to serve in photos for my jewelry, scarves and tops. Actually, I realized I needed to find life-sized models for my e-commerce web shops. I photograph the jewelry on my studio partners to show size and proportion allowing more visual information for a potential buyer. I don't have access to live models, so these girls have done a good job, and have been another added accessory for selling my work on line.

Blanca is my newest "avatar", and she is a perfect size for my photo cube. She is matte white, which works well to show the color and sometimes the luminosity of the jewelry I am photographing. I also like her artistic flair. There are cool looking design aspects when shooting her, allowing for a beautiful cropped version (from the chin down).

Millie has seen better days, so I usually don't capture that beautiful smile . . . only neck shots for that girl. I'm pretty sure she served her early days in a fancy department store with that glamorous smile. A couple of times I used her for displaying jewelry in shows in California, and realized some found her a little spooky. Oh, well!

There are so many types of mannequins on line, and I found looking for one can be a hoot, maybe even weird, but if you find the one that works for product and photography, it can be a beautiful partnership!



Millie



Venus de Millie



Blanca