



OBJECTS OF DESIRE

SERENITY EQUINE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION

LORRAINE M. DAY
A 2011 SOFOBOMO BOOK

Solo Photo Book in a Month - SoFoBoMo - is a completely voluntary form of self-inflicted anxiety and crisis that today attracts photographers from all over the world. The basic premise is simple: In order to move an artist through creative block to a finished project - any finished project - the trick is to eliminate all the options that allow (encourage?) prevarication, ambivalence, indecision, fussing, tweaking and the endless waffling that keep us from finishing anything at all..

SoFoBoMo says, just do it!

In this case, that means: develop a theme, take a bunch of photographs, choose at least 35 of them, post-process them, put them into some kind of book layout, add text if you want, and upload it to the SoFoBoMo site - in one month, start to finish. With those restrictions, perfection is simply not possible. And if you can't make a perfect work, you may as well resign yourself to less-than-perfect and just do the work and wrap it up, put it to bed, shut the door, move on to the next thing. *Finish* it.

This year, the timeframe is from July 1 to August 31; any consecutive 30 days that fall in that window of time qualifies. I spent five days - July 8, 10, 11, 12, and 23 - photographing the horses, pigs, volunteers and facilities at the Serenity Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation facility in Maple Valley, Washington. Heartfelt thanks to Patricia Clark, the founder/owner of this facility, to Jane Foss, volunteer coordinator extraordinaire, and to all the volunteers and adoptive 'parents,' all of whom were so welcoming to me and so generous with their time. It was a pleasure.

Credit and expressions of gratitude go to Paul Butzi, who conceived SoFoBoMo, and who with Amy Sakurai, Andreas Manessinger, Bill Saltzstein, Bryan Willman, Colin Jago, Gordon McGregor, Martin Doonan, Matt Alofs and Paul Lester gestated and gave birth to the project in 2008. The current Board of Directors ("The Cunning Group") comprises Paul Butzi, Gordon McGregor, Colin Jago, Bill Saltzstein, Bryan Willman, and Martin Doonan. The website was designed by Amanda McGlothlin and developed by Bernie Sumption. Thank you all for providing such a challenging and rewarding experience. And as a bonus - for those of us who can't travel, it's a wonderful way to see the world.

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Serenity Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation is a rescue and sanctuary program specializing in equine rescue, rehabilitation and adoption, and has been registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit and Washington State Charitable Organization since February 2008. Serenity's foremost goal is to help rehabilitate, care for and place horses rescued from neglectful or abusive environments into loving homes. At Serenity, neglected or abused horses receive quality veterinary care and are socialized in preparation for adoption. As a result, the emotional and physical turnaround of these horses is nothing short of miraculous.

Serenity is hosted on a privately owned horse farm located in Maple Valley, Washington. The organization's Executive Director and founder, Patricia Clark, has provided the use of her property to Serenity since its inception in May 2007. To date, Serenity has rescued more than 90 horses!

I was one of those girls in fifth grade who ran around the school playground whinnying and slapping my thighs.... my notebooks were covered with sketches of horse heads and the names I'd give my horses, if I had horses. But I grew up in the San Fernando Valley and other suburbs in the greater Los Angeles area, and horses were not allowed in the back yards of the homes in my neighborhood. My dreaming remained fantasy, and by my 20s I'd forgotten all about my fascination with all things equine.

Now, 50 years later, I am dreaming about horses again.

While I was considering several options for my theme for this year's SoFoBoMo project, I happened to see a flyer for an open house at Serenity Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation. I had been looking for a theme far afield from my usual obsession with water, and here was an idea, right in front of me. I know nothing about horses! I haven't been near a horse since - since I can't remember when. I called Jane Foss, the volunteer coordinator listed in the flyer as a contact point, and explained my project. To my delight, she invited me over.

What amazing, entrancing, surprising animals! I hadn't forgotten their beauty - every movement a new pose, all lines and balancing curves and counterweights. And I must admit to some intimidation; these animals are unpredictable and much larger than me. But what I was astonished to see was - how 'present' they are, how deeply a part of their surroundings - endlessly curious and intuitive and aware - and how much they needed each other, constantly touching each other, talking to each other, watching out for each other. And how they need us! if a person comes up and leans on a fence, slowly, nonchalantly, the horses in the pasture imperceptibly move closer until they are congregated around the visitor, mutual 'objects of desire.'

THE FARM

















THE WORK







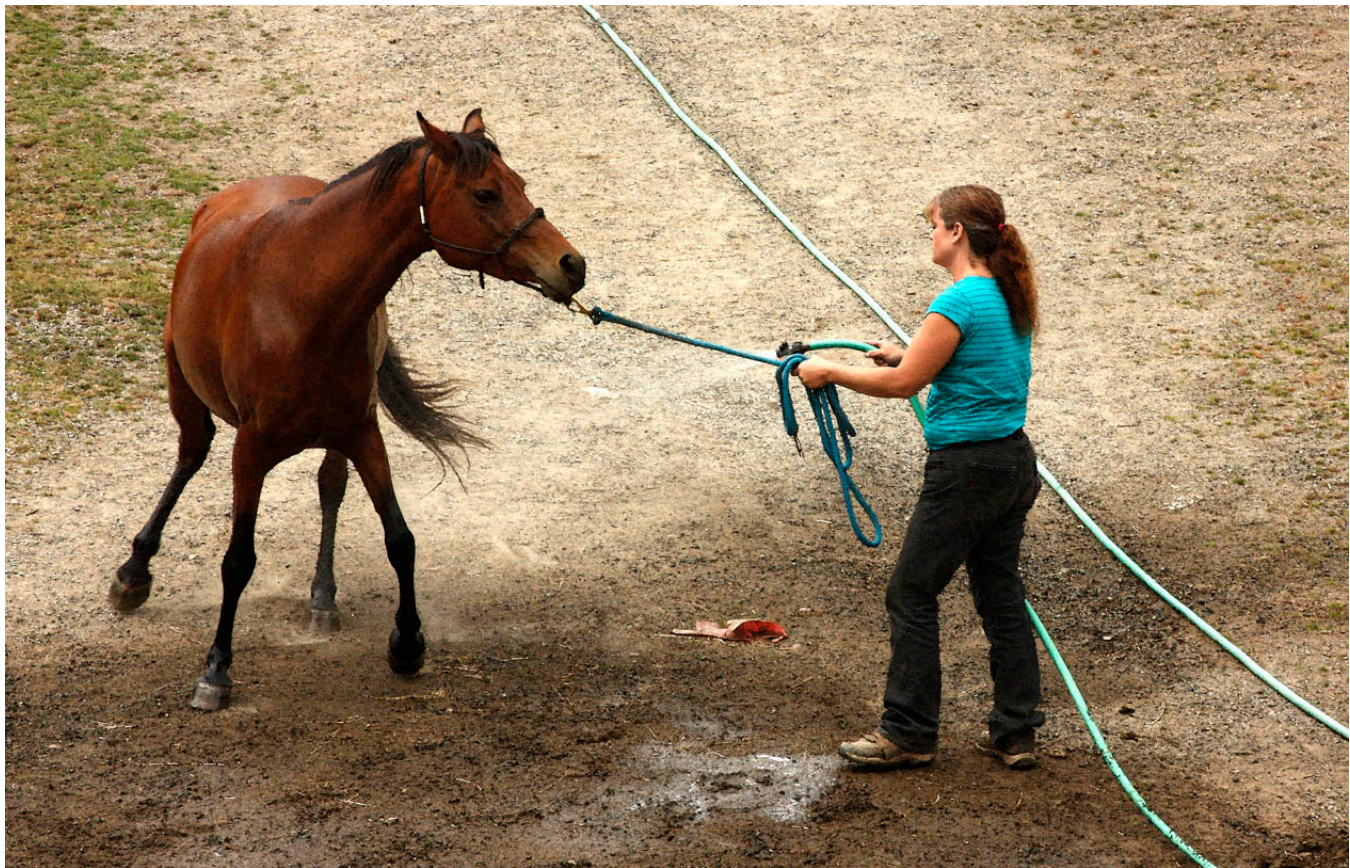


















THE HORSES









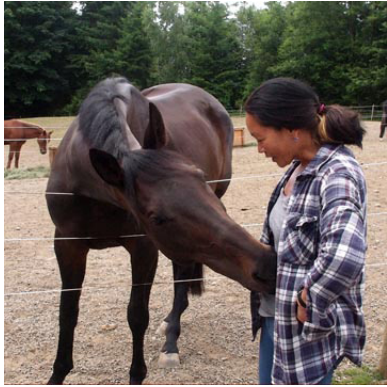








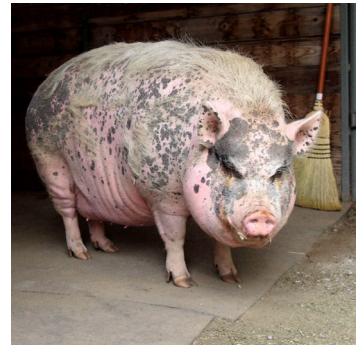








THE END



Sophia - not a horse.