



MindStormPhoto Ecuador 2014 pt 3

Burt and Evelyn Johnson

Ecuador 2014 pt 3

Table Of Contents

IRS, Chilcatotora, Baptism, Wine & Dance	2
Festival de Comedias de Un Acto	7
Ricaurte	9
Human Pin Cushion	11
Police Car Celebration	12
El Verde	14
Birthday Party, Ecuadorian Style	15
Granda Era Has Passed	20
Belly Dancing in Cuenca	26
For A Plate of Lentils	29
World Museum Day	32
Locra Papa with La Warmi	33
Joys of Home Ownership	37
20 Years of Mobile Surgery	40
Mr MaGoo	45
School's Out!	47
Museum Walk	51
Setenario Celebration (aka Feast of Corpus Christi)	54
33 Stages, 83 Bands, 2 Days of Music	61
Evelyn's First Art Expo	65
Could be a Wedding. Could be a Divorce. Who Knows?	69

IRS, Chilcatotora, Baptism, Wine & Dance

IRS, Chilcatotora, Baptism, Wine & Dance



This was a busy day, with us going into the country to Chilcatotora, attending a Catholic mass baptism, going to an art show, a wine tasting, and finally having guests over for dinner for two experimental dishes.

First though, we have noticed a surprising number of "*closure for tax fraud*" signs going up lately. I first saw one yesterday on *Chill & Grill*, one of my favorite hamburger lunch spots. In the last day, I have seen it on three other restaurants. It appears that these are from the Ecuadorian version of the IRS (called SRI), where they have done undercover tests and then raided the stores for failure to report all taxable income. Looks to me like they are trying to put the Fear Of God into other businesses, to reduce tax evasion, and increase tax revenues.

IRS, Chilcatotora, Baptism, Wine & Dance



We started today though, with another trip into the country with Alberto Soriano. Evelyn set up to paint another plein-air landscape. Alberto did the same, while also spending time helping Evelyn with her efforts.

IRS, Chilcatotora, Baptism, Wine & Dance



As always, Evelyn gathered a group of young fans around her, including one that picked up a pencil and started to draw a portrait of her. After awhile, I decided I had gotten all the photographs I expected to achieve, and went into an abandoned building to practice my Spanish using my Pimsleur tapes. My stumbling Spanish brought the kids around though, and I ended up with some of the better portraits of the day.

IRS, Chilcatotora, Baptism, Wine & Dance



While Evelyn was painting, I got a chance to see typical farm life in the Ecuadorian country. As expected, the dogs had the easiest life, lying and sleeping in the sun. The father cut trees for a fence, while the children all pitched in, gathering rocks and helping to set the newly cut posts.

Festival de Comedias de Un Acto



On our way back our condo, we came across something about to happen at *Iglesia de la Merced*. Waiting around a few minutes, we discovered several parents bringing out their infants from a Catholic Baptism ceremony. One family in particular was willing to pose for us. The email they supplied bounced, but we finally found them on [facebook](#) this morning, so copies of these photos are on their way now.

Festival de Comedias de Un Acto

Later we went out to an announced art exhibit, and saw some young people practicing an unusual dance routine. From there, we went on to a wine tasting event. Did you know today was [International Malbec Day](#)? Neither did we, but it was a great chance to taste a dozen Argentinian malbec wines!

When we got home, I experimented with a new chicken lasagna recipe for dinner, followed by a new key lime pie recipe for desert. Both were a major success, and I am now sitting down because I can't walk after eating that much!

Festival de Comedias de Un Acto

Ricaurte



Ricaurte

Cuenca is often called the cultural capital of Ecuador. Symphony is always free, and there are multiple free music venues every week. Tonight saw the inauguration of a new theater group in town -- The [Azuay Community Theater](#), with their ***Festival of One-Act Plays*** (yes, I know the Spanish says 'comedy', but their English title did not). This is a mostly-gringo community theater group, who opened with a set of four plays, all in English. They asked for a \$5 donation, and were sold out. Fortunately, Evelyn had the foresight to make reservations, or we would not have gotten in.

Though this was clearly "community theater," and not the Broadway level of productions we usually watched in California, the stories were interesting, the cast was enthusiastic, and I spent much of the evening in stitches. In particular, the second play ("Car Talk") included *Laura Inks* who played the part of cars from BMW ("stroke me, feel me, see how my leather makes you feel"), Prius ("we can save the world together"), and half a dozen other makes had me guffawing through the entire skit. In addition to performing tonight, Laura is the co-founder of Fishbon del Sur here in Cuenca, after having created [a similar program in Santa Barbara \(www.FISHBON.org\)](#). She also provided the space for the Azuay Community Theater to perform.

Estafania Ortiz played "The Woman" in the first play (*Gnash, Gnash*). She was the only Cuencanan actor, and is also the daughter of Evelyn's Spanish teacher -- which led to another Spanish phrase being taught in Evelyn's Spanish lesson the next day -- "*Es un mundo pequeño*" (It's a small world).

, May 4, 2014

[Art, Theater](#)

Ricaurte

Human Pin Cushion



Evelyn continues to spend Sunday mornings with Alberto Soriano, painting landscapes of the region around Cuenca. It gives her a chance to get some expert guidance in her landscapes, and gives us both a chance to see the outskirts of town, always within an hour's drive of our apartment. Without a car ourselves, it would be difficult to explore these areas, and without a knowledgeable local like Alberto, we would likely never find these out-of-the-way side roads anyway. We spent this morning off a side road in [Ricaurte](#).

Human Pin Cushion

, May 5, 2014

Art, Evelyn

Human Pin Cushion



Image credit <https://vimeo.com/71511269>

I have been an engineer my entire adult life, pretty much only believing in medicine that has undergone rigorous validation, and trusting only doctors that have had formal Western medical training.

Six months ago I broke my ankle in three places and had a whole bunch of metal put in my foot to stabilize it. Though the doctors tell me that my bones have healed well, my foot continues to be swollen and becomes painful if I walk over uneven ground (twisting the ankle) or walk more than 3 or 4 miles in a day. Friends have told me how acupuncture helped them, so I finally decided I had very little to lose, and gave it a try myself.

Police Car Celebration

It was a bit strange talking to the doctor while he was doodling on his pad. Only after a few minutes did I realize he was actually writing in Chinese...

After examining my foot, he confirmed that the bone was doing fine. He explained though, that I had also broken the tendons and cartilage and those take longer to heal, particularly (... wait for it...) *at my age...* (a phrase I have come to detest...!)

My foot was particularly swollen that day, as I had run (walked...) several errands in the afternoon before seeing him. He proceeded to stick 4 pins in my foot -- the anticipation of the pin-prick was worse than the actual needle, and left me to listen to Italian Western music (I kid you not!) for the next half hour. When he pulled the needles out, my foot looked downright emaciated. All the swelling was completely gone -- it was now smaller than my 'good foot.'

I have been to five sessions so far. I am not ready to declare this a complete cure, since each session seems to provide relief for only a couple days. The doctor says another 3 or 4 should be sufficient though, and I am finally able to go several days at a time without taking any ibuprofen (aka Advil).

, May 6, 2014

Medical

Police Car Celebration

Police Car Celebration



I have mentioned several times that Ecuadorians find any excuse to celebrate, and that I always carry a camera with me because I never know when I will stumble upon another parade or party.

Well, how about celebrating the police getting some new cars? Yep, that's enough reason for a celebration around here! Evelyn and I were walking to ETAPA to take care of some bills (I'm still deciding if I will even gnash my teeth in public over the lunacy of that government-owned company...), and found several streets leading to Parque Calderon blocked off. We saw a stage being set up, and thought we might come by later to see what was going on.

On our way back, we found the police brass and some politicos congratulating themselves on getting new cars, which would reduce the crime rate in Cuenca (my limited Spanish picked up that much).

I found it interesting that all the men officers were in a group with chairs, while the only four women officers were separated and forced to stand during the entire litany of speeches...

El Verde

, May 8, 2014

Ecuador, Event, Music, Police

El Verde



Another of our weekly trips into the countryside brought us to 'el Verde' today. From our apartment, Alberto drove us to *Turi*, a famous hilltop overlooking Cuenca, then down the other side. We drove a few miles more until we came upon a promising landscape view in this tiny village.



El Verde

While Evelyn and Alberto painted the scenery, I wandered the surrounding area for awhile. This place is remote, and few of the locals have cars, so farmers drive up and down the single dirt road with loudspeakers blaring what they have to sell. One product per truck. Above you can see one truck loaded with very green bananas. He went by twice, each time with one woman flagging him down to buy a box full of the fruit. Another truck blared that he was selling potatoes for \$10 / box, though I never saw anyone flag him down. Two other trucks had loudspeakers, but I couldn't understand what they were selling.

, May 11, 2014

Art, Evelyn

Birthday Party, Ecuadorian Style



Adrian plays the charango, while Marcos plays guitar

Birthday Party, Ecuadorian Style

We were invited by an Ecuadorian family to join a combined birthday party tonight. Three members of the family (Gloria, Adrian and Stephanie) have birthdays in May, as does Evelyn, so they decided on one combined party for everyone.

The entire family loves music, and the bulk of the night was spent listening to various stringed instruments, and several sing-alongs. Most of the vocals were in Spanish, but they had pity on the two of us (with our limited Spanish) and sung a few Beatles songs in English too. Of course, we were obliged to add our dulcet (NOT!) tones to those songs.

Birthday Party, Ecuadorian Style



A massive Ecuadorian meal assured that nobody went hungry!

Birthday Party, Ecuadorian Style



Of course, kids were everywhere, and they seemed to have a good time too.

Birthday Party, Ecuadorian Style



Stephanie was one of the Guests of Honor, celebrating turning 19.

Birthday Party, Ecuadorian Style



Part way into the evening, the power went out. Everything continued under candle light.

, May 12, 2014

[Art](#), [Event](#), [Family](#), [Music](#), [Spanish](#)

Granda Era Has Passed

Granda Era Has Passed



Incoming mayor Marcelo Cabrera greets the audience, kissing babies while protesters hold up banners

Mayor Paul Granda left office today, as the new mayor Marcelo Cabrera was sworn in during a ceremony in Parque Calduron tonight.



Granda Era Has Passed

Two brass bands competed on the square -- neither was very good...



About a dozen protesters walked around peacefully with banners

Granda Era Has Passed



The audience mostly patiently waited for the fireworks to start

Granda Era Has Passed



Finally one young man lit a cigarette and approached the castles

Granda Era Has Passed



The cigarette was used to light the castles and fireworks, and the real show began!

, May 16, 2014

Ecuador, Event, Festival, Fireworks

Granda Era Has Passed

Belly Dancing in Cuenca



Dance Performance at Colegio Santa Mariana de Jesus

Every so often, we used to go to High School plays in California. They were a nice change from the polished Broadway shows we usually saw, and was a reminder of High School when I had several friends in the theater club, and used to help them learn their lines (I was a nerd before the word was invented , and wasn't in theater myself).

Belly Dancing in Cuenca

Tonight we were invited to go to a High School dance performance. We weren't quite sure what to expect, other than that the daughter of Evelyn's art instructors would be performing. Upon entering the school, we discovered that the performance was in the gym -- which was outdoors. The school has a ring of classrooms around an open center courtyard, which is outfitted with basketball hoops and was used as a dance stage tonight. It has been raining almost every evening for the past few weeks, but the students had luck on their side, since this was the only clear night in awhile.



Belly Dancing in Cuenca - MindStormPhoto Blog and Gallery

The school covers grades 7 through 12, and each student in this girl's school was part of some dance group. As the night progressed, the quality of the dances improved, with Silvana Soriano (the friend we had come to see) up last with a belly dancing routine. She is seen in the top two images of this photo montage in the blue dress. While they danced, the younger students formed a ring to keep people from coming onto the field. After the last dance performance, about 40 gymnasts of all grades gave a rather impressive demonstration of their skills too.



After all dance and gymnast performances were complete, attention moved to the stage, where the Queen of each grade was introduced and crowned. Being a girl's only school, there were no Kings...

[Silvana Dance](#) from [Burt Johnson](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Here is a brief clip from Silvana's dance. If you want to see her entire performance, [you can see it here](#).

, May 17, 2014

[Art](#), [Event](#), [Family](#)

Belly Dancing in Cuenca

For A Plate of Lentils



Mágico Herrera performs at Apu Teatro

I have said before that there is always something to do in Cuenca. We heard about a new theater opening around the corner that was going to open with a puppet show tonight. We figured it would be a piece of interesting local color. We were rather surprised from start to finish...

For A Plate of Lentils

The posting we read said that there would be shows at 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00. We decided to go to the middle show with a couple of friends, so met there a few minutes before 5:00. hmmm...? There was a sign on a door that said "Teatro 7:PM" (yes, that is the way it gave the time). We waited around, wondering if that was the right place, when someone walked up and went in. Before he entered though, we had a simple conversation in Spanish with him, asking about the show. "Si, esta noche a las siete" ("Yes, tonight at 7:00") he told us, before saying "Hope you enjoy the show. See you in a bit. I brought hummus" (in perfect English...).

We decided to have dinner before the now-delayed show, and came back a few minutes before 7:00. As happens frequently (but not predictably) in Ecuador, the show time given was actually when the doors opened. We were the only people waiting, so we figured they would have a pretty empty house. The owner led us upstairs to the third floor, where we were asked to remove our shoes, and told (in fairly good English) that the show would wait a bit until others arrived.

About 10 minutes later eight other people showed up, including one toddler on a father's knee and another infant at his mother's breast. We were then led into the theater -- which had exactly *six seats*! The theater was a very small converted bedroom. The owner scrambled to take some seat cushions from the waiting room, and we ended up with an extra row seated on the floor.

The owner went around under the small table, and next thing we know he is playing with a tiny (about 5", or 12cm tall) rag doll, and we realize that the puppet show has just begun. He was the only puppeteer in the show, playing with rough homemade puppets, in a show titled "*for a plate of lentils*" about farming, death and (I think?) reincarnation. His assistant came in a couple times to help move the table (during the puppet's earthquake and later healing of the earth). The show was language-agnostic, since the only audio was a music background and a trilling sound the puppeteer made with the smaller puppets.

For A Plate of Lentils

At the end of the show, the owner spoke very rapidly in Spanish, where I was not able to understand very much beyond his saying the show would be repeated multiple nights and that we should let our friends know about the "fantastico" show. He then personally named and thanked everyone in the audience except the four of us -- apparently everyone else there were friends of theirs.

I am glad we went and saw this bit of local color at least once. Not entirely sure I will be going to future puppet shows here though...

Cuenca Puppet Show from *Burt Johnson* on *Vimeo*.

For A Plate of Lentils

World Museum Day



Throughout Ecuador, there was yet another celebration -- World Museum Day, or Dia Mundial de los Museos. Cuenca was represented by Museo Pumapungo, where folk dancers and bands performed throughout the day. We enjoyed listening to a band from Quito, and seeing the paintings of Ariel Dawi.

, May 19, 2014

[Art](#), [Event](#), [Festival](#), [Music](#)

World Museum Day

Locra Papa with La Warmi



Locra Papa is an Ecuadorian specialty that Evelyn loves when done well. La Warmi held a cooking class this morning in which they taught how to make it, along with a chicken and hearts-of-palm salad. I decided to go and see if I could learn anything useful. I ended up eating the *absolute best locra papa and salad* I have had since coming to Ecuador! There were only two of us in the class, after three people cancelled. I doubt those people have any idea what they missed, but WOW!

By the way, "*locra*" means "*thick soup*", so it is a faux pas to refer to it as "*locra papa soup*"...

Locra Papa with La Warmi



Here are some of the ingredients. I plan on making this at home soon, and will post a full recipe once that is done. Lower-center shows me taste testing, and declaring the locra ready!

Locra Papa with La Warmi



Kathy Abad is the main teaching chef. She speaks almost no English, but can cook up one heck of a meal.

Locra Papa with La Warmi



Virginia Lopez is the assistant chef. She speaks perfect English, as well as being an excellent chef in her own right. She does almost all the verbal teaching in the class.

Unfortunately, La Warmi doesn't have a web site up yet, so I can't provide a link to them. If you want to find out what classes are coming up, [contact Virginia](#), at least for the next couple months. She did announce that she is moving to Salinas in July, so I am hoping Kathy can find someone else as talented to work with her to continue these classes.

, May 24, 2014

[cooking](#), [Food](#)

Locra Papa with La Warmi

Joys of Home Ownership



We love our new apartment here in Cuenca. One of the things we were glad to be rid of was the ongoing maintenance we had on a California house built in the 1920's.

Joys of Home Ownership



Seems that follows wherever you own property though...

There is a parking lot next to our building, and about a month ago the lot attendant pointed out to our building security guard that there was a wet patch on the outside wall. After some analyzing of photos vs visible windows and support beams, we concluded it was in one of our showers. We were told it would cost about \$200 and take a day to fix, so we said to go ahead.

As happens everywhere, the problem was harder to find than expected, took longer (a month instead of a day), and required finding more parts and tile than originally planned. A month later, we can finally use the shower again, and the final cost was \$400. At least when the overrun is 100% here, the pain is still pocket change...

Joys of Home Ownership

Of course, the day the shower was fixed, we finally had an electrician look at adding an outlet we wanted. In the process, he broke a ceiling light, so now we have to wait for parts for that. Seems there is always something...

, May 25, 2014

Condo, real estate

Joys of Home Ownership - MindStormPhoto Blog and Gallery

20 Years of Mobile Surgery



Today and for the next two days, we are with [CinterAndes](#) -- a mobile surgery team that travels around Ecuador performing free surgery for those unable to pay for such needs. They obtained their surgery truck (shown above) 20 years ago today. It is amazing how much they can accomplish in such a small space. CinterAndes desperately needs a new truck though, and is currently working with various organizations such as the [Rotary Club Cuenca](#), to try to raise the \$300,000 needed. The expected new truck will be slightly larger (can't be too big or it won't be able to navigate many of the roads in the outlying areas), and will have updated medical equipment.

20 Years of Mobile Surgery



The team travels with a full complement of doctors needed for performing surgery. **Dr Edgar Rodas** (center in the image above) founded the organization in 1990. Among many other awards, he received the **2009 Surgical Humanitarian Award** from the American College of Surgeons. The other volunteers are a rotating combination of advanced medical students and professional doctors.

20 Years of Mobile Surgery



Watching them work is a sight I had never expected to be able to witness. I have been on the table as a patient a few times in my life, but this is the first time I was able to watch the process unfold. 13 surgeries were performed over a two day period. The [Mission de Guadalupe](#) (in the Amazonian jungles of Southern Ecuador) where we visited, also had an operating room, so both the mission room and the truck were kept busy from 8:00AM until 9:30PM each day.

20 Years of Mobile Surgery



Families waited outside while surgery was taking place.

20 Years of Mobile Surgery



On the way back, everyone stopped at [Parque Nacional Podocarpus](#) for a swim beneath a waterfall.

Claudio Velez, one of the surgeons, brought along his guitar and entertained everyone near the waterfall, before heading the long drive home.

, May 27, 2014

[Ecuador](#), [Medical](#), [Volunteer](#)

20 Years of Mobile Surgery

Mr MaGoo



Mr MaGoo

Mauri MaGoo is a polished professional magician here in Cuenca. We first saw him [last October](#) in a show with four other local magicians. Tonight's show was advertised as being just him, but there were actually several others, plus a ventriloquist as Emcee. Unfortunately, the show involved a lot of very fast Spanish, very little of which I was able to understand. Also, as seems typical in Ecuador, the speakers were set to full volume, which created massive distortion - seems every speaker in town is set to maximum volume whenever on...

The show was heavily oriented around the young, with audience kids brought up to participate in many of the tricks. The magic varied from normal slight of hand, through some card tricks (that I now know how to do, after our [trip to Harry Potter World in April!](#)), to jaw-dropping performances. Most of the latter were by Mauri MaGoo himself (in the lower right image above).

, June 1, 2014

[Theater](#)

Mr MaGoo

School's Out!



Kerry Jones, our favorite niece (OK, our only niece, but still our favorite!) graduated high school today. After this week, she is officially a college student, attending [University of California at Santa Barbara](#). She will be majoring in chemistry in the [College of Creative Studies](#). With fewer than 350 students, this is a very elite school to get into.

We flew from Ecuador to California for this once-in-a-lifetime event. After the last few cool months in Ecuador (where we are entering Winter), it was a shock to sit in the bleachers on a June Sunnyvale Summer, but worth it to see her reach this milestone. After the formal celebrations and speeches, Kerry walked around the quad meeting friends and taking "one last photograph" with them.

School's Out!



Kerry with her High School friends.

School's Out!



The family was all there to help celebrate her graduation too.

School's Out!



We then went out together for dinner with the extended family, before Kerry left for her all-night Senior Graduating Party.

, June 6, 2014

Education, Event, Family, Food

School's Out!

Museum Walk



While in California for Kerry's graduation ([see prior blog post](#)), a couple of friends from Oregon came down to visit. Together, we went to two museums, along with a tour of the Santa Cruz wineries. The first museum we visited was the [Computer History Museum](#) in Mountain View ([Wikipedia](#) and [Yelp](#) both have more info). If you have any semblance of nerd in you, this is a must-see stop in the San Francisco Bay Area.

It had a well done presentation of computers from ancient history through the present. Personally (as a computer software developer for more than 40 years), I was most interested to see all the historic devices on display whose models I owned or used in their heyday. The first keypunch I ever used when working in college was there. As was my first SOL computer, HP calculator, ALTAIR, computerized chess board, PDP-8, Mac, etc, etc, etc...

Museum Walk



Museum Walk

The next day we went to the Disney museum in San Francisco. It was also a bit of a surprise, taking much longer to go through than expected (we spent more than four hours there). I basically grew up with Disney cartoons, and went to Disneyland as a child in the late 50's, but really didn't know much of the man or company other than the products that came from it. Walt was described by almost all colleagues as "a nice guy." He was also a visionary who saw beyond what others could, and then convinced others to follow his path.

He had several bet-the-company projects ([Snow White](#), [Mary Poppins](#), [Disneyland](#)), and had several setbacks. His first successful cartoon -- [Oswald the Lucky Rabbit](#) -- was stolen from him, which spurred him into creating [Mickey Mouse](#). A [strike](#) closed the company in 1941. Almost immediately after that was settled, the start of WWII almost closed him again. He succeeded in changing direction for the war, which almost resulted in his going out of business yet again when the war ended. Each time he rose to the challenge and changed the direction of the company to make it stronger than before.

, June 10, 2014

[Computer](#), [Education](#)

Museum Walk

Setenario Celebration (aka Feast of Corpus Christi)



Corpus Christi is a major Christian holiday in Ecuador. The celebration starts when the local Bishop leads a procession through downtown to the [Cathedral of Immaculate Conception](#) (aka "New Cathedral")

Setenario Celebration (aka Feast of Corpus Christi)



*Following the Corpus Christi procession, the celebration of **Setenario** begins, as family businesses begin building castles.*

Setenario Celebration (aka Feast of Corpus Christi)



Castles always bring out large crowds to watch -- and photograph the event.

Setenario Celebration (aka Feast of Corpus Christi)



Wherever people gather in the streets of Cuenca, you can count on blaring music and impromptu dancing.

Setenario Celebration (aka Feast of Corpus Christi)



Once darkness sets, the castles are lit. Note above how close they are to cars and people. Very little concern for firework safety here...

Setenario Celebration (aka Feast of Corpus Christi)



Fireworks are shot overhead too. I was hit twice by burning embers falling -- which is why I now always go to these with a cotton jacket (no nylon down jackets allowed!)

Setenario Celebration (aka Feast of Corpus Christi)



Setenario celebration centers around sweets, and after the fireworks, people wander dozens of newly set up tents filled with sugar in all forms.

, June 20, 2014

Event, Festival, Fireworks

Setenario Celebration (aka Feast of Corpus Christi)

33 Stages, 83 Bands, 2 Days of Music

[Alliance Francaise](#) is an international group that promotes French culture and language. Their [Cuenca branch](#) put on a massive music festival the last two days. There was very little tie-in to anything French, but there was music for everyone - jazz (our favorite), rock, metal, rap, electronic (actually a DJ when we went by that stage), folk, and pretty much anything else you can think of. We offered to shoot some publicity photographs for the Alliance, and received press passes giving us pretty much free access. We wandered from stage to stage and had a great two days of music.

Here are a few of my favorite images out of the 1,993 that we shot, and 50 that we provided the Alliance.

33 Stages, 83 Bands, 2 Days of Music



33 Stages, 83 Bands, 2 Days of Music



33 Stages, 83 Bands, 2 Days of Music



, June 22, 2014

Event, Festival, Music, Theater

33 Stages, 83 Bands, 2 Days of Music

33 Stages, 83 Bands, 2 Days of Music

Evelyn's First Art Expo

Exposicion Colectiva de Pintura

10, 11 de JULIO
17:00 - 20:00
12 de JULIO
11:00 - 17:00
B. Malo 12-27
y Sangurima

■

Esponsores:
Omar Sarmiento
Beverly Ayler



Por favor acudan a una exposicion colectiva de pintura. Este exposicion es de tres artistas: Freddy Llerena, Alexander Sucasaire, Evelyn Johnson. Cada uno tiene una gran trayectoria y su técnica es magistral. Venga y disfrute de una gran experiencia!!!

Please join us for a collective exhibition of paintings from three artists. Freddy Llerena, Alexander Sucasaire, Evelyn Johnson will be showing their art. Each presenter has a large variety of work, technique, and mastery. Come and enjoy a great experience!





After years of having friends try to convince her to have an art showing, Evelyn finally caved and had her first opening reception tonight. After weeks of being nervous and fearing nobody would come or like her work, she sold 6 out of the 14 she displayed within the first 3 hours -- far more than either of the more two established Peruvian artists she was exhibiting with.

Evelyn's First Art Expo



These are some of the paintings Evelyn displayed tonight. Sara, in the lower right, is placing the 'sold' sticker on one that she bought.

Evelyn's First Art Expo



Freddy Llerena and Alexander Sucasaire also exhibited in the same show.

Evelyn's First Art Expo



Turn-out was great, with pretty much everyone we knew showing up to support Evelyn

, July 11, 2014

Art, Brag, Evelyn, Event

Evelyn's First Art Expo

Could be a Wedding. Could be a Divorce. Who Knows?



Another day in Cuenca, another parade it seems. Last night we heard music blaring from Parque Calderon in the center of town, with fireworks later. This morning we heard a band going by at 5:15AM, but rolled over and went back to sleep. This afternoon I walked out my front door and discovered the largest parade I have seen since February passing by half a block from our front door. I walked down and snapped a few images.

I realized the parade started (and later ended) at the church by the Flower Market a block from Calderon. I walked over to the *Don Colon* restaurant and talked to the owner (Don Colon...) asking if he knew what the parade was about. ***"Could be a wedding. Could be a divorce. Who knows? They celebrate everything with a parade here!"***

Could be a Wedding. Could be a Divorce. Who Knows?

We have often noted how we only find out about celebrations when they are under way around here. We have asked several Cuencanos about it, and always get a shrug and a statement that they don't know either. Here was one more example of a local not knowing what was going on literally next door to him...



This particular parade took up three blocks, and consisted of six different bands playing. They all played the same music at the same time, so at least it wasn't a cacophony, but did make it rather loud...

Could be a Wedding. Could be a Divorce. Who Knows?

Could be a Wedding. Could be a Divorce. Who Knows?



The parade also had a couple of floats, and horses, and people dancing, and marching with banners (that appeared to be celebrating the Pope?). At the end was the traditional Child Jesus statue, carried by 16 military officers, which was followed by perhaps a hundred other military men in uniform.

Could be a Wedding. Could be a Divorce. Who Knows?

Could be a Wedding. Could be a Divorce. Who Knows?

That statue gave the clue to the true meaning of the parade. Each church has a celebration on its "Saint's Day," which is the day set aside for the saint the church was named after. On that day, they parade their Child Jesus statue around town. Apparently, this was their day. Indeed, upon further research, I found it was in celebration so "Virgen del Carmen de la Asunción."

, July 17, 2014

[Event](#), [Festival](#), [Fireworks](#), [Music](#)