

# Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

**A**fter I've opened my cabinet doors to my Facebook Friends, you're probably wondering what I could show you that you hadn't already seen within my curios. I know my cabinets are packed pretty full and it was hard to see everything. For this issue I thought I'd include items that were either not in a cabinet or difficult to see and decided to show head studies since that is one of the first things we look at when we look at a Borzoi.

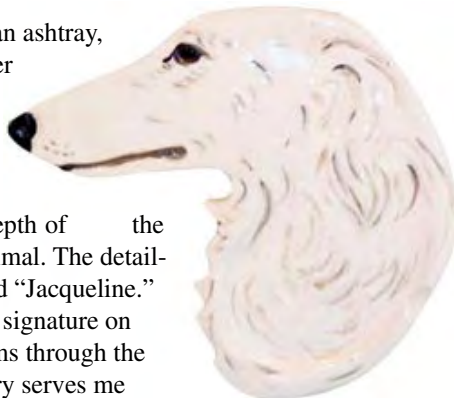


I bought this ceramic piece at the 2009 BCOA/MBC specialty show held in Frankenmuth, Michigan. It was in the "garage sale items" and priced very reasonably. It was cleverly designed where the back actually has a ceramic stand built onto it so that you can display it on your table without needing a plate holder. It measures 5" tall and sadly does not have a signature to help identify the maker. While I'm not fond of the dotted markings on the face (ticking), I still believe it to be worth around \$25.

This hanging head study is made of pewter which was attached to glass. There is pewter surrounding the glass giving it a Tiffany stained glass look to it. It looks like someone clipped off part of the neck hair leaving it with a chopped off appearance. I cannot remember where I purchased this piece, but probably on eBay. The measurements are 3" x 5.5" with a nice loop hanger soldered to the top for easy hanging. It is a weighty piece, with a correct Borzoi ear and I value this at about \$20.



Originally made to be an ashtray, you wonder if the maker had second thoughts. I say this because there are two grooves for a cigarette to be placed, yet the depth of the ashes area is quite minimal. The detailing is nice and is signed "Jacqueline." I have come across her signature on several other breed items through the years as well. If memory serves me



correctly, she was a featured artist at one of the larger pet shows back in the 1980's. The ear was cleverly blended into the neck hair, although set a little low for my taste. Value on this 5" tall, hard to find piece is \$25.



Similar to the prior ceramic Borzoi head, these are designed differently. They not only faces the opposite way, but the ear looks to be more sculpted than etched and the forehead has less of a domed appearance. The backing has a circular hollowed out opening so that you can easily hang it



on a hook. There is a gold foil label on the back that reads "Indi Lane Ceramics by Fran." I am quite certain this was a trophy at one of the Midwest Borzoi Club shows in the 1980's because these belonged to my mom. Even though designed as a prize, the value for each of these is \$20.

I purchased this next head study from eBay, even though I know it was a trophy for a dog show. Any seasoned Borzoi person is familiar with the works of <now judge> Garry Newton. Garry is known for his lovely dog sculptures capturing remarkable detail within each subject he creates. My first encounter with Garry was before he was a judge. He had a booth at the BCOA show held in Racine, WI in the 1990's.

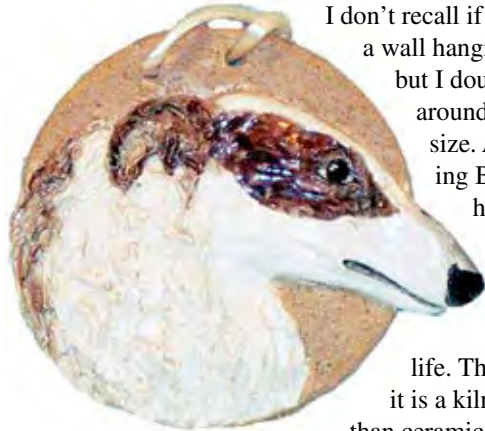
I was sharing a booth with my friend Joyce Brandin. During the day, it would get boring sitting there waiting for people to come around so all of us vendors would visit each other's booths. That is the year Garry donated the "Reflections" bronze where the Borzoi was gazing down into a pond. While I could have ordered one at that time, it was way over my head for affordability, but looking back now, it was a steal and I pine over it to this day. Since I bought this used, it had several scuffs and bruises. In good condition, I would value this at \$75. Measuring 5", the detail is remarkable and the ear is done exquisitely.



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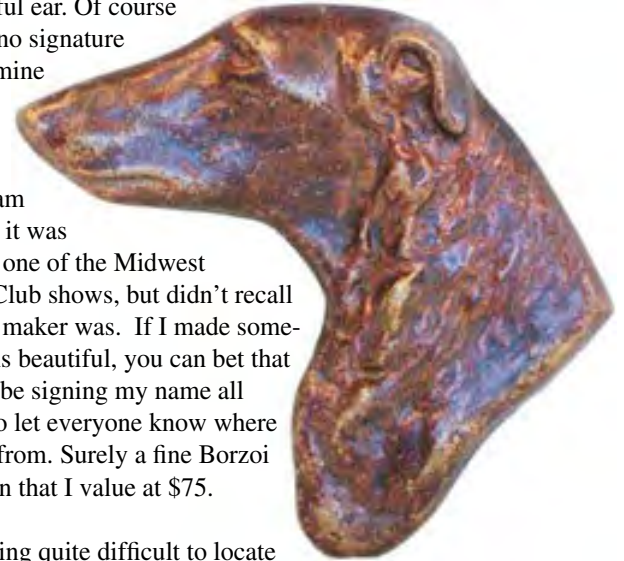
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I don't recall if I purchased this as a wall hanging or a necklace, but I doubt it would be worn around my neck due to the size. A very elegant looking Borzoi head, it must have been made by someone that either owned Borzoi or had been very close to one in their life. The material feels like it is a kiln fired clay rather than ceramic. The sculptor was proud enough of their creation to have signed it "Mary McLerran." So if you're out there Mary, congratulations on designing a simply lovely Borzoi head. This hangs on the door of one of my cabinets, so perhaps you first got a glimpse of it within my Facebook albums. Measuring 4" from nose to opposite edge, the value on this as a necklace or a wall hanging is \$45.

This bronze head was purchased several years ago from a friend of mine, Susan Motisi. She told me it was given as a trophy at one of the dog shows. Several were also available for outright purchase so she had bought a few. It measures 5" with nice detail, including

a beautiful ear. Of course there is no signature to determine who made it. Pam Leichtnam believes it was given at one of the Midwest Borzoi Club shows, but didn't recall who the maker was. If I made something this beautiful, you can bet that I would be signing my name all over it to let everyone know where it came from. Surely a fine Borzoi specimen that I value at \$75.



It is getting quite difficult to locate nice Borzoi collectibles these days. I'm often asked how I managed to acquire such a collection. It came from years of attending antique shows, hitting antique shops and flea markets, and of course in the last 10 years, I managed to accumulate many things from eBay. Whatever your Borzoi collecting desire may be, if you see something you like, the best time to buy it is then; as long as it is within your budget.

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