

Dollshouse & MINIATURE SCENE

OVER
110
INSPIRATIONAL
IDEAS INSIDE!

FROM BEGINNER TO EXPERT MAKES!



IN THE
MODERN
WORLD

Fantastic miniatures by Paris Renfroe

Across the pond...



...contemporary minis

Swimming in detail...



...working with water

Read all about...



...a fantastic collection

Feast on this...



...make a trendy cake!

Flip it over...



...build a skateboard

PLUS

- JANE HARROP'S MINIATURE JOURNEY ● EXPERT ADVICE
- AT HOME WITH THE BROADWOODS ● ARTISAN INTERVIEWS
- HELPFUL TIPS AND READER DESIGNS ● FABULOUS QUARTER SCALE

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WELCOME

to the November issue

Inside this month's issue we're going modern, post 1900, with miniatures, projects and ideas to keep you inspired. Can I just say that I've been looking forward to sharing the opening feature with you for some time, as I'm a huge fan of his work. Starting up in 2008, Paris Renfroe began to market and sell 1/12th scale models of his full-size furniture! Each finished miniature is a piece of distinctive modern art in its own right, and it's certainly not hard to see why his work is eagerly snapped up by collectors from across the globe. From this initial interest, Paris began to expand his range and build 1/12th scale shipping containers called M112 Pods, showing that they can be adapted to make backdrops for displaying modern dolls house furniture. His collection now includes chic kitchens, bathrooms and entertainment units, not forgetting storage for cars. Turn to page nine and see for yourself why Paris was once crowned 'Best Mini Modernist' by Midwest Home magazine.

Elsewhere, and as featured on the cover, our team of artisans provide detailed step by step guides to show you how to make a skateboard inspired by the 1980s, a vintage lava lamp straight out of a 1970s style book, and how to create the illusion of water.

Enjoy the issue.



Carl Golder
Editor

**FANTASTIC
GIVEAWAYS!**
ON PAGES
24, 43, 50 & 57

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Don't forget, it's still not too late to take advantage of our not-to-be-missed York Dolls House & Miniatures Fair pre show offer on page 49. If you are already a subscriber to the magazine have a look at your carrier sheet to check the offer.



Online readers... Keep an eye out for these symbols

A huge thank you to this month's contributors...

Moi Ali, Linda Adams, Lynn Allingham, Bea Broadwood, Sadie Brown, Jamie Carrington, Fátima Dõna, Ann Evans, Jane Harrop, Maive Ferrando, Paris Renfroe, Colette Stacey, Emma Stacey, Kate Ünver, Deb Weissler and Michael Yurkovic

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... life in the miniature
goldfish bowl

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...get on the
vintage vibe

CARL'S FAVOURITE FIND ON INSTAGRAM

"Talk about a real cottage industry! Colette Stacey lives in a small village in Devon and her carvings are atmospheric and evoke strong memories of her childhood village. Read all about her on page 52"



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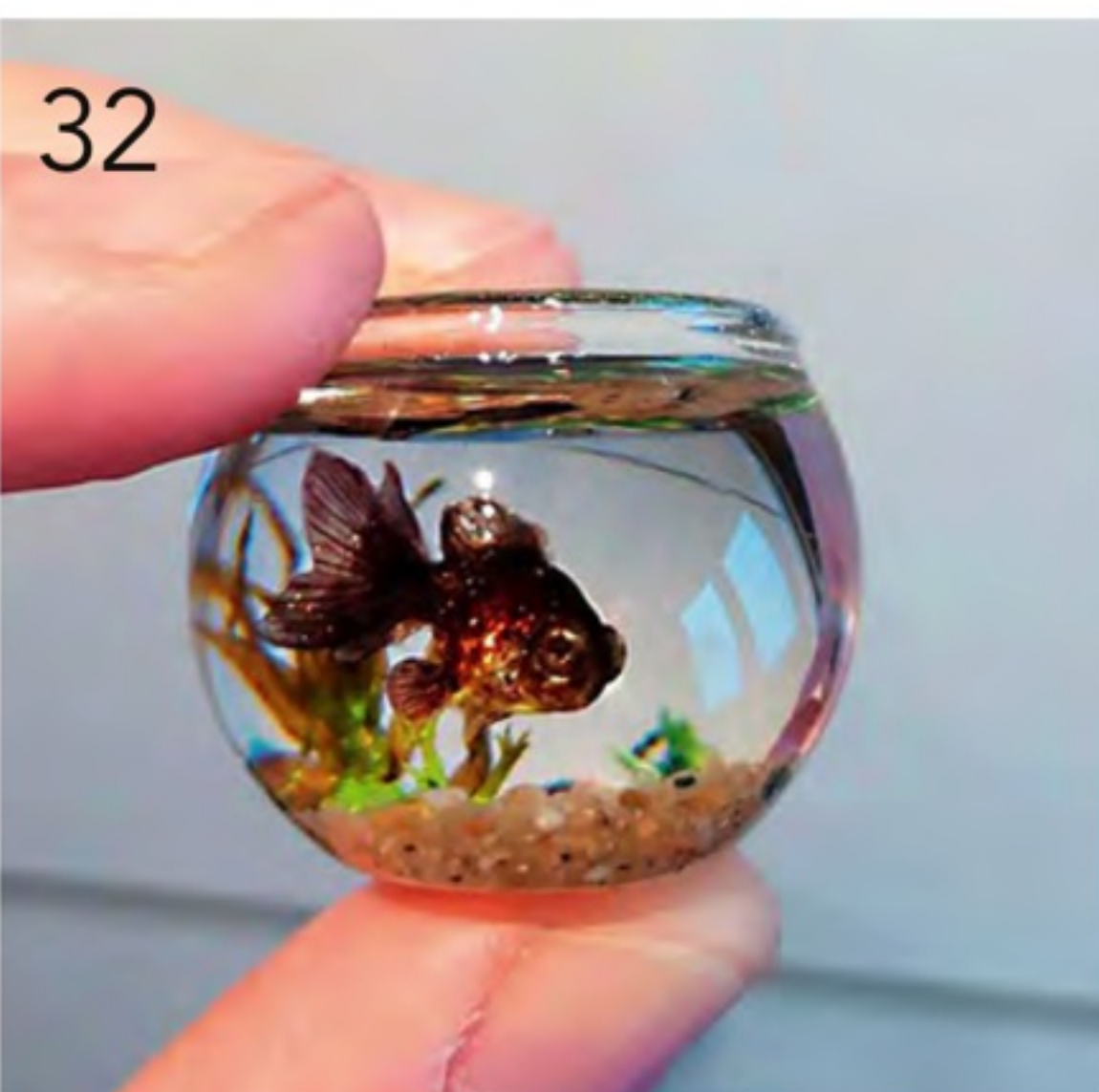
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HOW TO ENTER...

ENTERING OUR GIVEAWAYS

FOR A CHANCE TO WIN IS SIMPLE, VISIT
www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk

The closing date for all entries is
29th November 2019. Good luck!



EXCLUSIVE GALLERY CONTENT
FOR ONLINE READERS



EXCLUSIVE AUDIO CONTENT
FOR ONLINE READERS



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DON'T MISS OUT!

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THE SUBS ZONE

**FANTASTIC
SUBSCRIPTION
OFFER**



TURN TO PAGE 45

**EVERY ISSUE SINCE
JANUARY 2010**

EXACT EDITIONS



TURN TO PAGE 56

The Miniature Scene

Is your club doing anything exciting, got a new project on the go, raising money for charity or tackling a project from Dolls House & Miniature Scene? Let us know your news by emailing

✉ Carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk

- Send a letter (and photos) to Carl Golder, Dolls House & Miniature Scene, Warners Group Publications, West Street, Bourne, Lincs, PE10 9PH

- Keep in touch through our Facebook page:

📍 www.facebook.com/dollshouseandminiaturescene

News copy deadline for the January issue 308 is 20th November 2019.

Whibley Dolls House Club

The Whibley Dolls House Club in Rochdale unveiled their latest group project at Heritage Open Days 25th Anniversary in September. The base and backdrop to this year's display had been used last year as part of a seaside theme, this year they decided to do upcycle the piece and create a 'Hi-de-Hi' style holiday camp, using the colour yellow as their theme.

All of the members made a chalet and each added their own twist with holiday makers and luggage, there's even a chalet maid ready to do the cleaning. There's a picnic scene with deck chairs and benches with people enjoying some deliciously looking food. This overlooks the children's play area with everyone making an item including swings, a slide, see-saw and climbing frame.

There's a brightly coloured crazy golf area with a wobbly granddad taking on his grandson, this is behind the swimming pool where there are lots of people enjoying a swim, overlooked by a stern lifeguard. This area created lots of laughs while trying to cut some of the dolls in half so they could be placed in the pool. On the top level is a recreation building for the indoor events, a shop selling beach items and a fairground. Each member also made items for the fair including carousel, helter-skelter, coconut shy and ghost train. The piece-de-resistance is the working land train that runs around the camp created by Andy the chief organiser. The group really enjoyed the time spent building each item over the year and working together as a team and are proud of the end result.



More club news
can be found on
PAGE 62

Miniature news on the go...

✉ carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk

👍 www.facebook.com/dollshouseandminiaturescene

🐦 www.twitter.com/dhmsmagazine

📷 www.instagram.com/dolls_house_miniature_scene/

Boxing Clever are now Clever Accomodation

Miniaturists who have been in the hobby for a number of years may remember the name Boxing Clever, a stall run by Sue Chadwick back in the 1990s selling room box kits and dolls house accessories.

Sue took a break from the hobby in 1997 when she had her daughter, Allie and had all but forgotten about her dolls house love affair until recently. When Allie grew up, she got the miniaturist bug and started making miniature food from Fimo. Allie set up her own stall selling her handmade miniatures (Fredona's Miniature Dreams) and as she couldn't drive, Sue became driver, admin, accountant and stall assistant. After attending a few shows and enjoying getting back in to the miniature world Sue has now relaunched her own stall, calling it Clever Accommodation selling 1/12th, 1/24th and 1/48th scale room box kits.

Clever Accommodation will be at a number of fairs over the coming months and Sue looks forward to saying hello to both old and new customers.

For more information visit:

📍 www.facebook.com/cleveraccomodation

IGMA Guild School

Registration is now open for next year's IGMA School in Maine, USA. The six day event takes place over 13th-19th June 2020 and there will be 34 instructors, all Artisans or Fellows of the Guild in attendance. Choose from over 40 classes, suitable for all skill levels, plus a variety of evening seminars, student and instructor exhibits, live and silent auctions and a lobster cookout!

For more information visit: 📍 www.igma.org/index.html

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10th November 2019

Not long to go...

The popular York Dolls House and Miniatures Fair returns on Sunday 10th November 2019.

It's the perfect day dedicated to collectors and enthusiasts and subscribers to DHMS can book tickets today for just £2.50! Book online today via:

📍 www.yorkdollshousefair.co.uk or turn to page 49 for more information

Same Tune, New Choir

As we reported earlier in the year, Jamie Carrington was due to attend Miniature in Tune, for the very last time...

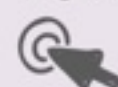
"12 years ago I was honoured to be asked to teach in a new Danish Miniature School in Tune, Denmark. It was inspired by the great Barry Hipwell, who'd taught classes over there and realised that there was an opportunity to bring together students for a whole week's adventure. Sadly Barry never got to see it happen but we're all so grateful he had the idea.

And now 12 years later, having taught so many students, I've found it's time to retire and hand over to others. The new team of school directors took over last year and I'm so excited that they want to carry on running the school. We have Linda Den Besten from the Netherlands, Valeria Bonomi from Italy, and Ursula Dyrbe Skovsted from Denmark, each with their own field of specialities, and they run it so well along with teachers from the US, South Africa and England.

The setting for the school at Tune Kursuscentre, a convention centre just 25km from Copenhagen is set in lovely gardens maintained by students of the Production School, who also provide top class catering, private en suite bedrooms and relaxing courtyards to sit out at break times and the evenings, where you can enjoy meeting the teachers and all the other international students, or, in some cases, catch up with work in your workshop.

Classes run for three days in one subject and two days for another so there's a possibility to either stay with the same teacher throughout the week or move to another teacher and learn a new technique you hadn't thought of. It's wonderful for me to think my favourite school is in safe hands and I'll look forward to hearing about all the new adventures the teachers and students are bound to have."

Next year's school will run from 6th to 10th July 2020
For more information visit:

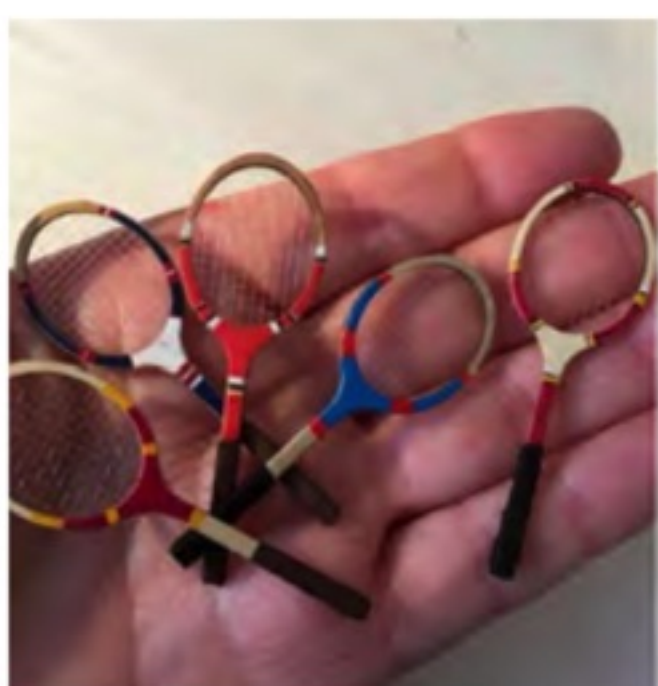
 www.miniatureintune.com



STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Autumn Miniatura

Editor Carl and members of the DHMS team attended autumn Miniatura at the Birmingham NEC on 5th October. With over 100 miniaturists displaying and demonstrating it was a welcome return to the show scene for The Dolls House Draper, Whitewitch Miniatures and Gale Elena Bantock with her figurines and accessories.



For more information, news and photos from the event, head to the recently updated blog:

 www.miniatura.co.uk/miniatura-blog

WE ASKED YOU...

We posted the following question on our Facebook page:

Which scale do you prefer to work in and why?

Star post and winner of this upright organ kit by Jane Harrop



Tove Jensen:

1/48th scale. I can have more houses on the shelves as they take up less space. The only problem right now is that my backlog takes up more space than the finished houses!

Laura Lisowsky: *I love working in 1/12th scale. It allows me to execute the most detail in my carved, period furniture. Due to my theatrical and model making background I wanted to work in 1/24th scale, however, I was dissuaded by a well-meaning teacher.*

Cynthia Anne Molloy: *I've ventured with 1/12th, 1/24th and 1/48th but I just love 1/12th that little bit more. I love designing and using everyday items which suit 1/12th more.*

Donna Bugeja Edmondson: *1/12th scale. I find the detail in things can be so much better.*

Laura Hatton: *1/48th scale. I can have four houses in this size compared to one house in 1/12th!*

Carole Lewis: *1/12th scale. Simply because there is more choice. It's also easier to handle.*

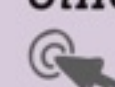
Sheila Fielder: *It's impossible to choose. I have houses and scenes in every scale from 1/12th scale right down to 1/144th. I really do love them all.*

Eileen Schrag: *I'm working on 1/12th scale and enjoying it.*

Want to join in?

Join the conversation for a chance to win...

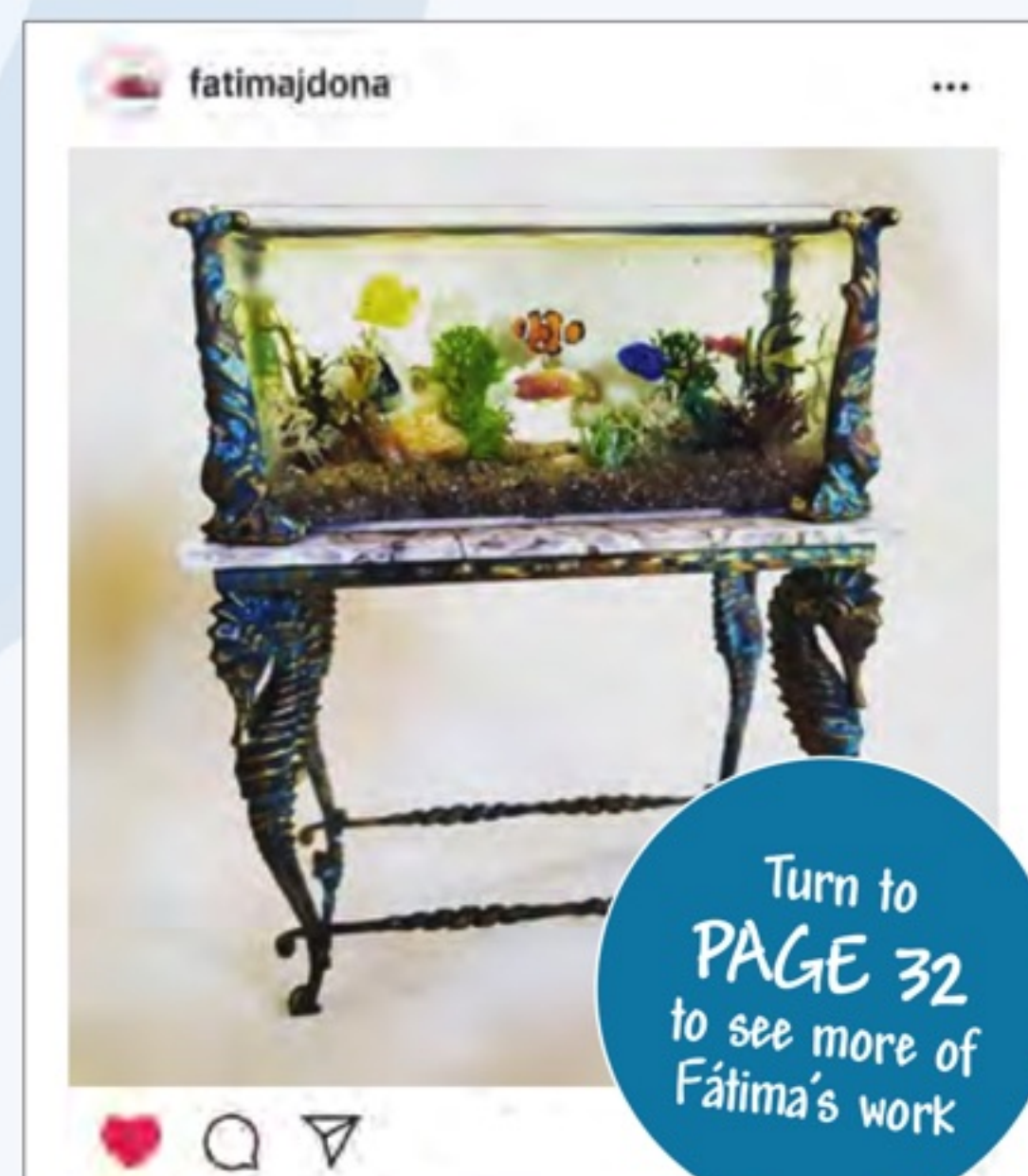
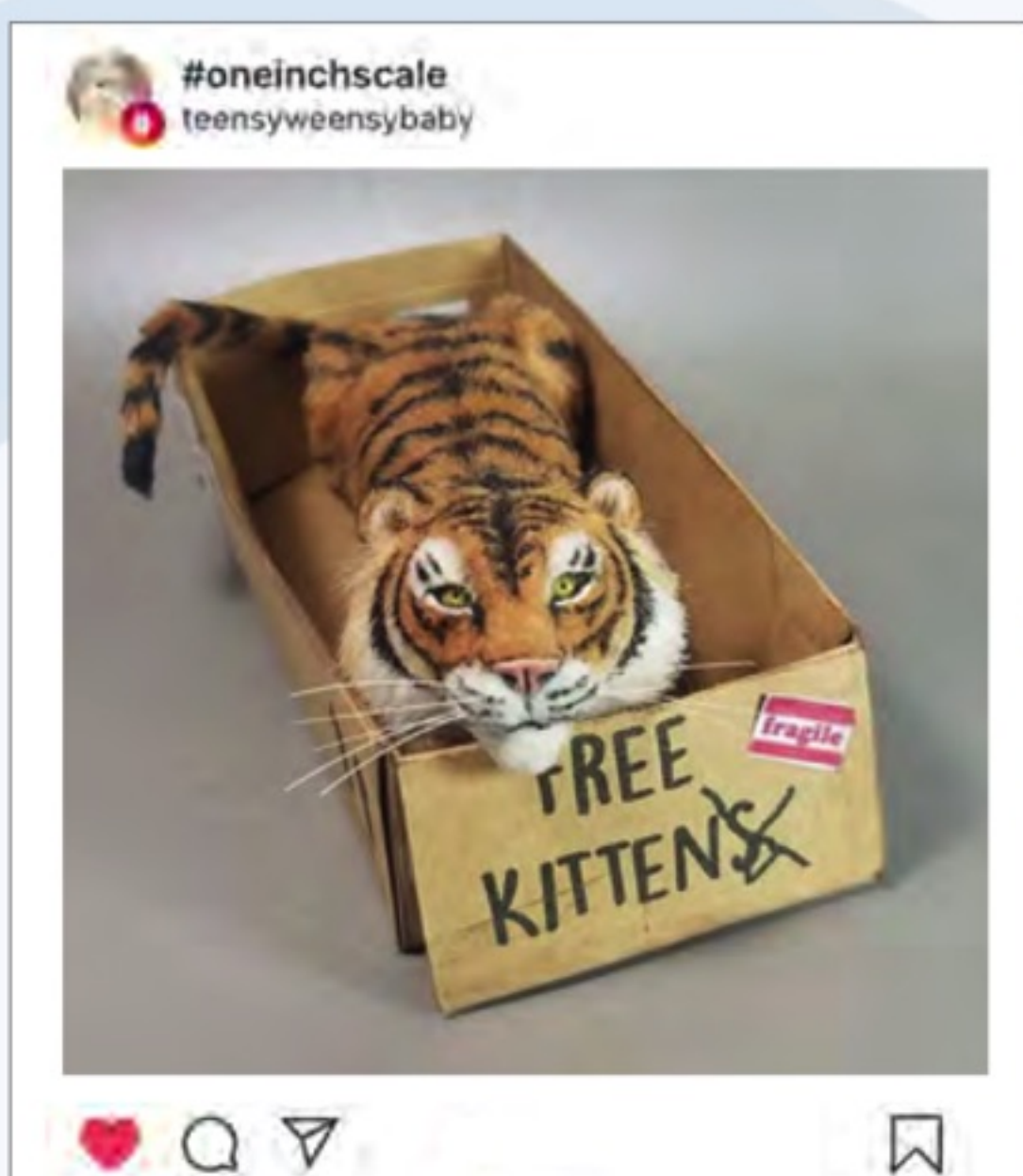
 www.facebook.com/dollhouseandminiaturescene

Jane Harrop has been making miniatures for 25 years and teaching miniature making for 21. Many of her projects have never been presented as a kit for sale to the public, so Jane and Bob are taking a trip down memory lane in 2019 and re-creating some of them for everyone to enjoy. Some will be limited edition, others a permanent feature on her website, visit:  www.janeharrop.co.uk to find out more!

Turn to
PAGE 50
to read all about
the story behind
the artist

Caught @n Camera

When it comes to inspiration, social media is a really important tool, especially with a watching world-wide audience. The DHMS team have been scrolling through their Instagram feeds and want to share with you these fabulous 'modern' makes.



Follow our page for more inspiration: @Dolls_House_Minature_Scene

If you would like us to notice your work, don't forget to add the hashtag: #dollhouseandminiaturescene



The Modern World

We're pulling the strings of modern miniatures as **Paris Renfro** dives into the heart of contemporary style in small scale.

Making mini music

A designer by trade, Las Vegas based Paris Renfro now also finds himself a respected artisan at the forefront of a burgeoning modern miniatures industry, his name having become synonymous with stylish and cutting edge work. Each miniature design is a piece of distinctive modern art in its own right, and it's certainly not hard to see why his work is eagerly snapped up by collectors from across the globe. His introduction to the increasingly inventive world of small-scale design came through his original field of work as a designer, where he created miniatures for clients as part of the initial proposal process. These prototype designs quickly became a hit and as equally sought after as their life size counterparts, Paris finding himself inundated with orders as clients requested models as gifts for friends. 

▲►▼ Hanging out at The Beach House!





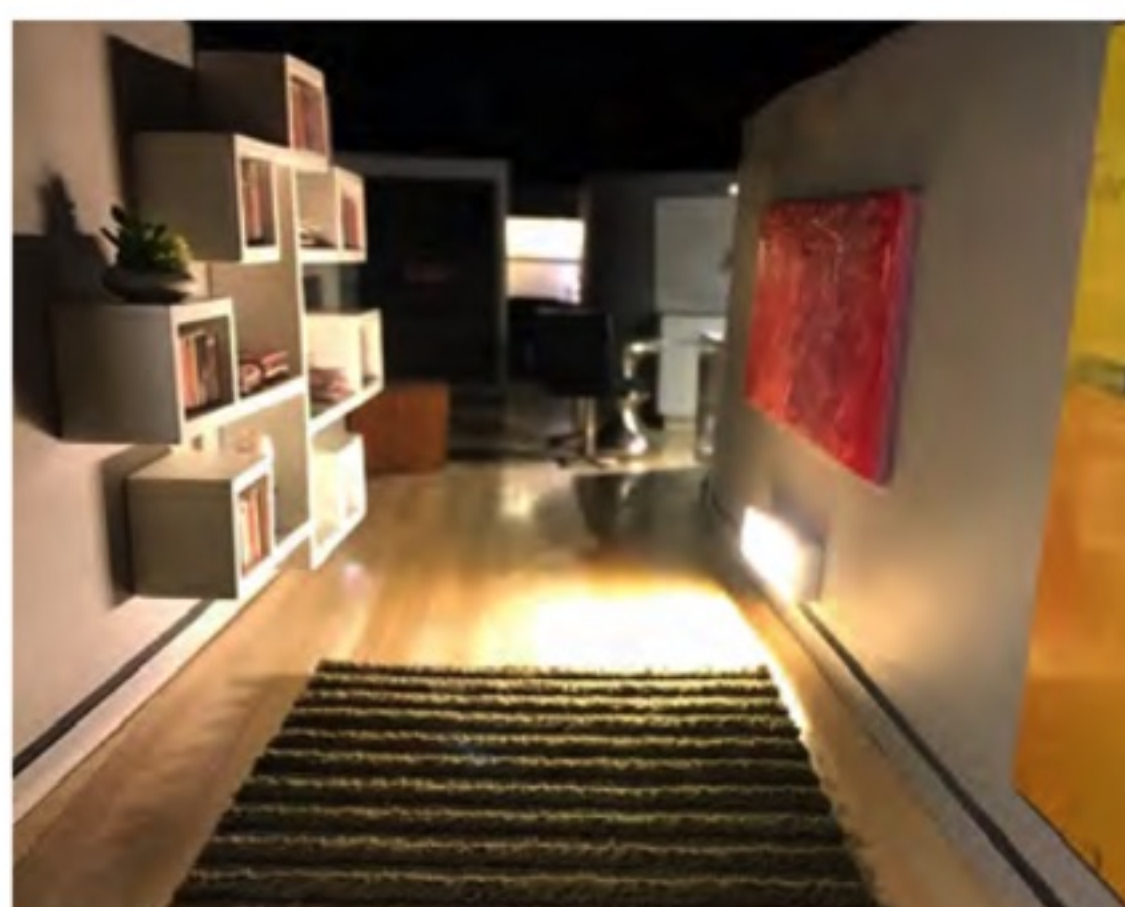
► ▼ Making music! Paris's spectacular 1/18th scale Case Study House

This opened the door to a new and unexpected career path for Paris, bringing with it many exciting opportunities as he moved forward. These included 'Case Study House', a guitar shaped design which brought miniatures to a large audience when it was commissioned by an advertising agency. This is also an eye-catching piece of work which Paris unsurprisingly cites as his most unusual to date and presents the increasingly popular world of modern miniatures at their absolute finest. "An ad agency was working on a campaign for a wireless speaker company, and wanted to create a unique bachelor pad in the shape of a guitar. So, they created a rendering, and asked if I could create something in miniature," he explains. "Based on the available guitar cases, I opted to build it in 1/18th scale to optimize the selected case. The finished product exceeded their expectations!" Different and engaging in equal measure, 'Case Study House', with its high end interior layout, is currently retained within Paris's own private collection, but it has also been showcased in several museums across the United States. However, Paris's designs transcend the globe and he is currently working on a very exciting commission, creating a Brutalist style two level home for a client in Australia, which features a natural rock formation at its core.

Past, present and future

There's something enduringly special about seeing the familiar world around us recreated in small scale and modern miniatures allow us to draw from our own lives, replicating familiar items in incredible detail. This year marks a decade since Midwest Home magazine named Paris 'Best Mini Modernist', his range now comprising everything the modern mini enthusiast could ever want to ensure it has that ultra-contemporary finish.

There are chic kitchens, bathrooms and entertainment units, with special



mention also given to items such as the outdoor fire pits for those chilly summer evenings in the garden, but where does Paris see the world of modern miniatures going in the future? Does he feel that this aspect of the small scale world is an important element contributing to the ongoing growth of the miniatures industry in general? "All of the Super Hero 'comic books come to life' movies have really helped create a renewed interest in action figures, dioramas, and collecting in general. Even children's animated television shows each have their own product lines featuring all of the show's

characters, sets, vehicles, etc.

These aren't called 'miniatures' per se, but in actuality they are all miniatures," he says, pointing out that some people collect Star Wars memorabilia, some people pieces of classic furniture, some modern, and there are even those who collect miniature art. "Either way, we are all connected through the world of miniatures in a quest and desire to create our own worlds. Social Media sites have also created a platform for collectors to share their passion and creations with the world," contemplates Paris. "The more detailed the miniatures are, the more it plays with the mind of the viewer. Outside of uber wealthy individuals who can afford to build their luxurious worlds at no expense, miniatures allow the rest of us a more attainable way to be collectors."



Cosy nights in contemporary style!

Turn to
PAGE 41
for a fabulous
water based
project



▲▼ Paris perfectly describes this scene on social media as the 'Man Cave'!



Paris immensely enjoys working with wood and plastic, and although the former doesn't always lend itself to scale, he loves its natural beauty and the wide selection of different species he can choose from. "Plastics allow me to create many things from scratch," he says. "Sanding, finishing, painting, and overall durability make plastics my second favorite material to work with. That and the unfortunate fact that plastics have inundated much of the consumer products available today, making plastic a natural material for modern miniatures." This isn't to say that it's not possible to incorporate more natural and perhaps surprising materials into your modern miniatures, with coral discovered whilst beachcombing on family holidays also having found its way into Paris's work. "It's highly rewarding to find beautiful, natural items while relaxing on a beach

stroll, and then turn them into another source of beauty to be loved and cherished in a second life. It's a very spiritual feeling I guess."

Splashdown

Paris also, quite literally, delivers a splash of modern luxury, not to mention oodles of contemporary style, to client's miniature worlds with his highly realistic swimming pools and hot tubs, complete with atmospheric lighting. These have featured in an exciting array of designs, including rooftop settings, each one showing his flair for detail. Paris, however, remains extremely modest! "I actually get too much credit for them," he laughs, adding that the key is getting the surface of the water just right and that he avoided hours working with resin after discovering an acrylic sheet which bears a resemblance to the appearance of rippled water.



Paris is well known for creating a variety of stunning pools

"Considering most people are within a few feet of a miniature when viewing, the scale proportions were perfect for anything from 1/2" to 1" scale. It's as though you are looking at a body of water from 30-50 yards away in full scale.

Then I use the correct level of lighting, coupled with just the right hue of blue green to really sell the realism."

Pod life

At the other end of the scale, away from the top end luxury swimming pools of our lottery dreams, is the intriguing concept of container living. This is something which initially attracted Paris's attention after seeing an editorial piece on a shipping container home in an interior design magazine, publications he finds to be a continual source of exciting inspiration for the latest modern designs and trends begging to be miniaturised! Deciding to create his own miniature shipping container home, Paris has now brought the concept to life in small scale with his unique range of stylish and brilliantly named M112 Pods - the M stands for modern and 112 for 1/12th scale. Homes built using converted shipping containers have become an increasingly popular concept in the real world, having even featured amongst television presenter Kevin McLeod's top five designs from Channel 4 show 'Grand Designs'. Therefore, it stands to reason that they make fabulous miniature projects too. Available in either 20" or 40" lengths, Paris's M112 Pods are ideal for someone who, perhaps, has only a limited amount of space for a dolls house or as an initial starting point for anyone hoping to build either a collection of Paris's work or contemporary miniatures in general. 



A home in Red Rock Canyon!
The shipping container home's luxury interior

▲ Ready to move in! The M112 shipping container

As the pods are also stackable, you also have the flexibility of being able to add to the structure should time, space or whim allow! Paris himself recently finished creating a wonderful South Beach inspired container house, beautifully photographed against the stunning backdrop of Nevada's magnificent Red Rock Canyon at sunset.

Paris has previously discussed the idea of opening a destination showroom or shop. I'm certain that this is an idea which would hold immense appeal and excitement for the many dedicated fans of his work and for those who have attended the classes he has held, but is this a suggestion which still holds interest for Paris himself? Possibly he says. "I think I would be more interested in collaborating with a partner, more as a consultant rather than an owner/operator. Primarily because I still have aspirations and creations for the full size design world that I'm working on."

There's no doubt that Paris already works extremely hard and has his hands full. At any given time, he can be found designing and creating two or three separate commission structures, in addition to the very many orders he receives through his popular online store. However it's evident that Paris still manages to never loses sight of what's important. "Although we are all a part of the human race, life is actually a journey, and not a race at all. It's not about who finishes first, as we are all guaranteed to 'finish', so find your passion and through hard work and perseverance, create as much as you can," adds Paris as we end our chat. "I believe that creation, more so than acquiring things that have been created, is our ultimate purpose in life!" 🏠



Paris's South Beach inspired shipping container house enjoys the evening sunshine in Red Rock Canyon



A special commission for US optician, Warby Parker



INFORMATION

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SHOPPING Guide

**All prices correct at time of going to press*

BUILDING ESSENTIALS

If you're going to be building,
you will need these essentials.



INFORMATION

All products featured on this page are
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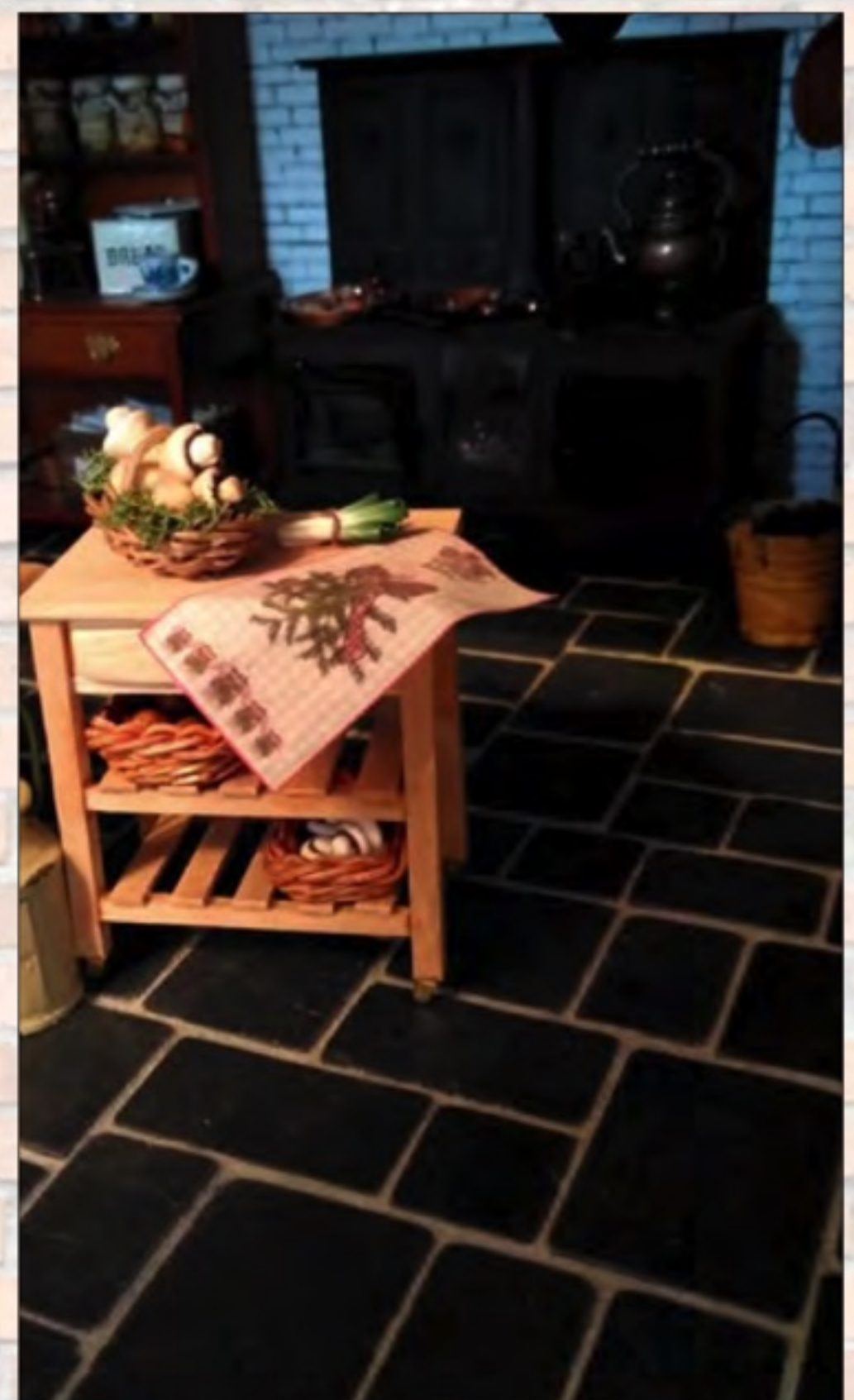
**Emma Stacey, owner
of Stacey's Miniature
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We wish to thank all customers and visitors who came to our stand at Dolls House Fairs over the past 10 years.

Unfortunately we are unable to continue exhibiting but we are still making and selling all dolls houses and other properties on our web site. Please contact us by email or phone.

1/12th scale Dolls Houses, Cottages, Shops, Tudor Houses & Shops, Churches, Fantasy Houses, Lighthouse, Windmill, Water Mill, Garage, Stables, Round Houses, Fairy Mushroom House, Castle Keep, Shed, Market Stall, Beach Hut Lean To, Display Boxes

1/24th scale Dolls Houses, Cottages and Shops



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With a Kick and a Flip

There is nothing cuter than a shrunken down skateboard that looks like it has been wheeled straight off the set of Stranger Things or The Goonies. This 1/12th scale project teaches you how to make a scuffed up little board that has been on a myriad of adventures.

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Polymer clay in Sahara, cognac, black, white and red
- Soft pastels in black, mid and dark brown
- Selection of acrylic paints (for decorating the deck of the board)
- 1mm gauge wire
- Two silver head pins
- Eight gunmetal head pins
- Silver mica powder
- Clear gloss liquid
- Strong craft glue
- Paper

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Bare craft blade
- Craft knife
- Cosmetic applicator
- Wire cutters
- Round nosed pliers
- Toothbrush
- Hand or electric drill
- 1.5mm drill bit
- Emery board or fine sand paper
- Paintbrush with a rounded end (for shaping)
- Small paintbrush
- Pencil

Lynn's Top Tip!

"This project contains a lot of hole drilling. If you don't have a hand or electric drill you can create the holes in the clay using a small piece of wire before you bake and harden the clay."

Inspirational boards



1 Use Sahara clay and flatten into two pieces roughly 2mm - 3mm in thickness. Take two pieces of cognac clay and repeat. Layer up and alternate the four pieces of clay, as pictured.

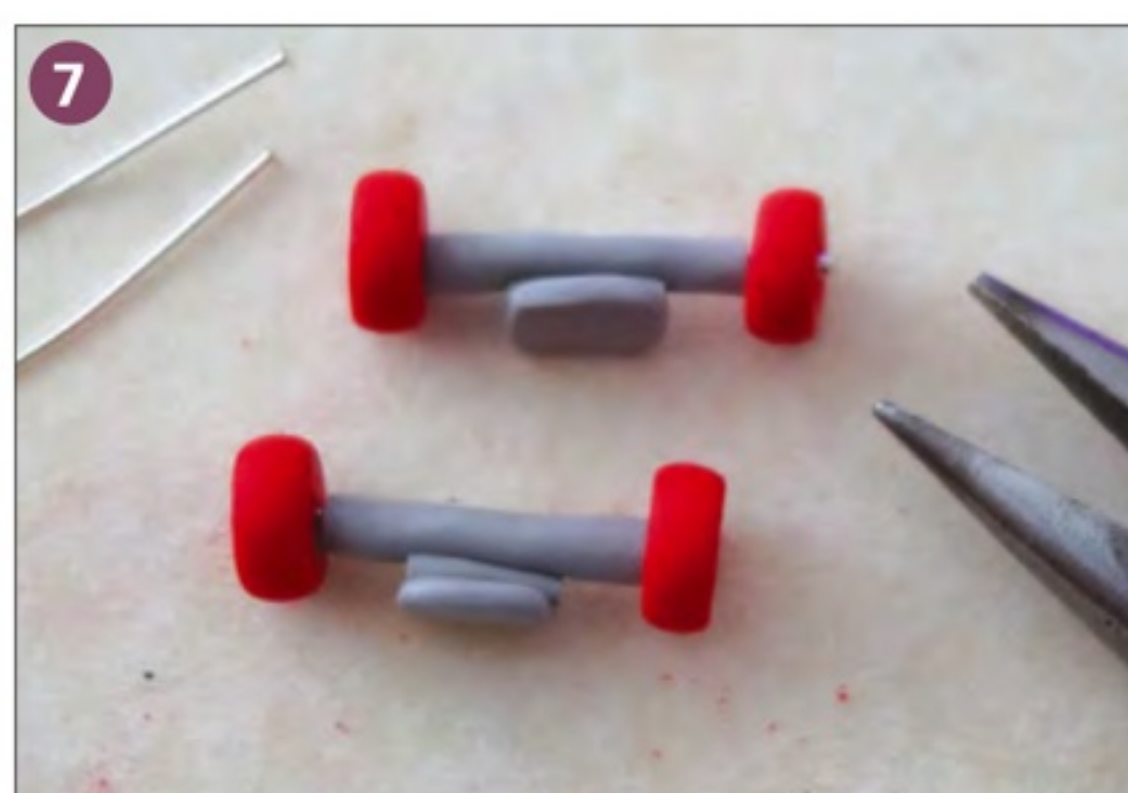


2 Take the layered clay from step 1 and gently flatten them together with your fingers. Mix black clay with a little white clay to create charcoal. Apply a thin layer of charcoal to the top of the flattened clay and lightly press all pieces until it is roughly 1.5-2mm in thickness. Once cut this will look like the layered wood and grip tape of a skateboard deck.



3 Use photographic reference and a bare blade to cut downwards into the clay to create a skateboard deck roughly 4cm - 5cm in length by 1.5cm in width. Use your fingers to smooth and create rounded edges. Once happy with the shape, use a toothbrush to lightly texture the charcoal top to look like grip tape. Use small pieces of folded paper to prop both ends of the deck then bake as recommended.





Lynn's Top Tip!

"To add another level of realness to your board, try lightly rubbing a little silver mica powder into the textured charcoal clay to make the grip tape glisten like sandpaper, it's simple but effective."

4 Once the deck has cooled from the oven, use an emery board to lightly sand all of the outer edges. Mark and then drill eight 1.5mm holes through the deck as pictured.

5 Cut two small squares of grey clay roughly 5mm x 5mm square. Place the squares in position on the underside of the deck to check the size. Roll grey clay and cut into two 5mm x 2mm stems. Place one stem on each square, as pictured.

6 Take a piece of wire and encase it in a layer of grey clay (this saves drilling a long hole into the clay later on). Take the two pieces made in steps 4 and 5 and push each onto the top of the wired clay to create two skateboard trucks, as pictured. With red clay, roll and flatten into four wheels measuring 5mm in diameter. Use the rounded end of a narrow paintbrush to create indentations in each wheel. Bake as recommended.

7 Take the wheels and drill a 1.5mm hole in the centre of each. Use a sharp craft knife to trim the wired clay so that each truck measures roughly 2cm in length. Remove the wire from the clay and re-thread the wheels and trucks onto silver head pins, as pictured. Cut and loop the wire to finish.

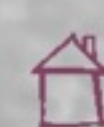
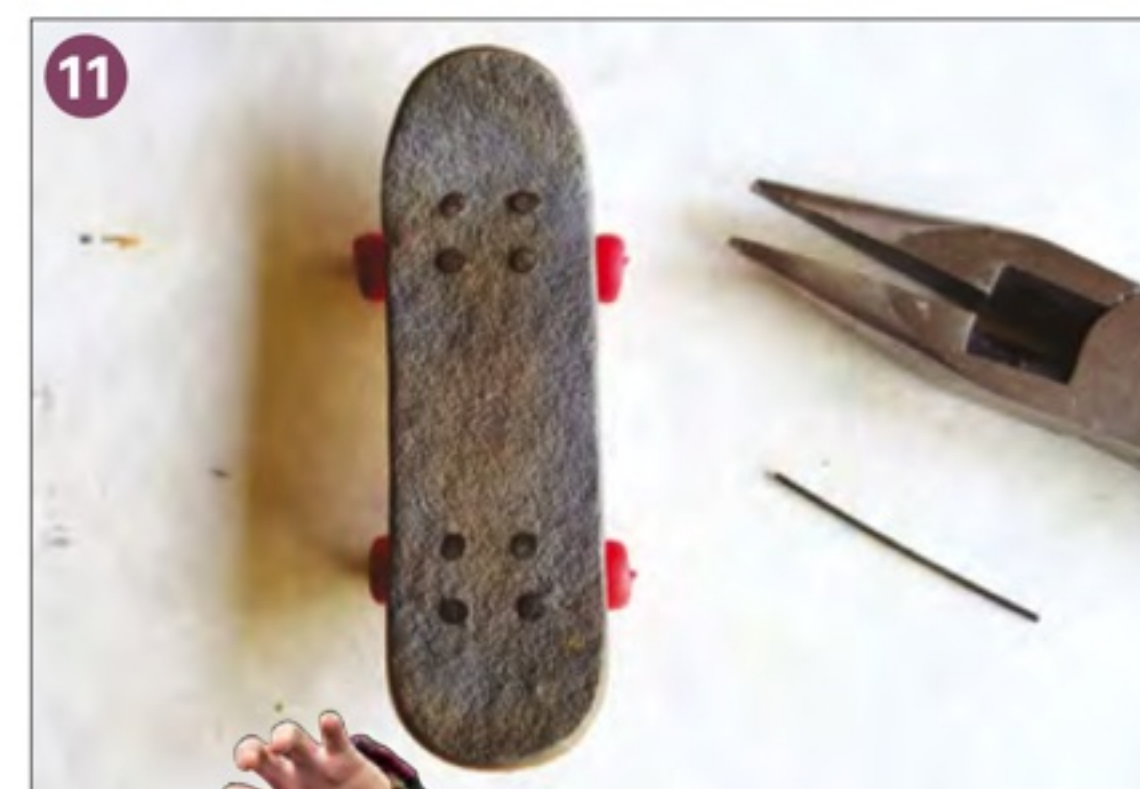


8 Mix clear gloss with a little silver mica powder to create metallic gloss. Paint the grey clay of each truck and leave to dry.

9 Decorate the underside of your skateboard deck as you wish, you can do anything. I have used yellow acrylic to paint the base then created a lightning bolt in glittery pink hot foils. Once happy with your decoration use soft pastel in browns and black to give your skateboard a grubby used look. (see left for more inspiration)

10 Secure each truck into place on the underside of the skateboard deck using strong craft glue. Leave to dry completely.

11 Take eight gunmetal colour head pins and trim each using wire cutters to roughly 2mm in length. Use pliers to glue each headpin into the eight holes created on the top of the deck in step 4. These headpins will now resemble tiny screws on the grip tape giving your board a more realistic feel. 🏠



INFORMATION

ALL TOOLS AND MATERIALS USED IN THIS PROJECT ARE WIDELY AVAILABLE FROM ANY GOOD ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP.



When Books Become Works of Art

American-born **Neale M. Albert** has one of the largest collections of miniature books in the whole of New York, all of them miniature works of art.

Neale M. Albert has a serious passion for miniature books. At his home in New York, USA, this retired corporate lawyer and his wife, Margaret, have a magnificent collection of around 3,000 miniature books, and each one is a little work of art. For Neale, it's the miniature designer bindings rather than the content of the book that he loves, and when he commissions a piece from the very best artisan miniature bookbinders throughout the world, it's sometimes years until the binding is finally completed. "You have to be patient as these things take a long time to create," said Neale.

In his eyes, these exquisitely hand-made covers that might be made from leather, wood, metal, cloth or paper, elevate the books to objects of art. He says, "A designer binding is a book binding usually made on commission and done by a binder who is not just a craftsman, but an artist." As a serious collector of miniature books, he has served two terms as President of The Miniature Book Society which was established in 1983. Miniature books are defined as being no larger than three inches in height, width or thickness in the US. Outside of the US, books up to four inches are considered miniature.

▼ Brush Up Your Shakespeare. Bound by Angela James in goatskin with red, white, and printed calfskin onlays



Throughout Neale's life he has had an interest in collecting and a fascination for small things. Miniature African Violets was something he collected to begin with, and he would fill the house with them. Then he collected English brass tobacco boxes, walking sticks, and all kinds of other beautifully made small objects. Since the 1990s Neale has had a passion for dolls houses and recalls going to the Kensington Dollshouse fair some 30 years ago. Fascinated by what he saw



Neale M. Albert with works of William Shakespeare. Bound by Jana Pribíková



there, he began to commission miniature reproductions of his favourite things. Whilst living in England, he and his wife had a weekend stay at Cliveden House in Berkshire. Inspired by this beautiful Manor House with its long and colourful history, and particularly loving its library, he commissioned a scaled room box of the library, made by miniaturists Kevin and Susan Mulvany. He then set about filling the library shelves with books.

By the time he had stocked the shelves with some 250 little books, no taller than one inch high, he had become addicted to miniature books. His collection continued to grow. He had also been introduced to the world of designer bindings of miniature books, as he explained: "I was introduced by Anne Bromer, a Boston book dealer who specialises in miniature books. Anne gave me a catalogue of a collection of these miniature artistic bindings. I decided instantly that this perfectly combined with my love of art and miniature books and that I would commission the

▲ Brush Up Your Shakespeare. Bound by David Sellars, in reversed pigskin and goatskin, with goatskin, calfskin, vellum and frogskin onlays and tooling



▲ Brush Up Your Shakespeare. Bound by Derek Hood in goatskin with multiple coloured goatskin onlays

finest book binders in the world to create bindings for me. I began to learn a lot about this fascinating world."

However, Neale never gave specific instructions to these binders. Rather, he left the designs to their own inspiration, after all, they were the experts. He continued: "So, when the completed bindings arrived, I had little, if any, idea what the binders had done. Little boxes would arrive at my home. It was like getting Christmas presents all year long. The binders responded by creating for me the incredible works of art which are in this collection.

All different. All creative. All beautiful."

With so many wonderful miniature books, Neale is hard pressed to pick a favourite. But he did mention a tiny one-

"Miniature books are no larger than 3" in height, width or thickness."



inch copy of 'La Patria' bound in 1937.

He said: "I went to a wedding in Barcelona and met Santiago Brugalla, son of the noted Spanish bookbinder, Emili Brugalla. He had a book that had been bound by Emili in 1937, the year of my birth. As it was my 70th birthday at the time, I treated myself to a copy of this miniature book."

Neale also has what is currently the second smallest book in the world. This is an edition of an Anton Chekhov short story, Chameleon, and up until 2013 when the record was broken by a Japanese book, it was recognised by the Guinness World Records as the smallest book ever printed. Chameleon measures 0.9mm x 0.9mm, has two covers and 30 pages between them. It has three colour illustrations and 11 lines of text to each page. It was made by Anatoliy Konenko of Siberia. Neale keeps it inside an ornate wooden box, under a clear protective cover, and you'll need a magnifying glass to see it. Not surprisingly, he hasn't read it.

"It's a real book, with real pages, and it's made exactly the way a full-size book would be made," he said. "Most of these books, if you just saw a photograph of it, you'd have no idea it was a miniature book. You'd have to be told or see it in the context of a hand to be able to tell. It's this detail that makes the books deceiving."

To name a few other books in his impressive collection, there's a 1923 edition of The Divine Comedy from 1921, that measures 3½" x 2¼"; and Portraits of the Sovereigns of England, which is about 2½" x 2½", bound in orange morocco with blue silk and borders trimmed in gold. **DH MS**

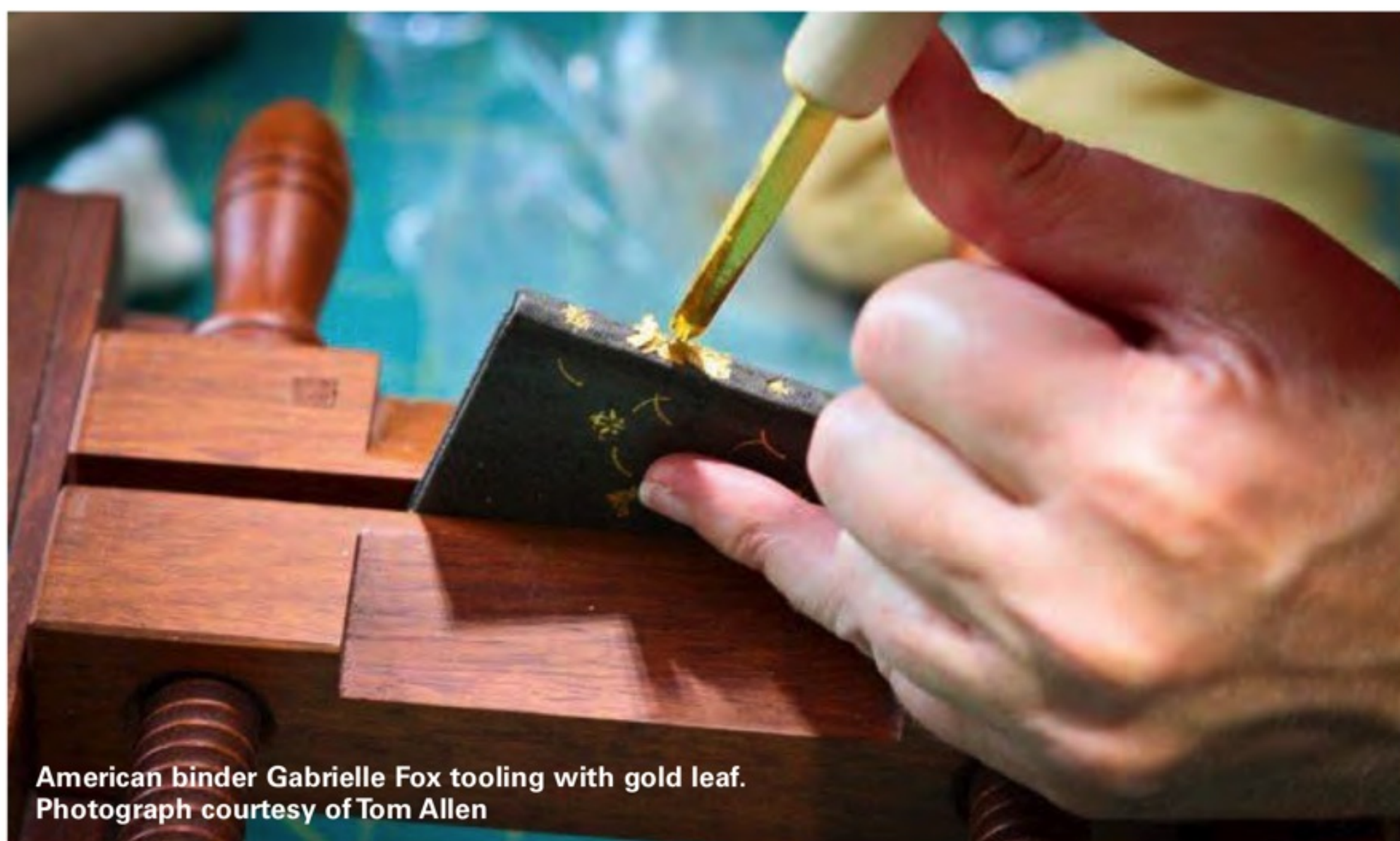
◀ Brush Up Your Shakespeare. Bound by Michael Wilcox in box binding with goatskin covers with leather onlays, gold tooling and gilt edges

Other favourites include an atlas of the British Empire containing a goatskin-bound globe; and a book purporting to contain Voltaire writings which holds a key embedded in its cover to open the little book of erotica hidden inside.

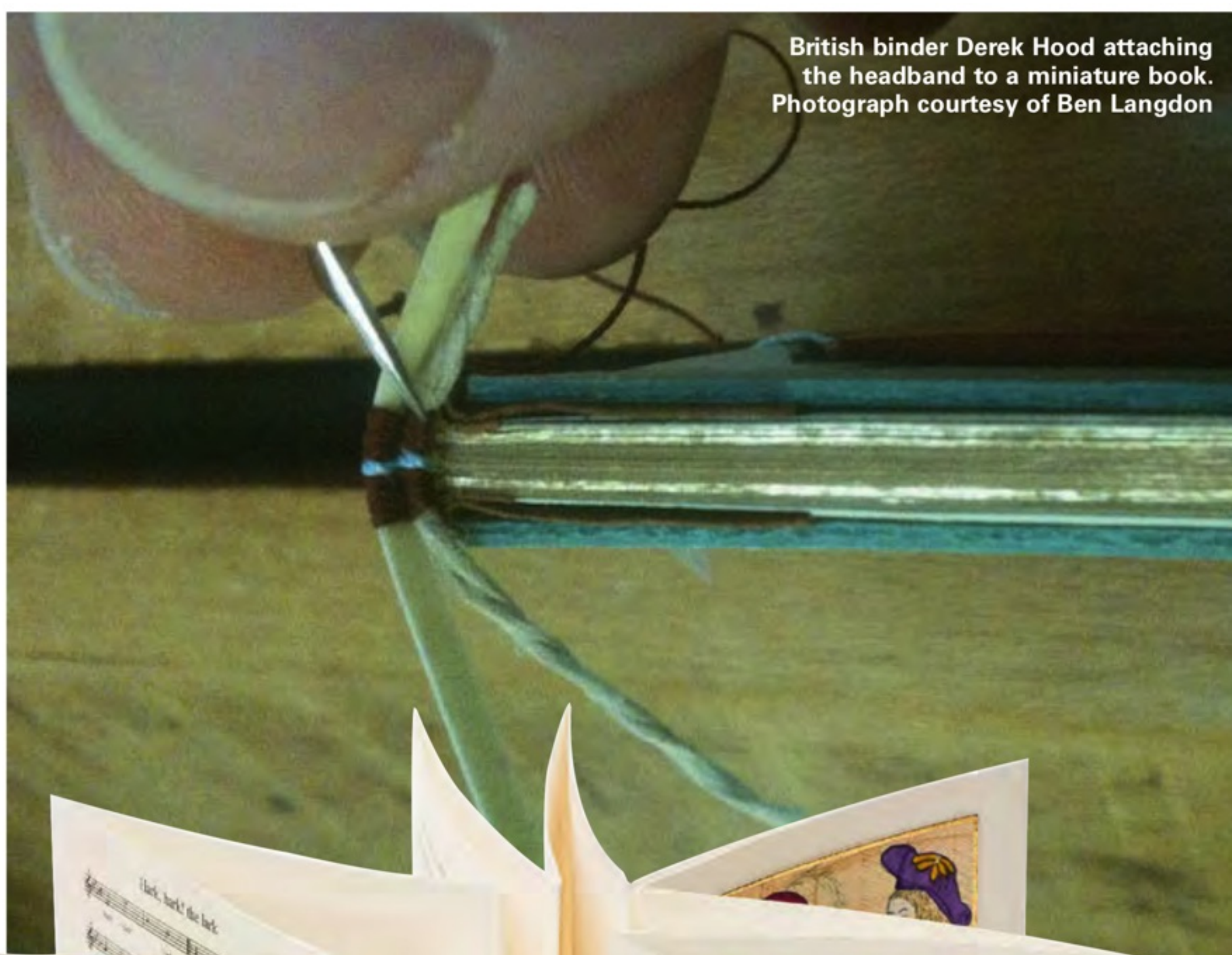
Neale also has the complete works of Shakespeare in miniature, with plays, sonnets and books inspired by Shakespeare. In 2016, around 100 of his miniature books were part of an exhibition held at the Yale Centre for British Art. His exhibition was entitled 'The Poet of The All' and it ran from June to August 2016. At the heart of his exhibition were 39 copies of a miniature book illustrating the lyrics and music to the song, 'Brush Up Your Shakespeare,' from Cole Porter's 1948 musical, Kiss Me, Kate. Neale acquired the rights to produce 50 copies, he made the books himself and then commissioned different miniature book binders to create the covers. As always, he gave them a free hand in the cover's design, leaving it to their own interpretation, simply suggesting it be the finest binding they had ever done!

Neale has combined his experience and knowledge of the outstanding bookbinders of the world, in his book, The Neale M. Albert Collection of Miniature Designer Binders.

He concluded: "Collecting isn't about having things, it's about finding things and learning about them." 🏠



American binder Gabrielle Fox tooling with gold leaf. Photograph courtesy of Tom Allen



British binder Derek Hood attaching the headband to a miniature book. Photograph courtesy of Ben Langdon



▲ Shakespeare to Music. Printed and bound by Stephen Byrne, in black leather with inset embroidered panel by Marian Byrne, illustrated by Marian Byrne



INFORMATION

Photographs courtesy of The Yale Centre for British Art.

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Melted Ice Cream Cone Cake

If you like ice cream and cake, why not combine the two with this 1/12th scale creation? This is such a fun project to make, and you could change the colours of the icing and the ice cream to recreate your favourite flavours. Add as few or as many decorations as you want: the possibilities are infinite. Taken

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Polymer clay in dark brown, lavender, raw sienna, beige, vanilla mixed with a little translucent and white, and scrap clay
- Soft pastels in earth tones
- Liquid polymer clay (I used FIMO Liquid)
- Nail caviar
- Acrylic paint in warm brown
- Gloss and matte varnishes

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Pasta machine or rolling pin
- Round cutter
- Flat tool
- Blade
- Toothbrush
- Needle tool
- Toothpick
- Tweezers
- Small paintbrush
- Dotting tool
- Detail tool

Maive's Top Tip!

"To smooth down the top, I like to keep the flat tool in place and rotate the dish."

HOW TO ICE A CAKE



1 Roll out a sheet of vanilla polymer clay and a sheet of scrap clay through the thickest setting of your pasta machine. Cut out one circle of vanilla and four circles of scrap clay. It doesn't matter what colour these are, as they won't be visible in the final product. Stack the circles together on an oven-proof dish starting with the vanilla layer. Part-bake.



2 Make some lavender buttercream mix and use it to cover the cake. Use a flat tool to smooth down the buttercream as much as possible. Part-bake.

HOW TO MAKE A DOUGHNUT



3 Mix white polymer clay with a little yellow and raw sienna. Roll out into strands and cut six pieces. Roll into balls and flatten. Using the end of a brush, push into the centre to create a hole. Repeat on the opposite side. Use a detail tool to add a line around the centre. Turn it over, gently texture the base with a toothbrush and dust with soft pastels.





4 Spread lavender icing on the doughnut and add a few stripes of chocolate.

HOW TO MAKE A MACARON



5 To make the macaron shells, mix the vanilla clay with a little white so that it looks like white chocolate. Roll out a thin strand and cut out even pieces. Roll the pieces into four balls and flatten them into a slightly domed shape. Then use a needle tool to texture the bottom edges.



6 Once the macaron shells are baked and cool, brush a little liquid polymer clay on the inside and press a small ball of dark brown clay into one of them. Take another shell and gently press it on the clay until you can see the chocolate reach the edges. Make the second macaron the same way. Part-bake the macaron shells and the doughnut.

HOW TO MAKE AN ICE CREAM



7 Make an ice cream cone using light beige polymer clay. Roll with a crosshatching tool to create the texture and cut out in a circle before rolling into a cone shape. Line the inside of the cone with liquid polymer clay and fill it with chocolate clay. Roll a separate ball to make the melted ice cream.



8 Once your cake is baked and cool, spread a little liquid polymer clay or chocolate icing where you want your ice cream to be and press the ball of chocolate clay on it. Then take the cone and press it onto the ice cream scoop.

FINISHING



9 Add some texture to the ice cream with a toothpick and a toothbrush.



10 Use a dotting tool to spread some chocolate icing around the ice cream and only on the top of the cake at this point. Place your baked doughnut, gently pressing it into the ice cream for support.



11 Place one macaron in front of the doughnut and use a brush to dab some chocolate icing around the top edge of the cone. DH MS





12 To make the drips, mix the chocolate icing with a little more solid clay to make it stiffer. Use a small dotting tool to drag it down the cake. I like to make the drips a little thicker than icing, so that they hold more shape, appear more three-dimensional and don't run down the cake and collect at the bottom.



13 Use a dotting tool to create little 'bridges' between the drips. Then take some more chocolate mix and fill in the gaps.



14 Once you've made all the drips, place your second macaron, using the drips as glue.



15 As a final touch, add some nail caviar. I didn't sprinkle them but used tweezers to place them carefully, to prevent them from accumulating in unwanted places. Bake.



16 Add a little more colour to the cone using warm brown acrylic paint. Glaze the doughnut and chocolate drips with gloss varnish and the cone with a little matte varnish. 🏠



INFORMATION

Miniature Cake Creations by Maive Ferrando, GMC Publications, RRP £16.99, available online and from all good bookshops.

ALL TOOLS AND MATERIALS USED IN THIS PROJECT ARE WIDELY AVAILABLE FROM ANY GOOD ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP.



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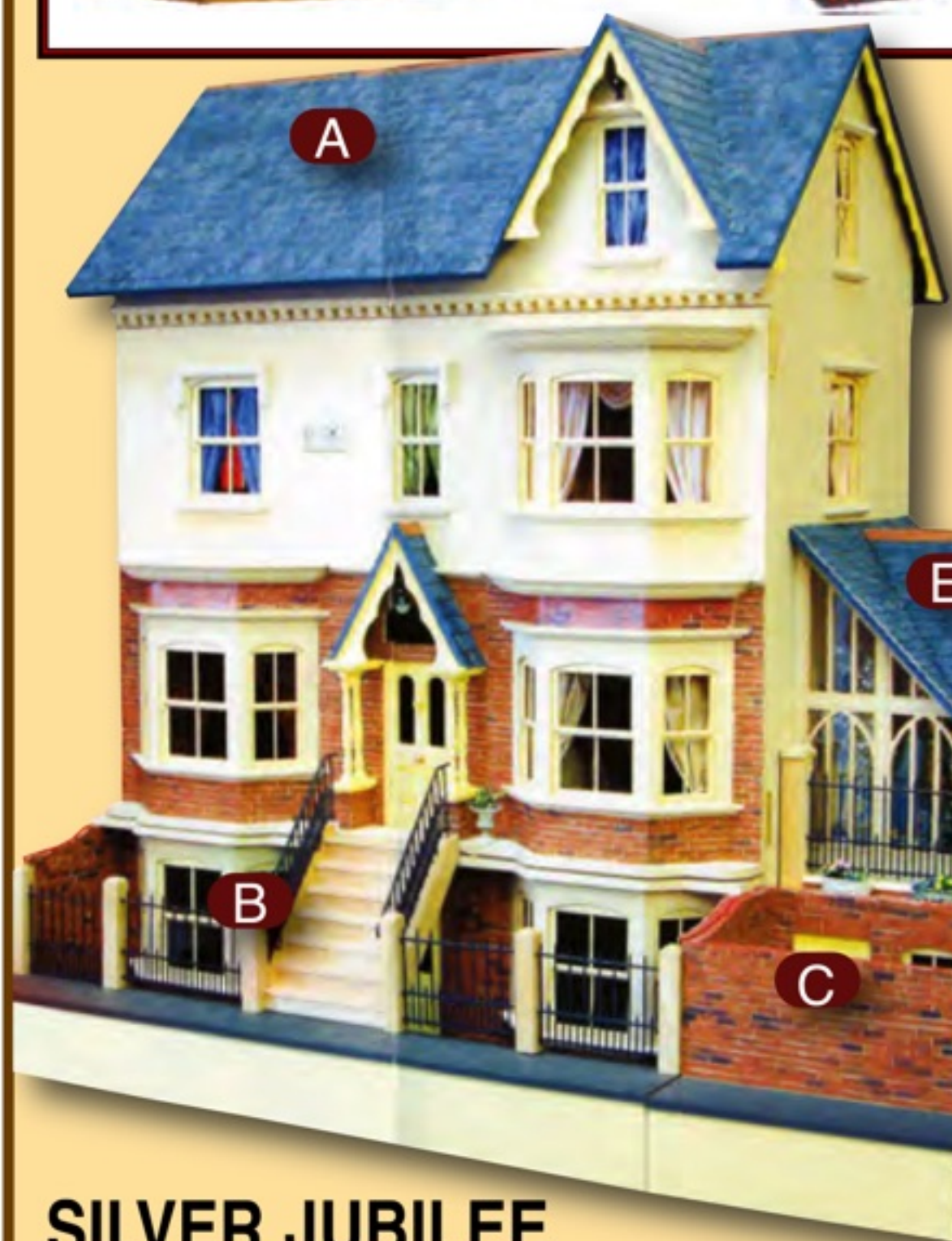


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Kensington Dollhouse

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Exhibitors in Bold are new or returnees to the Christmas Show. List correct at time of printing.

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Katty Korner
Kleine Archin
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Turkish Ship Rug
by Sue Ressegule

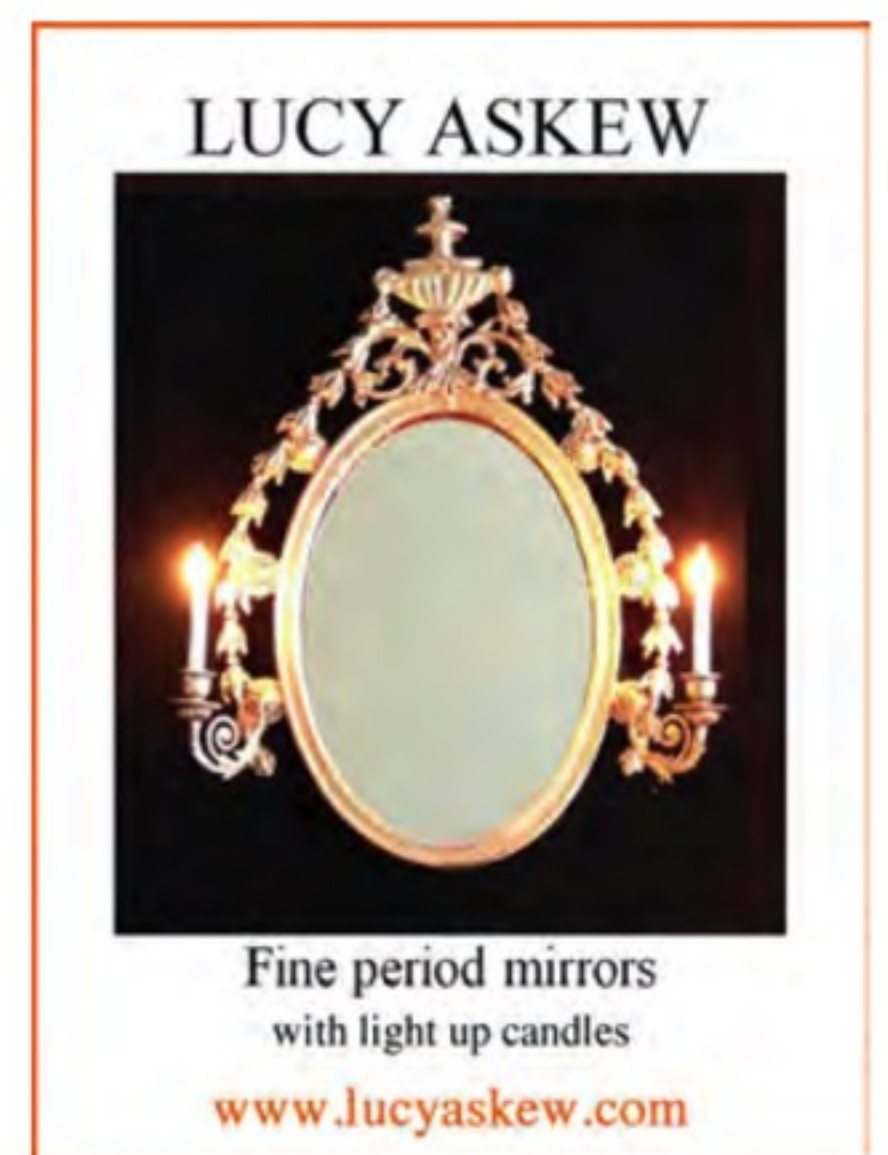
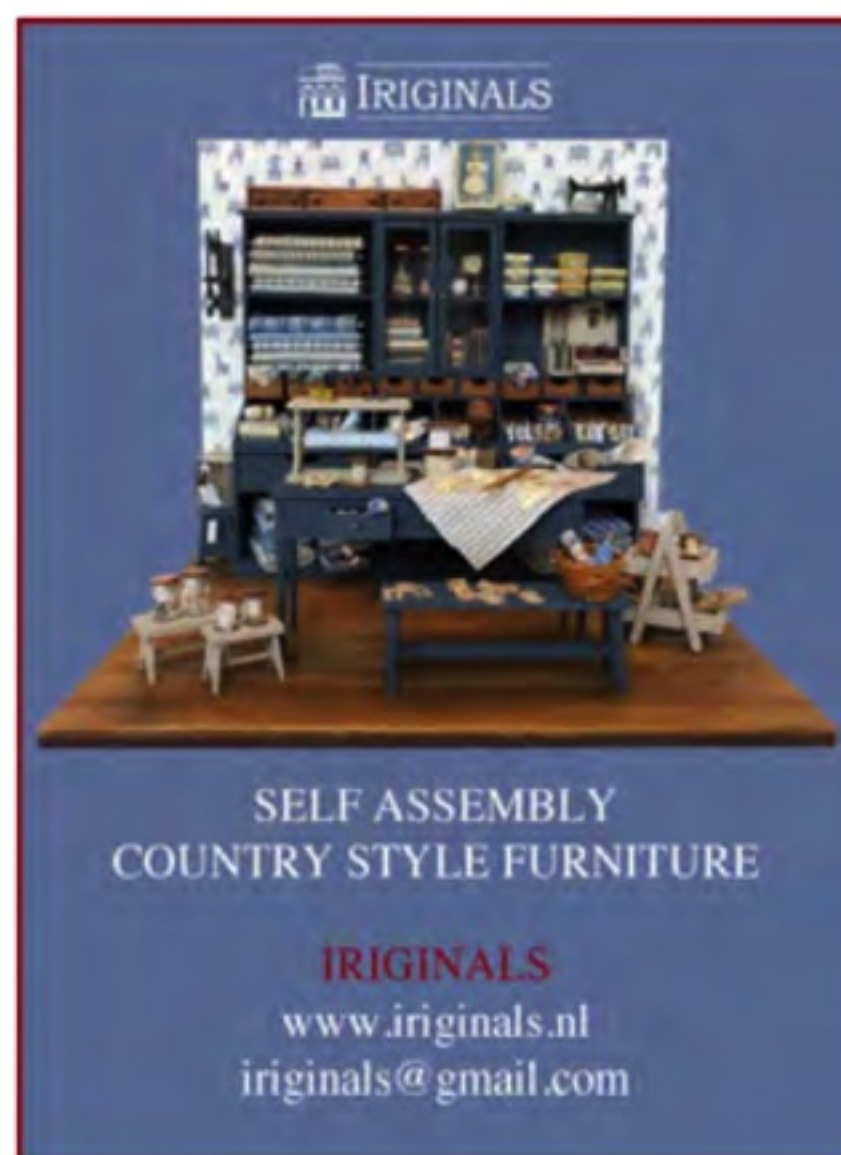
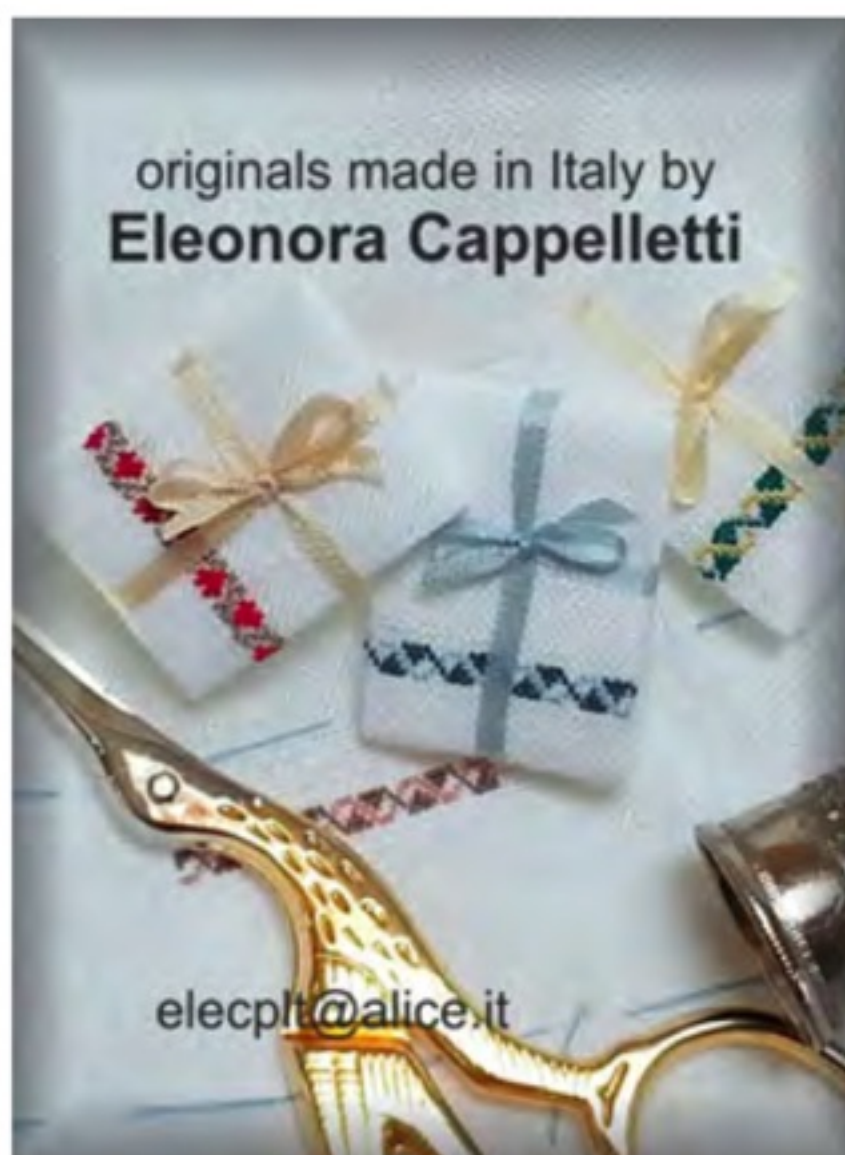
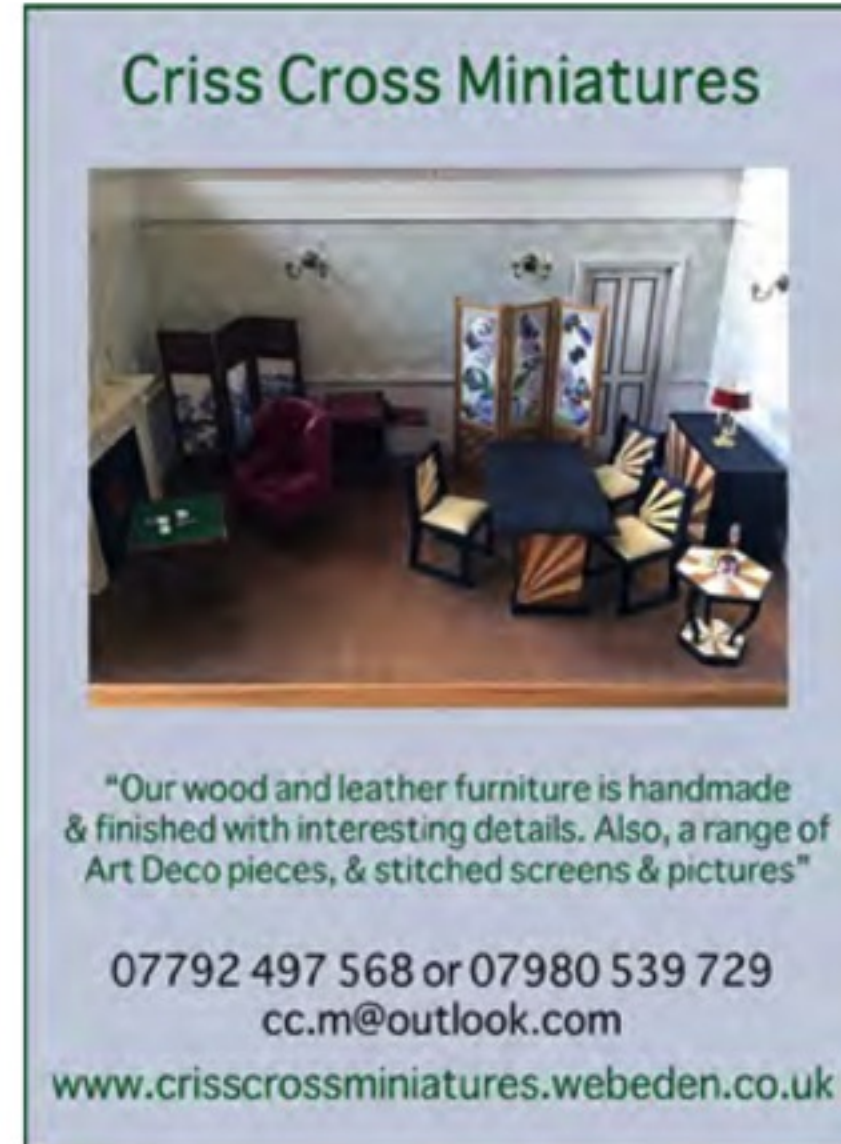
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ACROSS THE POND

See what's new and on trend in the miniature world as **Kate Ünver** of The Daily Mini shares with us her favourite artisans. This month Kate introduces us to **Michael Yurkovic**, a miniaturist who bridges modernism into post-war American suburban migration and urban living. You can connect with Kate via Twitter: **@thedailymini** or via her website: **www.thedailymini.com**



FULL NAME:
Michael Yurkovic

CITY/STATE OF RESIDENCE:
Chicago, Illinois, USA

HOW DID YOU GET INTO MODERN MINIATURE MAKING?

My industrial design background has driven my interest in mid-century modern miniatures from the very start. I bring in a variety of experience as an industrial designer, toy inventor, technical illustrator, and machinist to each piece I create in miniature.

WHAT PERIOD OF MODERN DESIGN DO YOU SPECIALISE IN?

The post World War II era is a period I find particularly fascinating because of the integration of new technologies into everyday-life objects.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON LATELY?

My latest works are inspired by stories or narratives, which guide the creation of a new piece, often developing organically with the project.



Replica of the soundstage for the television show, *The Mindy Project*. All elements of the interior created by the artist, with the exception of the rug. Commissioned by D. Thomas Fine Miniatures and presented to actress Mindy Kaling



A Hemingway typewriter, painted to match actual prototype. Features actual Hemingway type written manuscripts.

Q: WHAT IS THE DAILYMINIATURE?

A: It's a digitally curated space that showcases internationally renowned artists and designers working in small scale
Follow along on @dailymini!



Gas Pump vignette collaboration with Beth Freeman-Kane. Piece features light-up glass done, vintage oil cans, and beautiful wild life additions by Beth to this piece titles 'Oasis'.



Eames furniture collection for home or office. Unique red 'cat's cradle' shell chair and low side wire based table, along with the classic rocker and 'Eiffel Tower' wire based side chair. Storage unit is an early prototype, pre-production version



WHO ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE MID-CENTURY MODERN DESIGNERS?

Charles and Ray Eames, Eero Saarinen, George Nelson, and Isamu Noguchi are a few of the designers I draw inspiration from. But I don't shy away from creating my own designs within the mid-century modern language.

WHERE DO YOU LOOK FOR INSPIRATION?

Inspiration finds me. I don't consciously set about looking for it, but stay open to visuals, narratives, social interactions, and more for what seems a never-ending supply of potential explorations. There is no shortage of concepts, just the question of where to focus one's energy.

WHERE CAN PEOPLE GO TO SEE YOUR MODERN MINIATURES?

My works are on view at The Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the KSB Miniatures Collection in Maysville, Kentucky.

WHAT IS THE FIRST PROJECT YOU'LL WORK ON IN 2020?

I'll be doing a deep dive into my 1940s streamlined diner. This edition of five pieces will attempt to capture the spirit of the newly developing diner culture of that era. I've completed many hours of research and construction is already underway. Also, I regularly teach workshops around the United States, and will expand my schedule in 2020 to include the Netherlands, London, and Denmark. 🏠



INFORMATION

To see more of Michael's work visit:
🌐 www.atomicminiature.com

MGM Fairs

MGM Fairs usually have free demonstrations at their dollhouse and miniature fairs

Saturday, 26th October 2019

Holt Community Centre, Kerridge Way
HOLT, Norfolk, NR25 6DN

Saturday 2nd November 2019

Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawsons Corner,
PUDSEY, LEEDS LS28 5TA

Sunday 17th November 2019

Bentley Heath Community Centre,
Widney Road, Bentley Heath
SOLIHULL B93 9BQ

Sunday 5 January 2020

Westpoint Conference Centre, Westpoint, Clyst St. Mary,
EXETER, EX5 1 DJ

Saturday 12 January 2020

Members Pavilion, County Showground, Weston Road,
STAFFORD, ST18 0BD

Sunday 16 February 2020

The Grand Pavilion, The Esplanade,
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Swimming in Detail

From contemporary wall tanks to leaping fish, life in the miniature goldfish bowl is never dull, as we discover with artisan, **Fátima Dõna**.

A miniature leap

Creating an element of motion in a static miniature is not an easy task, yet artisan, Fátima Dõna, who studied Fine Arts in Brussels and Madrid, achieves this in spectacular fashion as her goldfish are found quite literally jumping from their bowls! The way she captures that split second in time as the water sprays everywhere ensures her goldfish bowls are always going to be an eye catching talking point in any dolls house. "My main source of inspiration is nature," says Fátima. "I really like water and especially love the sea and marine life. My motivation was to create fish in miniature in the most realistic way possible, striving to achieve that transparency of the body and fins, the movement, and the iridescent shine of the scales."



◀ Black Moor Goldfish

▼ Fátima has an eye for detail, no matter how small



Fátima's designs jump off the page



Sadie creates the illusion of water on
PAGE 41



A lifelong artist and sculptor who also specialises in art restoration, Fátima has found herself fascinated by miniatures and architectural models since childhood. She tells me that she is also completely obsessed with water and spent a number of years working with a variety of different resins to find the perfect, transparent material. "Some smelled very bad and were sticky, others were not completely transparent, others were yellowing rapidly over time due to the effect of the light, others had many bubbles and it did not look good through them. It was a trial and error process." Fátima's efforts have paid off, and her incredibly realistic goldfish bowls and modern aquariums showcase the equally realistic fish which inhabit them.

True to life

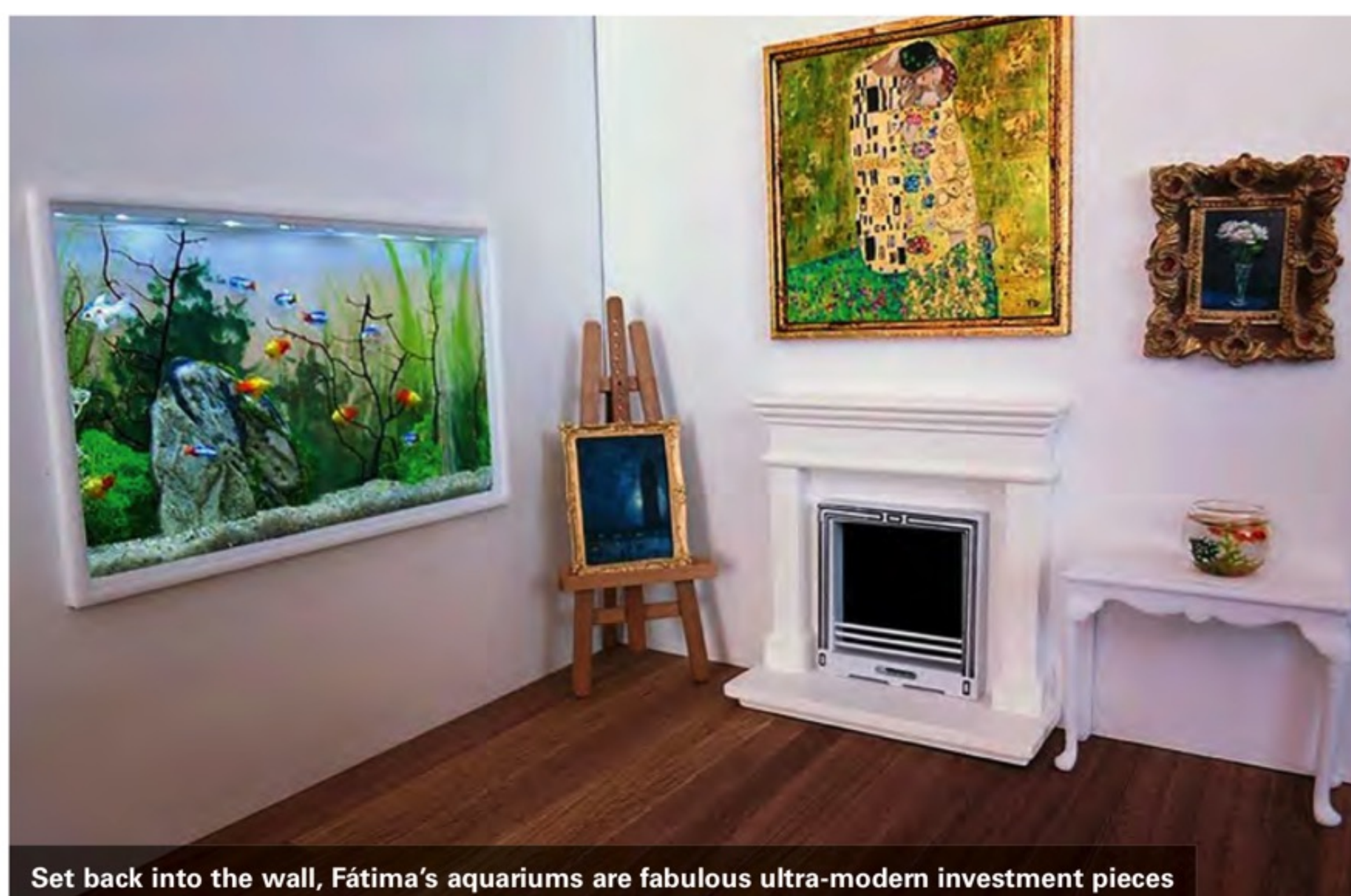
As someone who spent many happy hours gazing at the tanks in the fish shop next door to the family business as a child I can testify just how realistic they are. No mean feat in such small scale, Fátima sculpts each fish individually from polymer clay, using wooden toothpicks, extremely thin needles and a spatula usually used for oil painting. "I know that there are specific miniature modelling tools, sculpting tools used by dentists, etc., but I have tried them, and I prefer these," she says, proving that being a miniaturist doesn't have to be a costly pastime with expensive equipment. "I manage better with them. I discovered that by making very thin layers of polymer clay, these were translucent, that's perfect for the fins of the fish. Clay is a very soft material and you must work it carefully, it's important that the layer is thin, but thick enough so that it does not break, to be able to work with it and shape it. After sculpting them, I paint them to give the shine and colour of the scales, with a lot of care and sometimes with the help of magnifying glasses!"

Trendsetting

Fátima's ultra-modern aquariums, are, with the ability to inset them into the wall, very much at the forefront of interior design. They are also a work of art in their own right, and are something Fátima has perfected with a combination of skill, observation, talent and most importantly of all, imagination. "The first time I was commissioned to create a large wall tank, I wasn't sure if I'd be able to do it," she recalls. "I didn't not have much control over the resin and the bubbles, I'd never made such a large aquarium before. 



The full aquarium experience!



Set back into the wall, Fátima's aquariums are fabulous ultra-modern investment pieces



An ornamental design

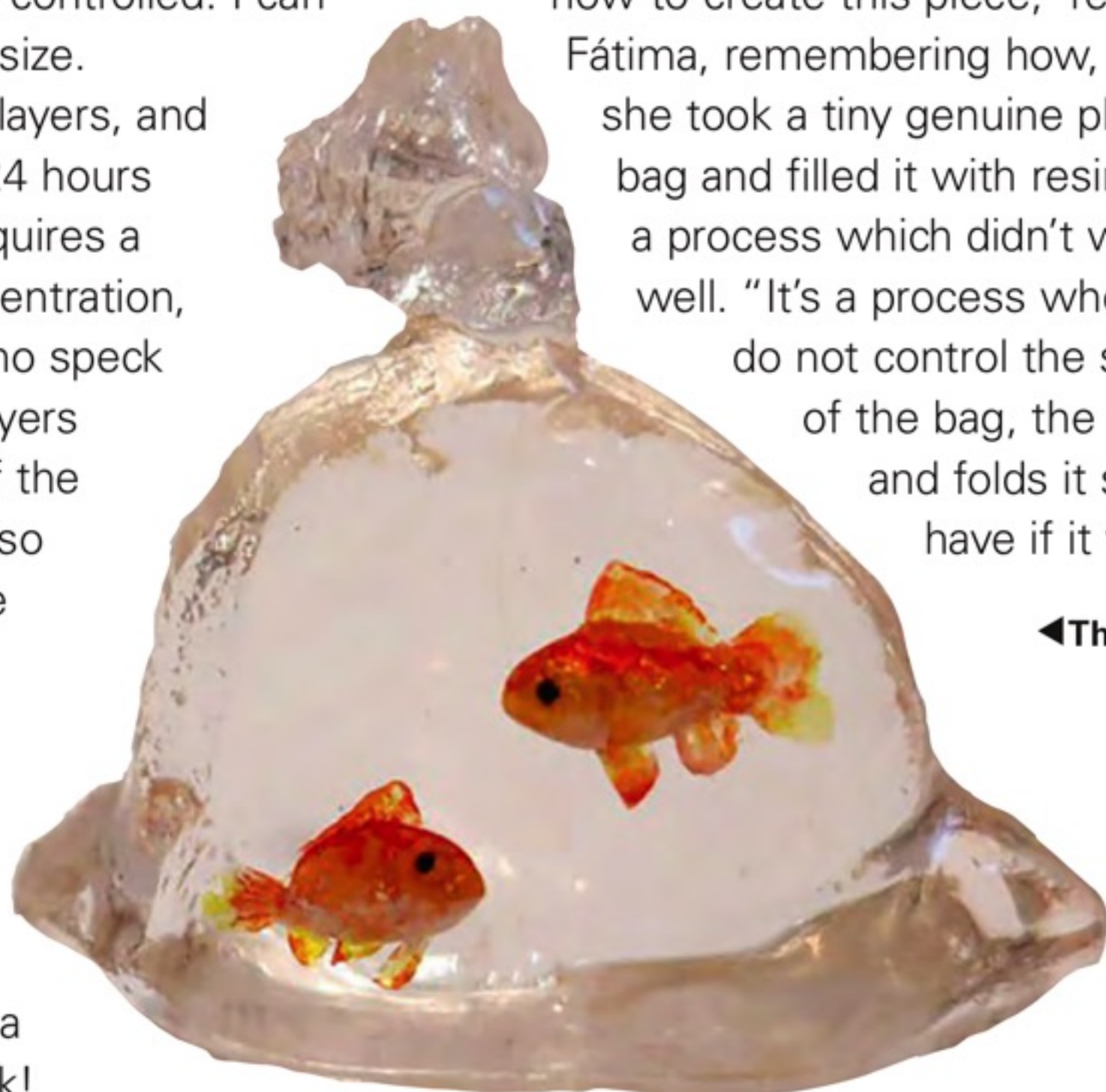


Alive with detail!

In fact, the first wall tank I made took me more than a month and a half of full time work. The design and the fish were very good, but the resin had lots of bubbles in the layers, and when you turned on the top aquarium light, it bounced off the bubbles and the whole aquarium looked cloudy." Starting against from scratch, Fátima then had to recreate every single piece, including the fish, but says that the experience taught her a lot. "I now have all the process variables controlled. I can make aquariums of any size. The aquarium is built in layers, and each layer takes about 24 hours to dry. It is a job that requires a lot of patience and concentration, and it is important that no speck of dust falls while the layers dry." At the other end of the spectrum, Fátima has also been inspired by vintage aquariums, and her beautiful, handmade seahorse design stands are a joy to behold, adding another point of interest what is already a fascinating piece of work!

All bagged up

Who else remembers the excitement of bringing home that first goldfish in its clear plastic bag and allowing it to sit in the tank, as he or she began to adapt to their new home? Fátima's tiny goldfish in amazingly realistic plastic bags perfectly recreate this moment in miniature! "I like challenges, or at least miniature challenges, so I started thinking about how to create this piece," recalls Fátima, remembering how, initially, she took a tiny genuine plastic bag and filled it with resin, a process which didn't work out well. "It's a process where you do not control the shape of the bag, the weight and folds it should have if it were



◀ The idea's in the bag!



◀ Fish meets pirate ship!

“I like challenges,
or at least miniature
challenges.”

Fátima

really in 1/12th scale, nor the transparency. On the other hand, if the plastic bag has a hole, the resin comes out. In addition, the external plastic bag is a material which deteriorates very quickly. Always think about using suitable materials so that the piece be preserved over time!” Going back to the drawing board, Fátima went on to create a model of a small bag using polymer clay, using it to make a silicone mold which she now uses to produce the final perfect product from resin.

Fátima knows the different varieties of fish very well indeed and has gathered many favourites. “I especially like the veil tail Goldfish, and the Betta fish, because of the length and beauty of their fins, which look like silk veils that create shapes in the water. They’re hypnotic for me,” she says, also citing the Betta fish as the aquatic creature she has found the most complex to create in miniature. “It’s also difficult to make jellyfish. I made a jellyfish aquarium some time ago, but I’m not very happy with the result. I’m trying other ways to make them, they’re very ethereal and transparent creatures. I hope to make an aquarium with them.”

Fátima likes to ensure that she always creates something which holds elements of nature within and her favourite aquariums are those will follow the rules of the craft of aquascaping, or underwater gardening. This is something which also allows her to focus on those imperfections which ensure a miniature has that real feel to it. “For example, flee from symmetry, don’t put the point of interest right in the centre,” she suggests. “It’s important to look for beauty in the unfinished shapes and the irregular, or the forms that are not completely perfect.”

The museum of life

As a small girl, a friend of Fátima’s mother owned a dolls house which she describes as a magical world. It was here that Fátima’s enthusiasm for small scale began to take hold. “Once I made a mini

notebook on a round pendant and I wrote my school homework on it,” she says. “The teachers were surprised and laughed a lot that day!” Fátima also has fond life shaping memories of visiting a miniatures museum with her grandmother, where she found herself both surprised and fascinated by the tiny items from across the globe on display. These included scenes painted on a grain of rice or a lentil. “For me that was a wonderful world where everything was possible. I never could never have imagined, that many years later, some of my miniatures would be exhibited in that museum!”

With an ability to capture her aquatic worlds to such a true to life extent, I have to ask, does Fátima have any real fish of her own? “It’s a paradox, but right now I don’t have any real fish in my life,” she laughs. “I’ve had many fish though. I’d love to have an aquarium, but it requires a lot of care, knowledge and time. I hope, one day, to have a large wall aquarium in my living room!”

Also extremely well known to many miniaturists for her beautiful tiny paintings and books, Fátima certainly doesn’t live in a goldfish bowl and her passion for detail



▼ A work in progress



Bubble
Eye fish

Turn to
PAGE 36
to crochet your
very own
goldfish!

▲ Miniature magic!
Fátima has become
skilled at creating tiny
ships in bottles

stretches beyond the glass walls of the aquarium! She even sets sail on the miniature high seas with her exemplary,

not to mention tiny, ships in a bottle. “I have always liked ships in a bottle, I think it is a very poetic element that reminds me of long journeys on the sea,” smiles Fátima. “In my first attempt, I made the boat with the folding sails to put it inside the bottle as you would in normal scale, but it didn’t work. So, I made the boat first and then added the bottle around it. The boat is modeled with clay in its entirety and then painted. I am now working on new bottle designs with a greater degree of detail and different bottle shapes.” This is definitely a voyage we’ll be going on with Fátima and can’t wait to see what sails and swims into her miniature world next. 🏠



INFORMATION

To see more of Fátima’s visit:

🌐 www.fatimadona.com

Gary the Goldfish

With over 300 issues in the back catalogue, the DHMS team have been delving deep (no pun intended) to find features and projects from well-respected and popular artisans.

This cute 1/12th scale crocheted goldfish was first published in September 2016.

YOU WILL NEED

(If you want to use worsted weight yarn you'll have to choose the right hook size).

- Orange sewing thread (size nr.100), one strand of black for the eyes
- Hook: 0.5 mm (USA #20) (Mariella stitched the eyes with French knots but if you prefer you can use tiny round beads or black nail varnish)
- Sewing needle
- Polyester fibrefill
- Small tweezers or a toothpick for stuffing
- 1/12th Scale dolls house bowl
- Coloured sand
- One pin
- A little bit of a natural sponge or extra tiny shells
- White glue

ABBREVIATIONS

- beg - begin/beginning
- ch - chain
- rnd(s) - round(s)
- dec - decrease
- inc - increase
- sc - slip stitch (same as USA sl)
- dc - double crochet (same as USA sc)
- tr - treble crochet (same as USA dc)
- dtr - double treble crochet (same as USA tr)
- dc2tog - double crochet 2 stitches together
- tog - together
- st - stitch
- lp(s) - loops
- FO - fasten off
- [...] - Sets apart a group of stitches to be repeated as a whole

BODY

Round 1 - Make an adjustable ring and work 4 dc into the ring, (OR ch 2, 4 dc in 2nd ch from hook), do not join, place a marker to mark the first stitch of the next round (4 sts);

Round 2 - [2 dc in each st] 4 times (8 sts);

Round 3 - dc in each st around (8 sts);

Round 4 - [dc in next st, 2 dc in next st] 4 times (12 sts);

Rounds 5-7 - dc in each st around (12 sts);



Stuff the body with tiny pieces of fibrefill using small tweezers, or a toothpick. (Do not overstuff or the goldfish will look like a puffer fish!)

Round 8 - [dc in next st, dc2tog] 4 times (8 sts);

Round 9 - dc in each st around (8 sts);

Round 10 - fold in half and work 4 dc, turn (4 sts);

Before working the last two stitches complete the stuffing.

Round 11 - in the first stitch work: 4 ch, 2dtr, 1tr, 2 ch – 2 sc in the next stitches – in the last stitch work: 4 ch, 2dtr, 1tr, 2 ch, 1sc.

Finish off. Secure the closure and hide the thread end inside the body.

FINS

When working with such small detail try to crochet the fins directly on the back. Find the position where you want your fins to be, then thread a hook and make a loop in the holes between two stitches and work: 1dc, 1tr, in one stitch, and 1tr, 2ch, 1sc in next stitch. Thread again the needle and do the same on the underside of the body. Run the thread through the body, to hide it, and then cut the remaining thread.

EYES

Embroider the eyes on the side of the face using a French knot, wrapping twice the black thread on the needle. If you can't make a French knot use tiny round black beads or make teeny tiny dots with black nail varnish (with the help of a toothpick or a needle).

GLASS BOWL

Put some white glue on the base of the glass bowl with the help of a cotton swab and spread the coloured sand. Do not use Super Glue or the glass will become dull. Glue around the bowl some shells or a little piece of sponge leaving the centre of the bowl free. Cut off the back of the pin leaving a length of 10mm, dab a dot of glue on the back of the pin and glue it in the centre of the bowl. Hold down the pin for a couple of minutes so it doesn't bend and allow to dry overnight. Once dry, with the help of a pair of tweezers, put your goldfish on the pin and enjoy it! 



Peter the Parrot can be seen in the April 2016 issue. Turn to PAGE 56 for more information



Tips and tricks for embroidery!

- To start your work make an adjustable ring. The advantage of this method is that, unlike the regular "chain 2, x single crochet in 2nd chain from hook" method, there is no hole left in the middle of your starting round.

- Crochet in continuous spirals without joining the rounds. To do this simply work into the first stitch of the previous round and each stitch thereafter.

- You will need a stitch marker to keep track of where the beginning of each round starts (in such a small scale use a piece of thread in a different colour); move the marker to the beginning of each round after the previous round is completed.

- Rounds are worked in a counterclockwise direction, usually with the right side facing. Each row is described completely in the pattern. At the end of each row you can read what the number of stitches are for that particular round (and if you count the stitches you can avoid the use of a stitch marker!).

- You can crochet your item in different colours. When you are changing yarn colour, begin the stitch with the first colour. After the "yarn over" grab the second colour with the hook and bring it through both loops on the hook to complete the stitch, thus allowing the next stitch to be entirely the second colour. Work over the end of the new colour for 2 or 3 stitches to secure.



- To avoid holes when you decrease use the "invisible decrease". Insert the hook into the front loop of the first stitch, then into the front loop of the next stitch, yarn over and draw through both loops on the hook. This technique allows you to make single crochet decreases nearly invisible.



The finished size:

Depends on what kind of thread you use, the thinner the thread the smaller the goldfish. The hook size I mention is a suggested size. If you crochet more firmly or looser than I do, you will need a smaller or a larger hook size. A larger hook and thicker thread will give you bigger stitches and bigger goldfish.

York Dolls House and Miniatures Fair Preview



The countdown is on!

The York Dolls House & Miniatures Fair to be held at York Racecourse on Sunday 10th November 2019 is only a matter of weeks away with over 90 specialist exhibitors from around the country displaying quality dolls houses and miniatures. At the fair you will find everything that you need for your dolls house, model or project, and it's all under one roof! This is an excellent chance to stock up on essential modelling items, find a bargain or treat yourself to some new accessories. You will be amazed by the size and variety of the show and will be able to get everything for your build or project. The quality trade stands selling every imaginable miniature in a variety of scales are spread out over three floors and there's plenty of space to take a break to sit down with a drink or to review your shopping list.

As well as fabulous shopping you will have the opportunity to get some industry inside tips at one of the roundtable workshops.

The show opens at 10.30am and closes at 4.00pm.

Pre-booked admission is only £4.00 for adults and £1.50 for children. On the door admission is £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children. There is plenty of free parking plus a free show guide with map.

To book today or for further information visit:

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CJ Miniatures specialise in the smaller scales and carry a large range of 1/48th scale kits. They are the UK agents for Petworth Miniatures of Canada and stock their range of laser cut wooden furniture and book room kits. They also stock a number of Seaside Miniatures kits, together with interesting 'bits and pieces.'

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There's always something new to see on the stand at Delph Miniatures, and this year is no exception. Here's just one of their new items, a medication fridge, originally designed for a customer, ideal for any surgery, doctors room, hospital or vets! Pop over to their stand to see what else you can spot!

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Criss Cross Miniatures

The Criss Cross team moved house earlier this year which has involved setting up a new workshop. By the end of July it was in a useable state, so they were able to produce new items including an 'Arts and Crafts' sofa and a lovely fantasy themed chair and footstool, for your weary elves and witches! There are more ideas in the pipeline, so watch this space!

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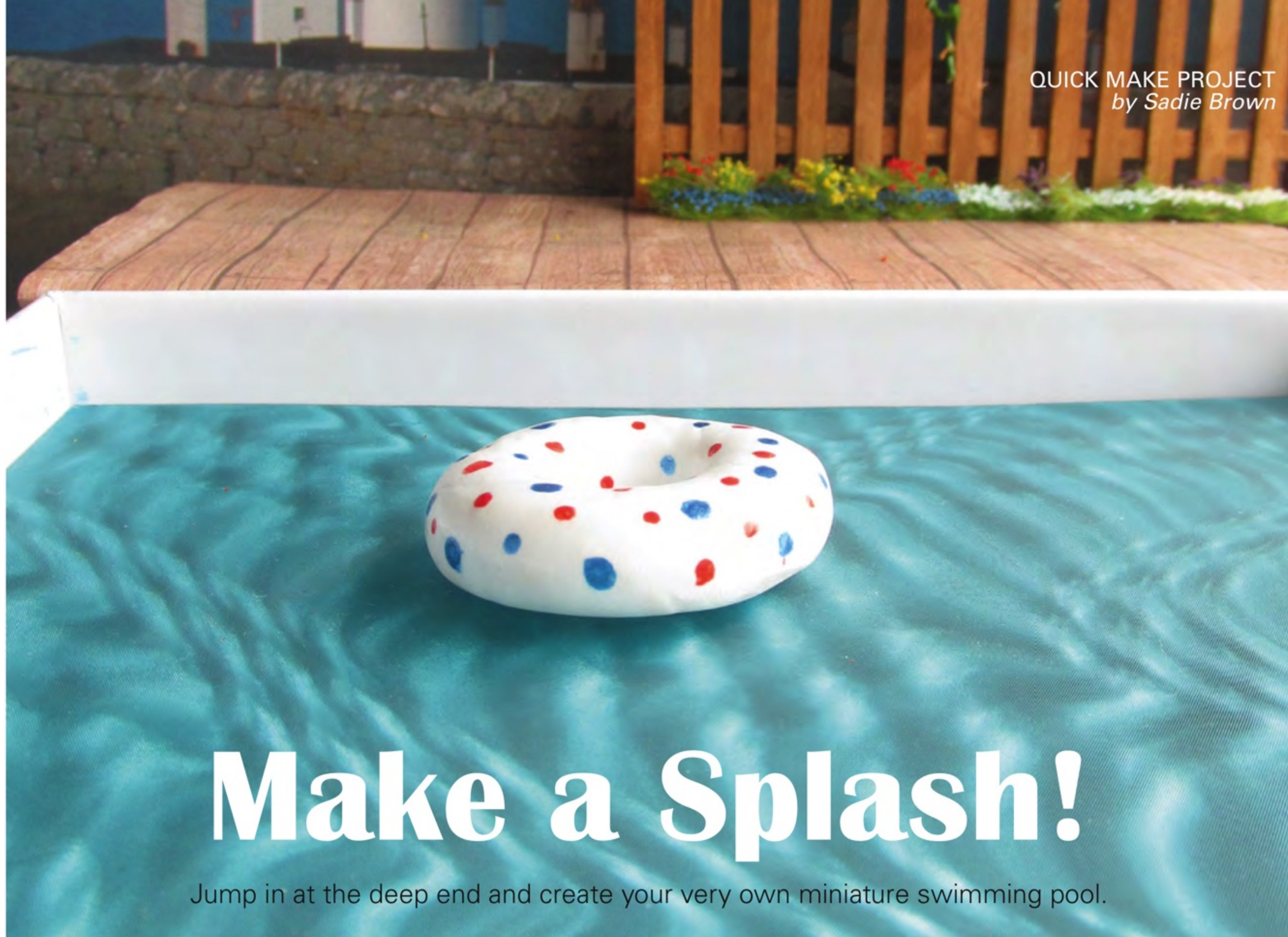
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Make a Splash!

Jump in at the deep end and create your very own miniature swimming pool.

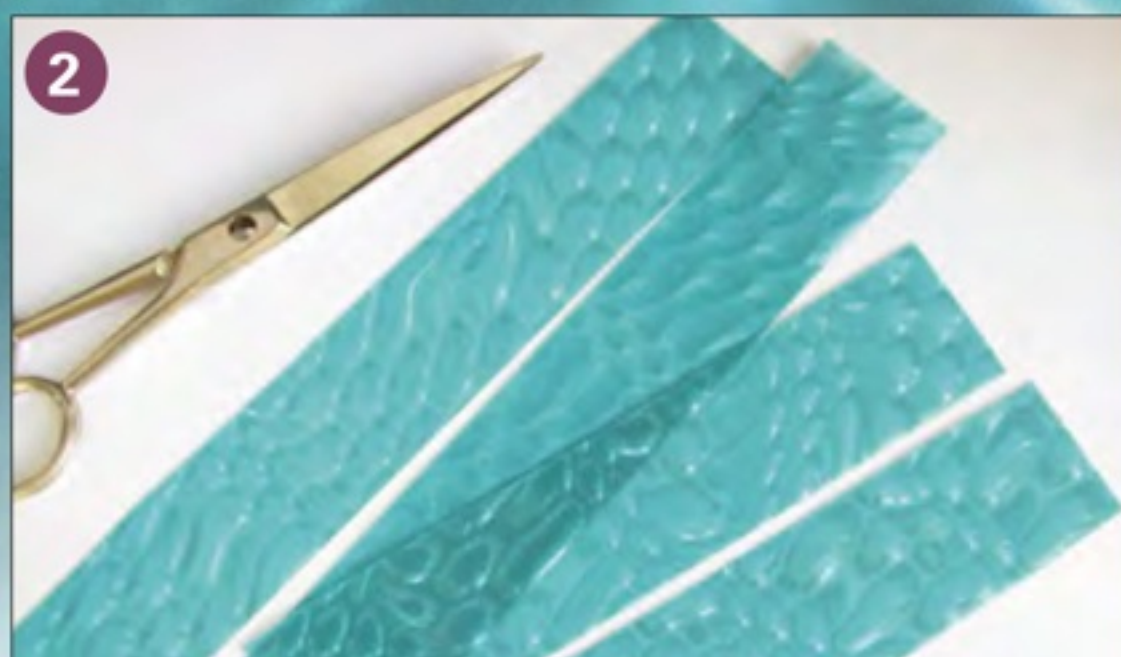
YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Liquid effect Illusion film
- Shoe box
- White polymer clay
- Acrylic paints in orange and metallic blue
- Gloss varnish
- Glue stick

TOOLS REQUIRED

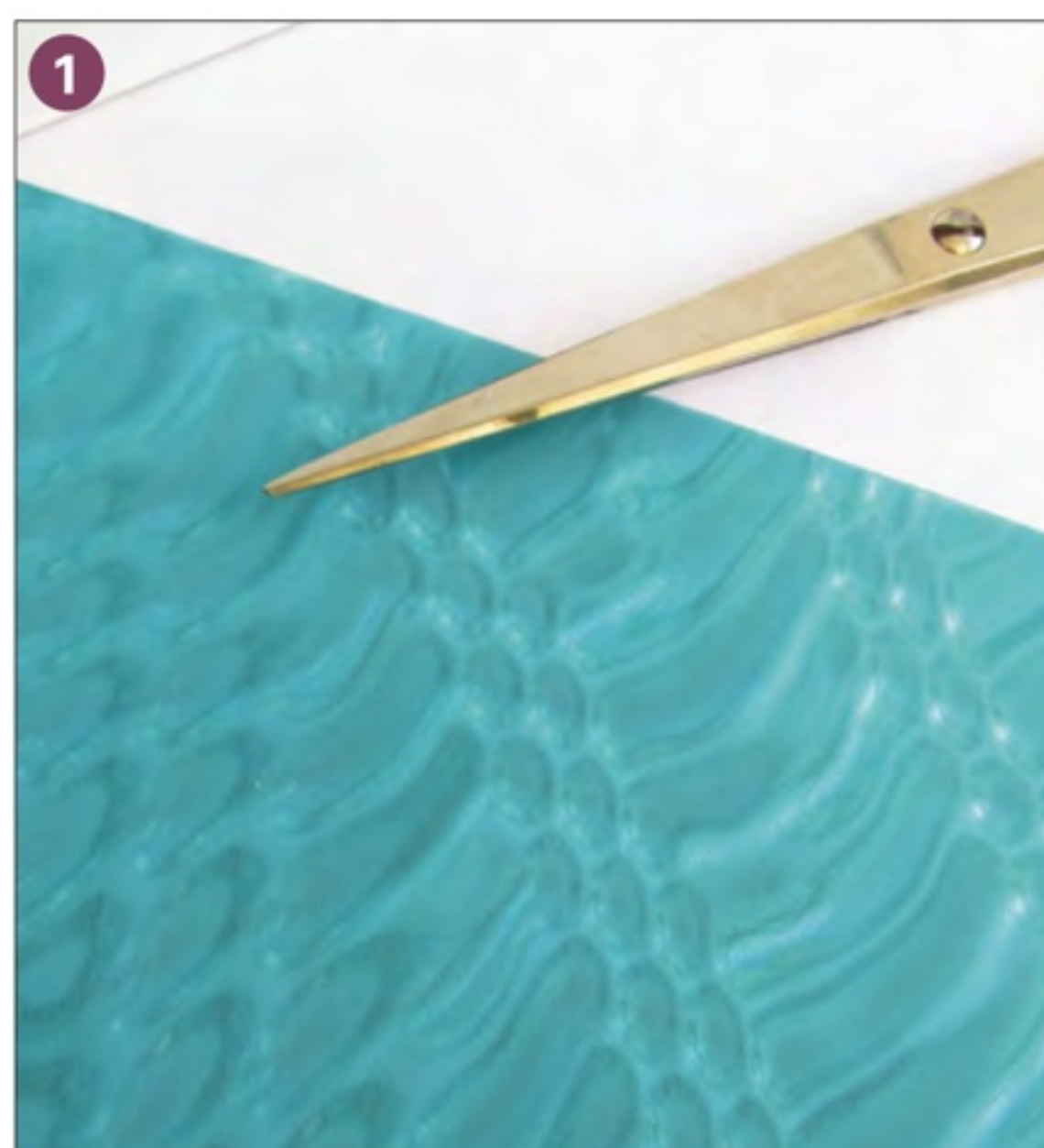
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Small brushes



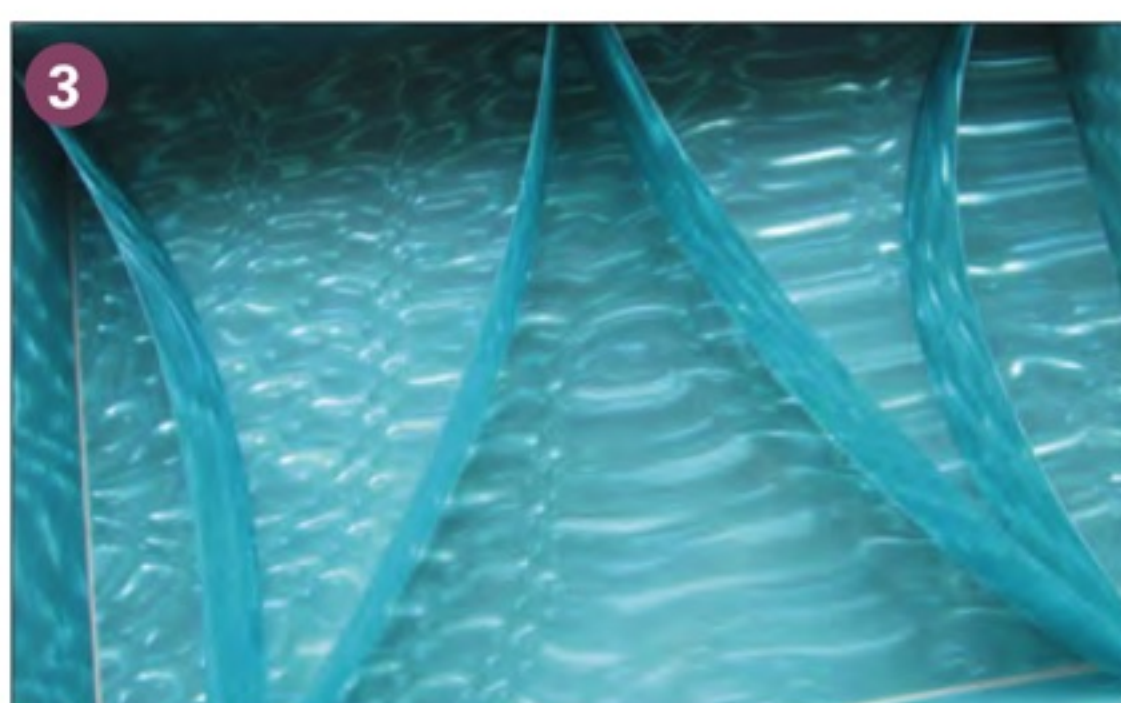
2 Cut four lengths of illusion film to line the sides of the box interior. These should be exactly the same height as you want the final surface of the water to reach.



4 Take a large ball of white polymer clay and press the end of a large make up brush or similar into the top, creating a donut shape to make a rubber ring. Bake and allow to cool.



1 Cut two sheets of 'liquid' effect illusion film to fit the base of your chosen box. One of these should be glued into place on the base with a glue stick and the other put to one side for the top surface.



3 Glue each strip into place around the sides of the pool. Cut four more lengths of illusion film. These are to act as supports for the top surface of the pool and so, again, they should be the height you want the water level to be. Fit them inside the box in a 'W' shape going back and forth down the length of the pool.



5 Decorate the rubber ring with acrylic paints. Here I've used orange and metallic blue. Once dry, coat the rubber ring thoroughly with gloss varnish before adding to the top of the pool for a final flourish!



INFORMATION

ALL TOOLS AND MATERIALS USED IN THIS PROJECT ARE
WIDELY AVAILABLE FROM ANY GOOD ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP.

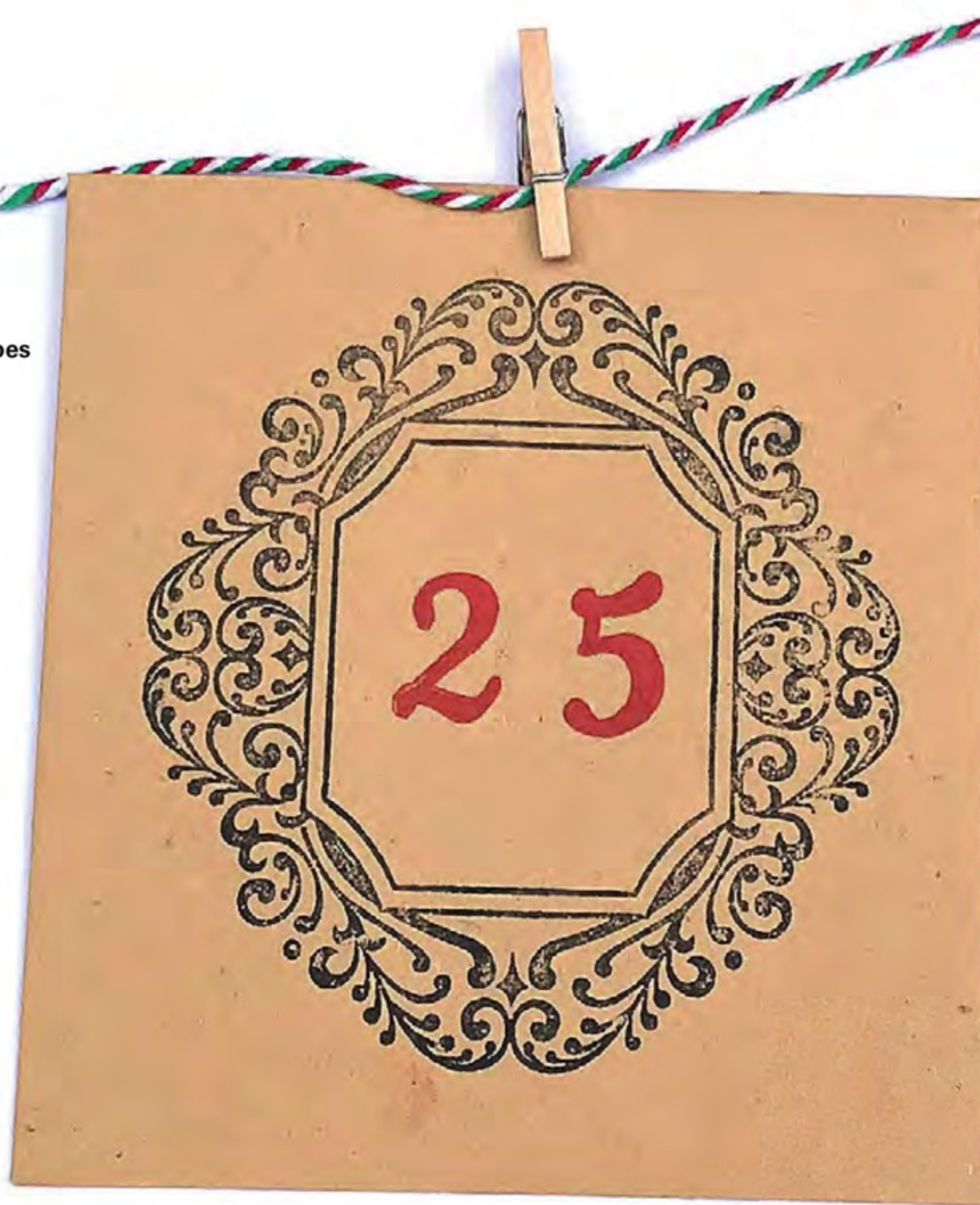


At Home with THE BROADWOODS



With the festive season just around the corner, the **Petite Properties** team have exclusively whispered to us that they have something very special up their collective sleeves... something which they hope will bring back the element of surprise to the forthcoming countdown to Christmas. **Bea Broadwood** explains all.

► 25 Festive envelopes filled with 25 brand new kits!



Not only will the kits be exclusive to the calendar, there will also be NO PHOTO PREVIEWS released of any of the calendar's 25 kit designs; this is to ensure that each day of advent will bring a totally new surprise. We make no apology for keeping the contents of our 2019 advent calendar secret and if you purchase it, you too are signing up for 25 days of surprises!

Can you keep a secret?

When I was a child, I had a traditional paper advent calendar, gifted to me by an (honorary) Swiss aunt.

Each day of advent a door opened to reveal nothing more than a humble Christmas picture. However, it was the feeling of anticipation and the daily surprise that has always stayed with me.

So this year, I thought it would be fun to attempt to revive that element of surprise with our very own Petite Properties' advent calendar. I can exclusively reveal that each calendar will contain 25 individual quarter scale furniture kits, suitable for every room in a dolls house (and the outside too). However, the 25 brand new 1/48th kits

featured will be exclusive to this limited edition calendar and they will not be available to purchase individually until spring 2020!

"I've had many modern advent calendars and all of them clearly show or advertise what is in them... and although I understand their logic, where is the element of surprise or magic in that!?"

Mo.



▼ PP's (top secret) Advent Garland



“So, with memories in mind, we hope that our new advent calendar will revive a little bit of old school Christmas magic and rekindle that all important element of surprise”
Tony.



◀ Only the PP team know what will be inside the calendar

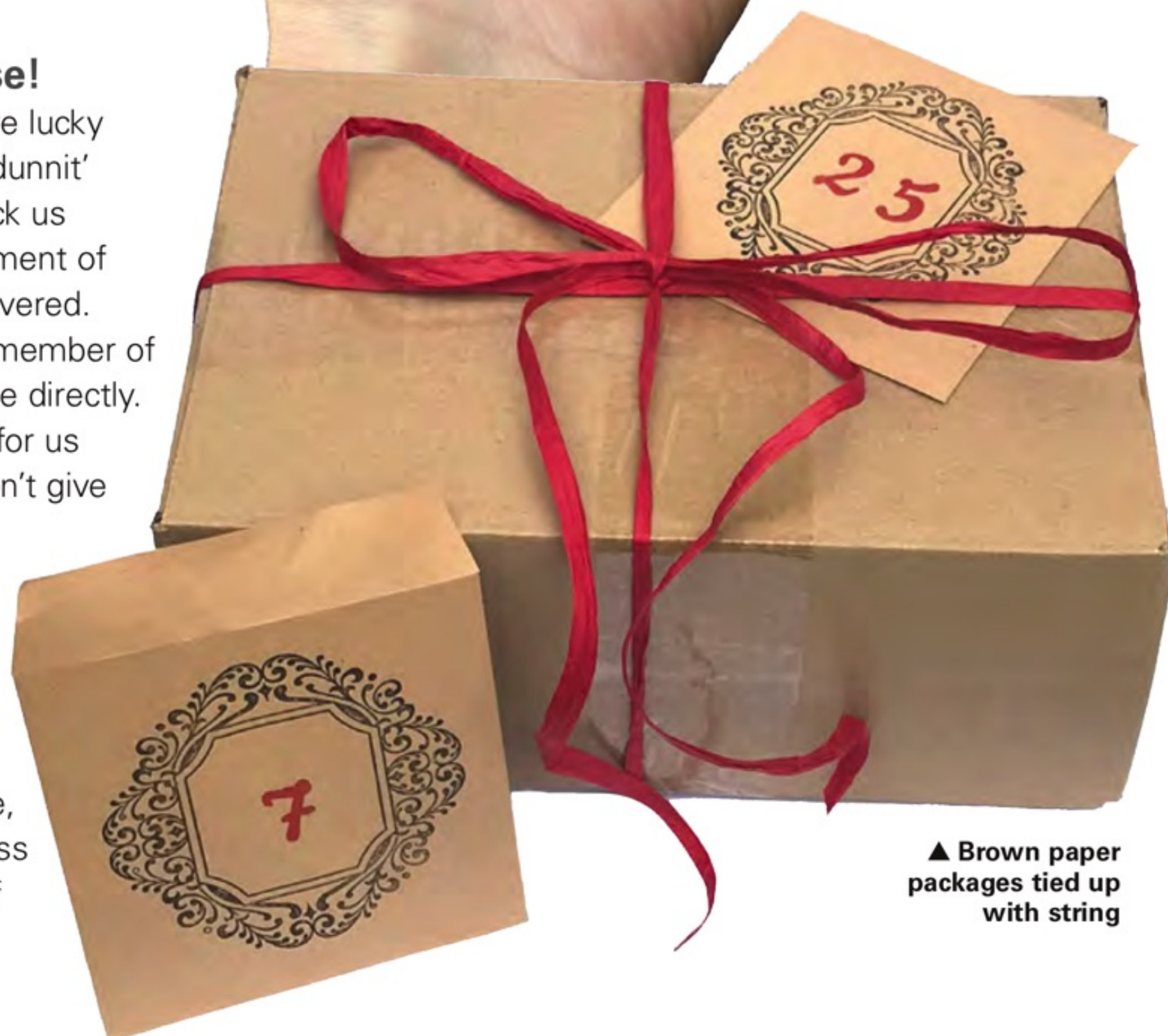
▼ Quarter scale furniture



No online spoilers please!

A few years ago, Tony and I were lucky enough to see the iconic 'who dunnit' play 'Mousetrap' and what struck us most was that all important element of surprise that the production delivered. Each performance ends with a member of the cast addressing the audience directly. Their request is a simple one... for us to keep the play's secret and don't give away the plot!

Agatha Christie created an absorbing play, but now, in a time of Facebook and Twitter and with a world wide web connecting us; it still manages to retain its element of surprise, thanks to the loyalty of countless audiences and a notable lack of online spoilers.



▲ Brown paper packages tied up with string

No peeking or sharing!

Ultimately, we are aware that we live in an era of 24 hour social media and as a team we are sceptical that the contents of our calendar can be kept secret for the duration of Advent. But with the memory of my Swiss paper calendar and the oath to secrecy that 63 years of Mousetrap's audiences have taken, we are quietly hopeful that the contents of our calendar can remain secret, at least until after the fairy lights and tinsel are taken down.

“Of course we can't police it, but we really do hope that our customers will enter into the spirit of our advent calendar and refrain from spoiling the element of surprise, despite the temptation of sharing its contents on social media platforms.”
Bea.



Online exclusive

So, if you'd like to enjoy 25 daily surprises and you're willing to keep the contents of our advent calendar secret until advent is over, then why not head to our online shop for further information... and let the countdown to Christmas officially begin!



INFORMATION

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GIVEAWAY!

Turn to page 4 for more information

One lucky reader will be chosen at random to receive an Advent Calendar



YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Air-drying clay
- Paints in red, orange, brown and beige
- Sandpaper
- Tin foil & gloss varnish

Vintage Vibe

Retro is bang on-trend this season - in our full-size homes and in our miniature ones. So why not get a vintage vibe going with these gorgeous and super-easy 'fat lava' vases.



1 Pinch off a piece of air-drying clay for each vase, and form a ball about the size of a marble. Hollow each ball to create a very rough bowl shape. Roll the bowl so the sides close-in to form a rough vase shape.



2 Insert a biro into the cavity of the vase and roll gently to neaten the sides. Use a knife or scalpel to neaten up the top edge of the vase. Use coarse sandpaper to create texture on the vase.



Moi says...

"Don't worry if your vases look a bit rough and uneven - that's exactly the effect you're trying to achieve!"



3 Use a small ball of tin foil to create texture on either the upper or the lower part of the vase. Create straight vases and also bulbous ones, which can also be formed around a pen to create the neck.



4 Leave the vases to dry for at least 24 hours, then sand the top of each to neaten any ragged edges. Paint in typical colourways of the period. For inspiration, use the 'web' for images of fat lava pottery.



5 Once the paint has dried, apply a coat of gloss varnish. You may need two or three.



INFORMATION

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Stuart Semple

The Blackest Black Paint

We spoke to artist Stuart Semple about his 'colouriest colour' paint concoctions and how he came about developing the Blackest Black paint in the world...

Hi Stuart, thanks for chatting with us! Can you tell us about your journey into becoming an artist, where did it all begin?

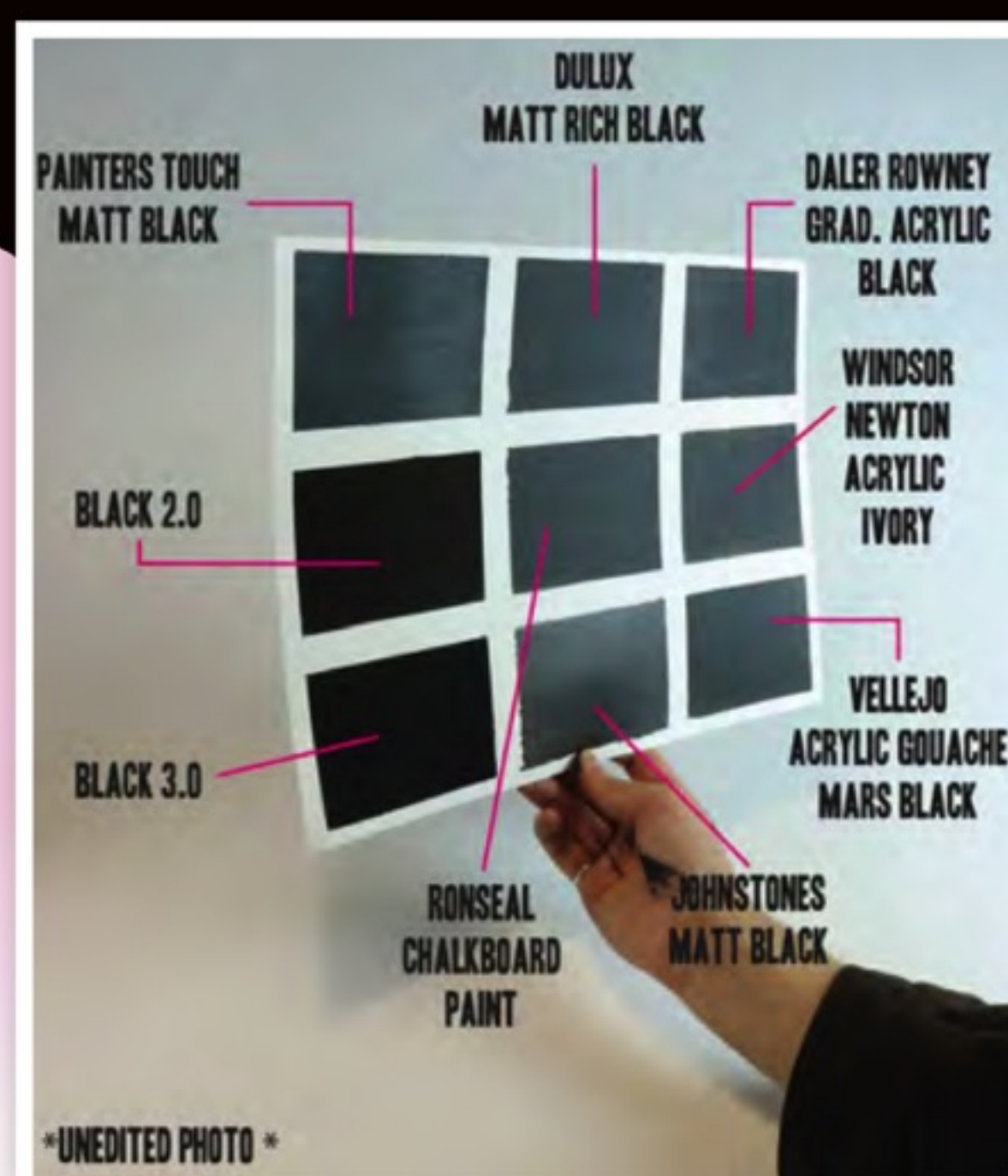
I think one of the strongest memories was seeing Van Gogh's Sunflowers at the National Gallery when I was about eight years old. The image of that piece and the colours gave me the idea that I wanted to make art when I grew up. When I was a teenager, I was studying fine art in the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and had an unexpected allergic reaction. I actually died for a few seconds, but survived and then decided that all I wanted to do was make art! Initially it was just a way of coping with how I felt and what was going on in my teenage mind. I put three pictures a day up on eBay and before I knew it Debbie Harry (from Blondie) had bought a piece of my work! I met Uri Geller, who offered to manage me after telling me all about his time working with Andy Warhol in NYC and how Salvador Dali trained him to paint. From then I started to exhibit at art shows and make more ambitious things. That was nearly 20 years ago and I've been at it ever since!

How did you get into making your own art materials? Why not use what was already on the market?

I pretty much have always made my own paints. When you look at the history of paint, commercial paints are relatively new and artists have historically always made their own paint, so it just makes sense. I do use a lot of materials that are available on the market, but I wanted really saturated intense colours in my paintings and I found the best way to get them was to make them myself. I'd say I've been doing that for the last couple of decades now.

Do you think it's important for artists to discover their own colour palettes as you have?

I think uncovering your own palette is a good way of finding your own unique voice. If you're being pulled by the work, inevitably the paintings start to make demands on you and colour is certainly one direction that I felt compelled to approach. I don't think it's essential to find our own palette, but I've found it necessary for my work.



Can you tell us about the process behind developing the intense 'colouriest colours' that you create?

Well, I'm not a scientist or a colour chemist or anything, so it's very basic and a lot like cooking. I try a bit of this with a bit of that. I'm always super curious about new pigment discoveries and I'm tuned into other industries like car coatings, nail art and cosmetics. Quite often the missing ingredient for a paint doesn't come from the world of art materials at all. There's a lot of experimentation and I'm lucky now that there's quite a big community using the materials I put out, so I can ask them for help. A lot of the more complex potions have been developed by sending different versions to different artists and getting their feedback.

How do you go about developing a new colour? For example, how did the world's blackest black come about? What was the inspiration? And what has the response been like?

Well, a few years ago it was announced that Sir Anish Kapoor, a British sculptor specializing in installation art and conceptual art, had secured the exclusive rights to use the darkest human made substance in his art. That meant no other artists were able to use it. It upset a lot of artists because it was the first material in history that artists were excluded from using, by the mere fact they were artists. So, I put out my pinkest pink on the internet as a bit of a joke and I made it so anyone could buy it on the website except Anish Kapoor. You had to agree at checkout that you weren't him and you weren't going to give it to him. Shortly after, he did get his hands on it, he dipped his middle finger in it and posted a photo on Instagram.



The artistic community were really angry and started asking me to try and make a super black. I had a go and made a trial version of a good black, I sent it to 1000 artists and they gave me their honest feedback. I compiled all of that and made Black 2.0. It was good, super black, very matte and very, very flat. But it wasn't quite black enough and I knew I could do better. So, I spent a couple of years working on a whole new pigment and binder and created a trial version of Black 3.0, which again I sent to 1000 artists. After that, we had the formula but it turned out it would be super expensive to get it manufactured; it was complicated! So, I turned to Kickstarter, the crowdfunding site and was hoping to raise £22,000 to make the paint. Then the unexpected happened; artists from all over the world pre-ordered the paint and we raised nearly half a million pounds! I've been working hard to produce enough paint to go around ever since! Now we have Black 3.0 out there and artists seem to be enjoying it, I'm seeing some really good work coming out.

Can you tell us more about how you developed Black 2.0 to Black 3.0? What changes did you make and why did you make them?

I just knew it could be blacker, so we created a new pigment from scratch that was already matte (i.e reflected almost no light). In Black 2.0, we relied on mattifiers to stop the reflection of the pigment (which was slightly glossy). However, those mattifiers added a white tinge. By using an already matte pigment, we could eliminate the white mattifiers. We also re-invigorated the acrylic base we were using to use a special polymer that could hold way more pigment than any other paint. This way we could cram loads in and light would get stuck inside.



How do you source your materials? How do you ensure that your ingredients are the best?

We search all over for the best ingredients. It's a big job, and we never cut corners. Sometimes we actually have to get them made totally bespoke so they do precisely what we need. There are different grades of pigments out there and we only ever get the best. We spend so long bench-marking pigments and paints; the lab is literally full of swatches. We don't stop until we beat everything else on the street and I won't share anything with other artists that I don't 100% believe in.

Tell us more about Culture Hustle, your wonderfully collaborative project.

It's really about the artists that create with the materials, so the vast majority of what we

develop comes from their needs. They ask us and we do our best to make it a reality for them. We are there to support artists with their work and I think we are the only materials maker that has a dedicated artist support team that you can write to and we will help. We collaborate a lot with the community on new materials often asking them to test things and for their opinions. We are lucky that we now have artist friends all over the world that we can send materials too and it's a great way to see how they hold out in transit and cope in different climates. The nice thing is the diversity of everything that gets made. We try our best to champion artists work on social media to. It's a big arty community.

What advice would you give to an experimental artist looking to make their own materials?

Literally just experiment! The basics of paint making are relatively easy to pick up, there's loads of information on the internet. To make truly innovative things, you need to step out of art and start looking at science, nature, cosmetics, coatings and so on. You need to bring that artistic creativity to the materials, see the making of them as an art project in itself.

Do you have any exciting new projects on the horizon? When can we expect to see more from yourself and the team at Culture Hustle?

Yes, we are working on lots of things simultaneously and there are some super exciting things on the horizon. We really are pushing the boundaries on eco and environmentally conscious paints. I'm passionate about having a plant-based acrylic soon and we are close with the holy grail of a proper decent cadmium alternative. There's lots of fun things coming up and when they are ready, I'll pop them on the website for everyone. I'm working towards getting the packaging plastic free within the next year or so, so it's full steam ahead!

We can't wait to see more in the future Stuart, thanks for chatting with us! 🏠



INFORMATION

To see more of Stuart's work visit

🔗 www.culturehustle.com



HOW TO...

It's time to jump in a puddle as autumn arrives on our miniature doorsteps.

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Polymer clay in white and black
- Pastels in brown and golden ochre
- Fimo Liquid Gel
- Small mixed stones & 1mm grey stones
- Faux foliage
- Super Glue

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Domed bottle/spritzer top
- Small brush & Craft knife
- Roller

1 Begin by mixing black clay with white to create a medium grey. Roll out to 6mm in thickness and cut to the length and width you need your path to be.

2 Make hollows within the clay where you want your puddles to be, using a domed bottle/spritzer top. Try to ensure they're all slightly uneven as you rarely find an exactly symmetrical puddle! Bake the path base and allow to cool thoroughly.

3 Mix Fimo Liquid Gel with grated brown and golden ochre pastel, creating the perfect shade of muddy brown. Add the mixture to the hollows within the base and return to the oven to bake.

4 Once cooled, glue some tiny 1mm grey stones to the path.

5 Coat the puddles with a couple of coats of gloss varnish to give them a really shiny finish. Stick some tiny pieces of foliage on the path or in the puddles to add interest and also to add to the slightly unkempt look as nature takes over!

6 Glue small mixed stones all the way down the length of each side of the path to complete the look. 🏠



INFORMATION

For more information about Sadie's miniatures visit:

🔗 www.homewardflight.etsy.com

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Make Muddy Puddles

Sadie says...

"One of the most wonderful and fascinating things about making miniatures is the ability to recreate the imperfections of the world around us. Here we're leading you up the garden path with oodles of interest as this is a path which needs both weeding and filling in!"



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JANE HARROP

With 1/48th scale growing in interest, **Jane Harrop** invests in a laser cutter to produce her own 1/48th scale kits.

Previously I'd only ever exhibited at one day exhibitions as I'd been busy writing my books and teaching. I wanted to showcase my new range of 1/48th scale kits at a 'big' show, so after gaining a bit of confidence by downsizing some of my previous projects, the French house, Irish cottage and 30s house, I worked like mad! (I knew a two-day show required a good amount of sales stock) and exhibited at Miniatura for the first time the following year. Myself and Bob designed a 1/48th scale beach hut kit and furnished the display models with some of my other small-scale kits. I offered a free deckchairs kit with the purchase of a beach hut kit. It was a marvellous weekend, meeting people in the flesh, I'd known only through on-line sales and courses, as well as catching up with students who had attended my workshops over the previous years. The best bit though was selling out of beach hut kits!

After acquiring more confidence with my computer drawing skills, I went on to trickier projects in the smaller scale, Bob designed a 1/48th scale Dutch windmill for my next course and I created the interior furnishings, all with inspiration and research gained during our overseas visits to exhibit in Holland. I've always tried to devise a project for my students they won't find elsewhere.

Charles Rennie Mackintosh

When I'd taught my 'Classically Designed' course several years earlier, I'd reproduced



◀ Beach hut kit designed for exhibiting at Jane's first Miniatura

▶ Mackintosh project designed after a visit to Glasgow and many hours of research

a couple of pieces by the Scottish architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh. His work had always appealed to me, so in 2014 I told Bob that we had to go to Glasgow. The outcome of our trip and many, many hours studying books and photos was a four-storey building containing two floors of tearooms and the others living accommodation in 1/24th and 1/48th scales. It was a very intricate course and one that could never have been done without the use of the laser cutter and computer drawing package to create the wallpapers. Generally, I've always liked to design a course that gives my students the opportunity to add their own individuality, the Mackintosh project has been the only one where there was no



leeway for this. I seem to remember I wasn't quite so popular with them after they had to construct and paint 32 dining chairs to fill the café floors! Especially fiddly in 1/48th scale.

In 2014 I had the new experience of exhibiting at the Kensington Doll's House Festival after being invited by Charlotte Stokoe. That became another 'mad' time preparing for the show, and like Miniatura, I was amazed at the interest in my kits. I am

lucky to be invited back each year to these shows and is one of the

reasons why I've never had time to write anymore books with the preparation for these and other shows (here and abroad) as well as teaching my classes and workshops.

I think my favourite course has to be the 1/24th and 1/48th scale camping coach.

Originally, I had thought that I'd like to make a converted railway carriage kit, not knowing that in 1933 the London & North Eastern Railway had the initiative

to convert ten coaches into comfortable static accommodation

for hire to camping enthusiasts. I was delighted, there was now history and also a real quirkiness to my new planned project, so in the summer of 2015, Bob was dragged around the old railways and transport museums for research. As always, he was instrumental in the design of the project and we made sure that there would be plenty of scope for my students to include their own individuality and creativity. 🏠

THE WINNER OF LAST MONTH'S DRAW IS...

...Jan Hulme's Camping Coach

GIVEAWAY!

Turn to page 4 for more information

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▲ Can you hear the lapping of the waves?



▲ Sweet little cottage

I wonder how many of you enjoyed a trip to the coast this summer and found yourself inspired by the rugged clifftops, sandy coves and picturesque cottages overlooking the sea? It's a landscape that certainly inspires Devonshire artisan, Colette Stacey, who has been making delightful little cottages for the last year. But not only does she find inspiration along the coastal pathways but the materials too - usually washed up as driftwood on the beach.

Colette lives in Ipplepen, a little village a few miles from Totnes in South Devon. Tucked away in her own tiny cottage she takes her inspiration from houses she sees locally, drawing on them for details such as stonework, proportions and style, although the character of each house comes from her imagination, providing a little bit of whimsy for her customers.

"The villages in these areas are stunning, with their thatched roofs and large chimney stacks, inspiration is all around"
Colette.

Colette tends to make two or three pieces a week, allowing her imagination to drift as she thinks of who the occupants might be, and what sort of lives they lived.

Colette adds, "In South Devon we are lucky to have coastal towns like Brixham, Shaldon and Teignmouth where many of the original fishermen's cottages line the narrow streets and lanes near the beaches and harbours. You only have to take a short walk and you'll find so much character

and history all around you. "My favourite time of the year to visit the beach is the winter when the sea looks angry, the huge waves crash onto the shore and the wind almost blows you over. Often, I can have a whole beach to myself and can spend a couple of hours searching for treasure - driftwood in all shapes and sizes. When my daughter, Briony, was little we were always on the beach. It was such a magical place for a child. We'd look for seaglass, build sandcastles and tell each other stories; drawing characters in the sand, such a fantastic environment."

It was actually Colette's daughter who first inspired her to use driftwood. As a teenager, Briony was making and selling driftwood hearts. "It was fantastic to see her create something beautiful out of little pieces of wood, and to see how much pleasure it gave her to make them."



So atmospheric

Colette also made driftwood hearts, but when her brother-in-law, a carpenter, gave her some off-cuts of wood and she spotted a wooden house in a local shop, she thought she'd have a go at making a little cottage for a birthday present. She explains, "I already had a shed full of driftwood, so it made sense to create a little scene for the house. That's how my love of making tiny houses started."

A necessity to passion

When Briony left for her Masters at University, Colette wanted to help her financially and so spent the summer holidays last year concentrating on developing her little houses. "I found that with each house my confidence grew and my love of creating flourished. I have been very lucky that Cosy Cottage Designs has developed from a necessity to a passion."

Her love for houses has come from her family, her dad being an architect who always encouraged his three daughters to appreciate and understand

the building process; and a mum who has always been passionate about creating a warm and comforting home environment for the family. Now family and friends are very supportive of Colette's new venture.

"They put up with me talking about little houses, look at endless photos of little houses, give me wood and other materials to make little houses, save me boxes to post little houses, help with ideas to develop little houses and initially were the people who first bought the little houses! I am so grateful for their support and encouragement."

Colette works full time in a sixth form for students with special educational needs, also running the Enterprise and woodwork classes with a colleague, making pallet signs and birdhouses out of

repurposed wood, and selling them to fund resources in the college.

"It's a fantastic job and it's great to see the students develop independence and confidence in our classes. Our whole ethos at college is about what people 'can do' and we build on that. It's a very positive environment for the students to learn in and the confidence they gain rubs off on to the staff. I'm sure that this 'can do' attitude has helped me try new ideas to develop my little houses."

The Borrowers

As a child Colette loved creating little houses either out of shoe boxes with beds made out of match boxes and chairs made from bottle tops. She had always dreamed of having a dolls house and remembers the excitement one Christmas when that dream came true. "My sister and I would spend hours playing together; making food for the little family, rearranging the furniture, decorating the rooms. It was wonderful! My favourite book was *The Borrowers* and I loved to imagine that tiny people lived behind our skirting boards, borrowed our lost toys and might one day make friends with me."

Cosy Cottage Designs is very much a real cottage industry. Working from her lounge, surrounded by boxes of wood and driftwood, Colette finds that the process of creating a little house is different each time. Sometimes it starts with a piece of driftwood to use as a base; other times she may have been inspired by a cute little house that she'd spotted.

Generally, she uses hand tools: a large saw to cut up



► Inspired by her own village

▲ House on driftwood



Elegant home for
this rustic house

the pieces of wood and a smaller one for finer details. She says that cutting wood with a large saw helps give it the rustic and uneven look that her houses have. She then uses a thin wood veneer to create the tiled roof; painting the roof first then scratching on the tiles with a nail. She often uses several different layers of paint to get the best paint effect; usually chalk paint for the main parts of the house and sometimes acrylic for the doors and windows.

"You'd probably say that I don't make things easy for myself by using large tools and a hot glue-gun, but that's how I started, and I like the imperfections that come as a result. I have, however, invested in one very fine-tipped paint brush to paint the windowpanes after months of painting and repainting splodges! In the early days I would often have to re-cut the size of the house or

repaint the windows as I was unsure of proportions but that doesn't happen quite so often now. I sometimes add tiny chimney pots made from driftwood. I tend not to add too much detail to the scenery as I like to concentrate on the houses and leave the rest to the viewer's imagination, less is more! I like the washing to be blowing in the breeze and for the waves to be crashing as I feel it adds movement to my pieces. If I add a boat it is always turquoise, unless someone asks for a different colour; I love turquoise!

She is amazed to know that her little houses are now in homes around the world, the USA, New Zealand, Germany, Canada, Malaysia and just as delighted that many stay closer to home. Over the past year she has built up some loyal customers who have started collections and supported her.



▲ Picture perfect

Often, it's people who have emigrated who love them the most. Colette spoke of one lady in her 80s, originally from the North of England and now living in California. "She says she has her very own tiny England in her home in the USA. The little houses help her remember her childhood and life in Britain many years ago. She likes to imagine that she is floating in the sunshine in one of the little turquoise rowing boats with the sound of the waves and the gulls; or she imagines sitting, looking out of one of the dormer windows of the tiny cottages, wrapped up warm as a storm rages outside and huge waves crash against the rocks below.

"Hopefully," says Colette, "in the future, I will be able to spend more time creating little houses that evoke memories or help create dreams." 🏠



INFORMATION

To see more of Colette's work visit:

📷 www.instagram.com/cosy_cottage_designs/

👍 <https://www.facebook.com/Cosy-Cottage-Designs>

▼ Colette's houses come in all shapes and sizes



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& MINIATURE SCENE

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We show you how in 15 easy steps

**THROUGH THE
MOUSE HOLE**



We accept an invitation to explore
Caroline Hamilton's Mouse House

KIT REVIEW



We review the latest kit
by Art of Mini

FESTIVE JOY



Explore the new collection by Aurearte Miniatures

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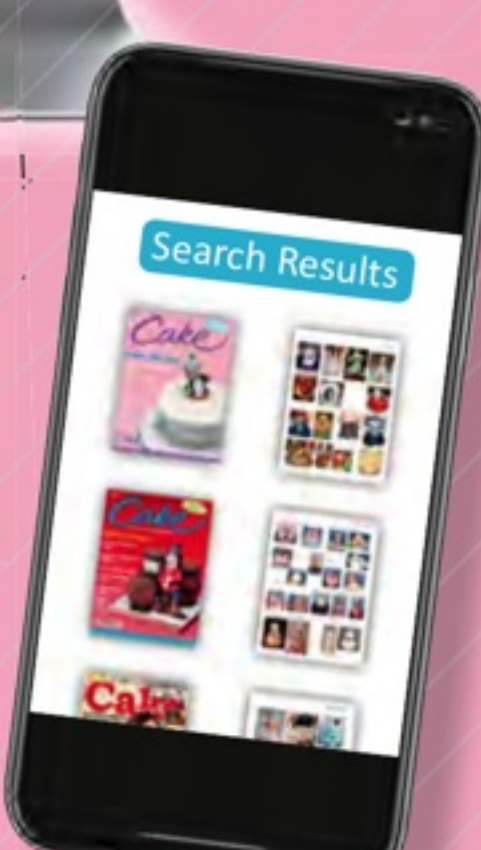
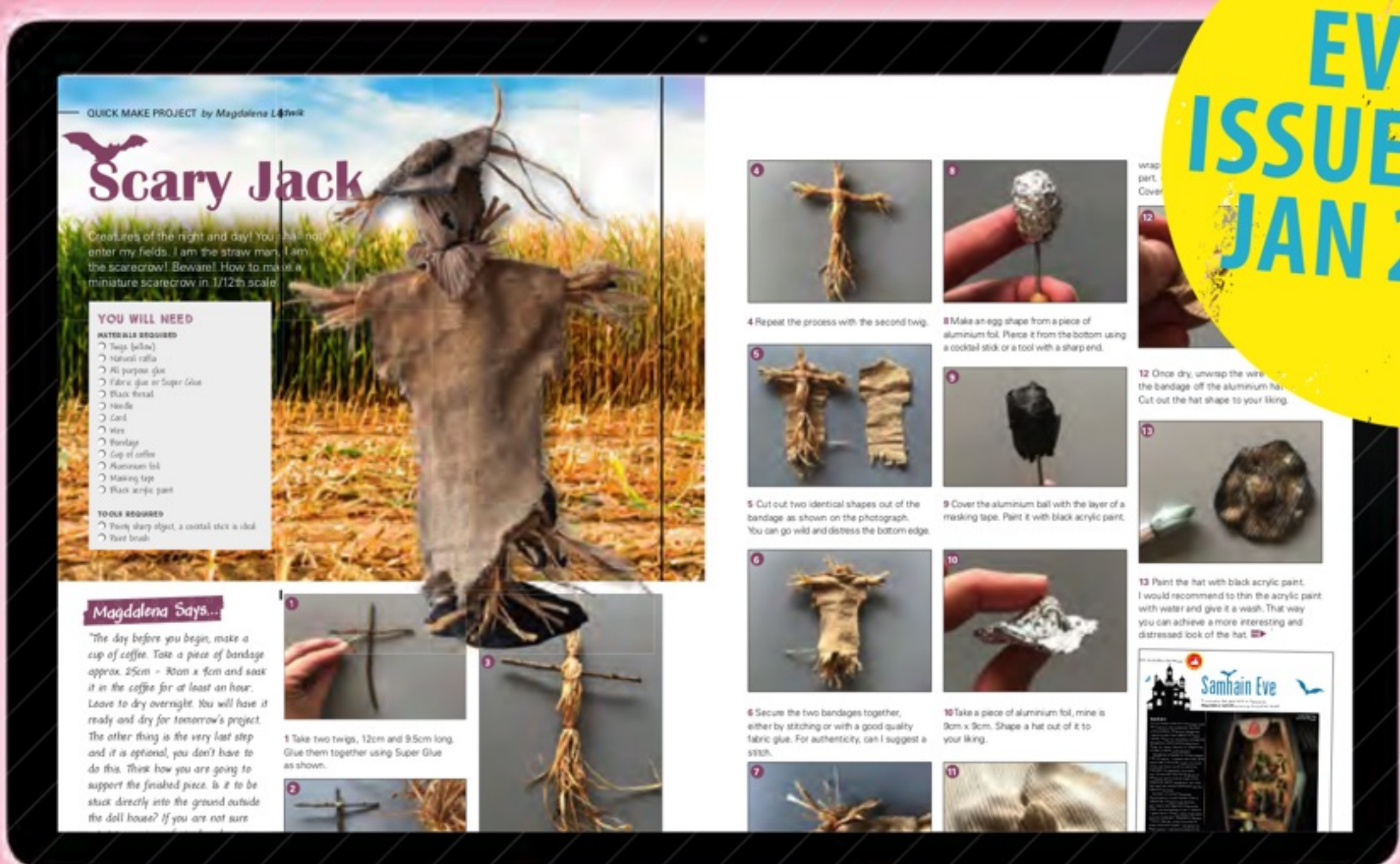
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The Whole Kit & Caboodle:

MID-CENTURY TELEPHONE TABLE



It seems extraordinary, when we walk around today with a phone in our back pocket, that not so long ago we had a special piece of household furniture specially designed for the specific purpose of making a phone call and storing our contacts!

Jane Harrop's mid-century modern telephone table kit takes us back to those childhood memories of the 1960s and '70s, and the after-school chats on the phone to friends, boyfriends and would-be boyfriends! No mobiles, FaceTime, Facebook and Snapchat then!

I may well be Jane Harrop's number one fan, as I find her kits to be consistently

imaginative and always a bit different, well-designed, good quality and affordable. This telephone table/seat is no exception. It's tremendously hard to find mid-century furniture, but Jane has produced a whole range, which includes: a Scandinavian style dining table, chairs and room divider; a G-Plan style nest of tables; a retro settee and arm chairs; classic 1970s electric fireplace; bunk beds and even an electric organ - pure 1970s!

Most of Jane's kits come in 1/12th, 1/24th and often 1/48th scale too. Instructions are always clear and well illustrated in full colour. So pour yourself a Babydam, Cherry Brandy or Snowball to get you in the mood, pop on a BeeGees LP and take a look at Jane's range of retro kits! 🏠

THE FACTS

Buy from: Jane Harrop
🌐 www.janeharrop.co.uk

Cost: £9.00.

Comes with: Wooden components, seat padding and sandpaper.

Additional materials needed: Tacky glue, wood stain, leather or fabric for the seat cover, black paint and (optional) beeswax polish.

Specialist tools needed: None.

Time: A couple of hours.

Experience: Beginner.

Top tip: I used an old leather glove for the seat covering. It made me feel so much better about losing its companion!

GIVEAWAY!

Turn to page 4 for more information

Would you like your very own telephone seat kit?

The Etsy Design Awards Finalists

Etsy, an online initiative focussed on selling handmade craft items by millions of independent creators, launched the first-ever Etsy Design Awards, celebrating the work of extraordinary creatives from around the world!

We eagerly awaited the announcement of the Grand Prize Winner but in reality it didn't matter to us, the finalists were all incredible and it is for this reason that we wanted to highlight the stunning work of these talented papercrafters. These awards are a significant moment in the arts and crafts world as an event that celebrates talent that might otherwise go under the radar and an exciting venture that we hope will help drive further recognition for incredible creative makers just like you...

What are the Etsy Design Awards?

Also known as The Etsies, this first-time event for Etsy involved the honouring of work from talented artists and creatives from around the world. Split into five categories, Etsy sellers had the opportunity to enter an item from their shop to be considered by a panel of judges

comprising of internationally recognised trend experts, tastemakers and entrepreneurs. One entrant was crowned the Etsy Design Award Grand Prize Winner, Sian Zeng with her incredible wallpaper, with five Etsy Design Award Winners, one for each category.

What are the categories?

The five categories that creatives could enter were:

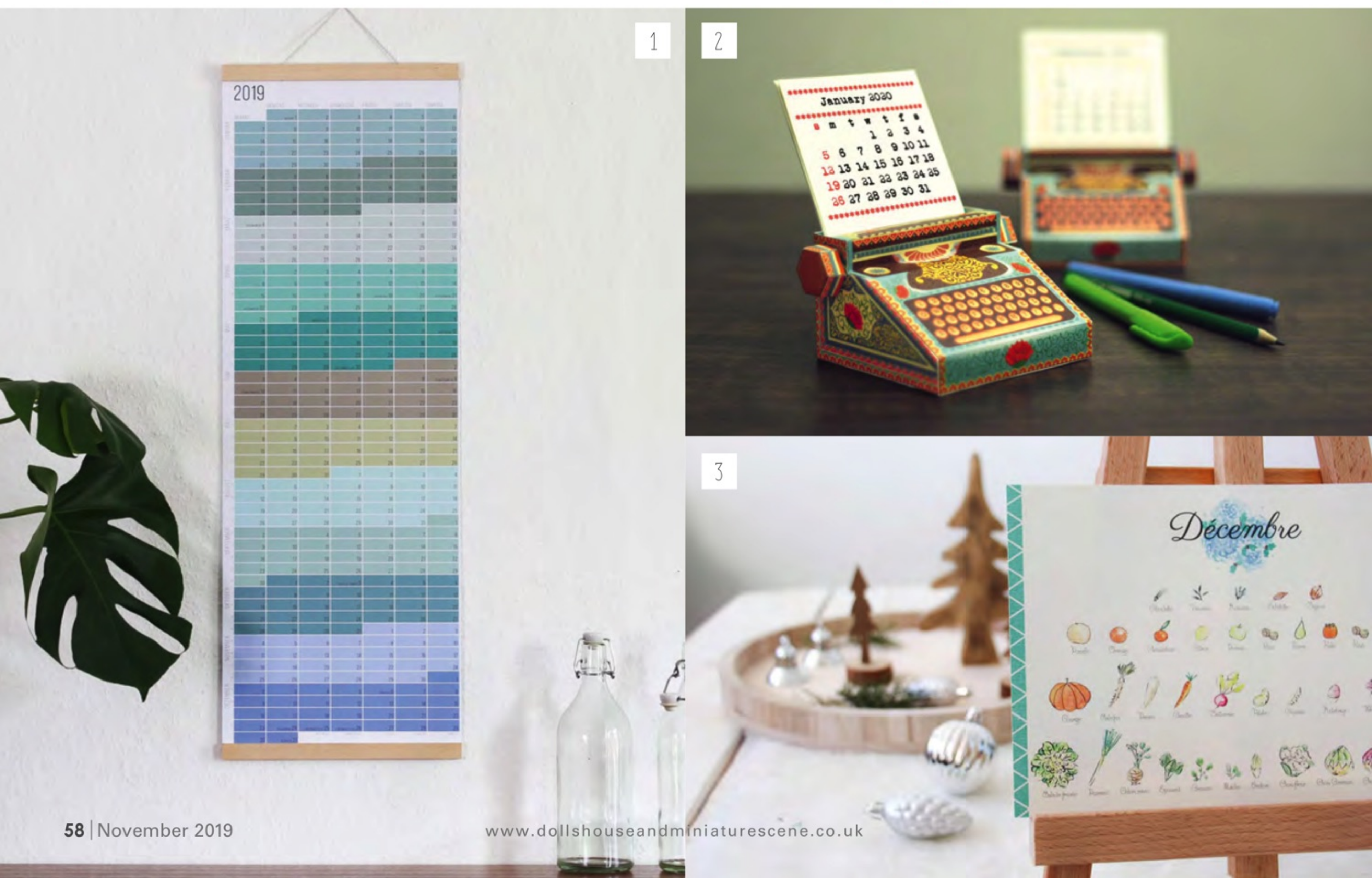
- Inventive Décor: For home creations, big or small, that are truly sanctuary-worthy.
- Signature Style: For jewellery, fashion or accessories that make a statement.
- Festive Celebrations: For decorations or all things wedding that are the life of the party.
- Earth-Friendly: For sustainably-made finds that look great and help the planet.
- Creative Collaborations: For personalised, handcrafted goods that put the 'special' in 'special order'.

How were the Etsy Design Award finalists chosen?

The Etsy team narrowed the applicants down to 159 finalists across the five categories. From there, the specially chosen judging panel reviewed and selected the six winners according to six pieces of criteria:

- Quality: Overall level of craftsmanship and skill
- Creativity & innovation: Is your item unique or imaginative?
- Utility & functionality: Is your item functional? Does it serve its purpose?
- 'Wow' factor: Is your item stunning?
- Personal story: Your maker or curator story
- Top-notch branding: Does your shop feature clear, compelling descriptions, excellent customer service, and high-quality photography.

The work of some of the of the talented papercraft finalists





4



5



6



7



8



9



10

GRAND PRIZE WINNER!

1 Pastel Calendar/Wallplanner (Inventive Décor)
www.wilano.etsy.com

2 Papercraft Typewriter Calendar (Inventive Décor)
www.skygoodies.etsy.com

3 Fruits & vegetables seasonal calendar (Earth-Friendly)
www.carolinecohenring.etsy.com

4 Fantasy Papercraft Bird (Creative Collaborations)
www.icarusmidair.etsy.com

5 Papercraft Wall Hanging (Inventive Décor)
www.aumondeinterieur.etsy.com

6 Wild Bird Garland (Earth-Friendly)
www.noull.etsy.com

7 Copper Hills Quilled Landscape (Inventive Décor)
www.griffincarrickdesign.etsy.com

8 Custom Papercraft House (Creative Collaborations)
www.yeiou.etsy.com

9 Personalised Papercut Venue (Creative Collaborations)
www.thepaperrosesco.etsy.com

10 Magnetic Dinosaur Wallpaper (Inventive Décor)
www.sianzeng.etsy.com

Est 1976

Sussex Crafts

A range of quality scale replicas of household items used in past times



Believe it or not, popular miniature brand Sussex Crafts are actually based in Norfolk! We caught up with **Linda Adams** to find out why and what happens behind the scenes.

DHMS: Hello Linda, thanks very much for taking time out of your day to chat with us. What can you tell the readers of DHMS about Sussex Crafts.

Linda: Sussex Crafts has been trading since 1976 and we are situated in the beautiful county of Norfolk. Directly in front of our bungalow and workshop we have a wonderful view of a church and lighthouse. We are surrounded by fields of various seasonal crops and wildlife. So there is always plenty to look at whilst working.

I have had a dolls house for over twenty years, which was made for me by a very dear friend as a gift which put me on the miniatures track. I saw Sussex Crafts advertised for sale (as a business) in a dolls house magazine, it didn't mention any names, but I had a pretty good idea. I decided to go for it and met Peter Warwick in 2005. I travelled down to Sussex and trained with Peter for several weeks and came back with a large van full of equipment and tools to install in the beautiful workshop that had been built in my absence. We have been self-employed most of our lives but I don't think Peter ever imagined that making miniatures, would be a full-time job for him, whereas it is my dream occupation. He did build me my warm cosy workshop with help from our neighbour and was dragged slowly



▲ Linda in the workshop

into miniatures. He now has his own workshop behind mine.

DHMS: So it's just the two of you at Sussex Crafts?

Linda: Correct. My partner is also called Peter and he does all of the messy casting for me. I do all the cleaning, sanding, finishing and painting.

DHMS: What would you say is your most popular product or range?

Linda: We make over 300 items, so it would be difficult to say which is the most popular item, but our range of kitchen items, sinks, draining boards, cookware etc, along with our bathroom suites are probably our most regular sales items.

DHMS: Would you say you have 'regular' customers?

Linda: Yes, most definitely. The company has been trading since 1976, visiting various fairs and now with an online shop.

Our customers like to send us pictures of their latest projects and I have an album full of various projects.

DHMS: Do you attend any dolls house shows? If so, which ones?

Linda: We attend Miniatura twice a year. It is really hard work making and packing stock for fairs whilst maintaining the flow of online orders.

DHMS: Have you ever received a strange or memorable order?

Linda: We did have an order from a very famous and well known gardener! He is one of my all time heroes, so I felt really honoured and privileged being able to make his items.

DHMS: Do you have any new products to share with the readers of DHMS?

Linda: We have just finished a new door handle, which is ideal for a shop or hotel as it has an ornate pull handle on a back plate. It is only gilded at the moment but we plan to make it in burnished black as well for older style properties.

DHMS: And, finally, are you or Peter miniaturists?

Linda: I do make miniatures for my own house, and have always had a great interest in anything that's miniature since I was a child.

Thanks for chatting to us Linda.

Check out our
advert on
PAGE 31



INFORMATION

Sussex Crafts

✉ **Sussex Crafts, 43 Rollesby Way,
Happisburgh, Norwich, Norfolk, NR12 0QJ**

☎ **01692 650389**

🌐 **www.sussexcrafts@btinternet.com**

Turn to
PAGE 49
for details

FAIRS DIARY



10 November

Location: York
Venue: York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX
Organiser: Warners Dollshouse & Miniatures Fair



OCTOBER

20 October

Location: South Wootton
Venue: Knights Hill Village,
South Wootton King's Lynn,
Norfolk, PE30 3HQ
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

26 October

Location: Holt
Venue: Holt Community Centre,
Kerridge Way, Holt,
Norfolk, NR25 6DN
Organiser: MGM Fairs

26 October

Location: Burford
Venue: Burford School,
Cheltenham Road, Burford,
Oxfordshire, OX18 4PL
Organiser: Little Priory Fairs

27 October

Location: Newark
Venue: The Cedric Ford Pavilion
Newark Showground,
Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark-on-
Trent, Nottinghamshire, NG24 2NY
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

NOVEMBER

2 November

Location: Leeds
Venue: Pudsey Civic Hall,
Dawson's Corner, Pudsey, Leeds,
West Yorkshire, LS28 5TA
Organiser: MGM Fairs

17 November

Location: Solihull
Venue: Bentley Heath Community
Centre, Widney Road,
Bentley Heath Solihull,
West Midlands, B93 9BQ
Organiser: MGM Fairs

23 November

Location: Dedham
Venue: The Assembly Rooms,
High Street, Dedham Colchester,
Essex, CO7 6DE
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

30 November

Location: London
Venue: Kensington Town Hall,
Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX
Organiser: Kensington Dolls
House Festival

DECEMBER

1 December

Location: Basildon
Venue: Holiday Inn Basildon,
Waterfront Walk, Festival Leisure
Park Basildon, Essex, SS14 3DG
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

JANUARY 2020

5 January

Location: Exeter
Venue: Westpoint Conference
Centre, Westpoint,
Clyst St. Mary Exeter,
Devon, EX5 1DJ
Organiser: MGM Fairs

12 January

Location: Stafford
Venue: Members Pavilion,
Weston Road, Stafford,
Staffordshire, ST18 0BD
Organiser: MGM Fairs

19 January

Location: Copdock
Venue: Ipswich Hotel,
Old London Road, Copdock,
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3JD
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

26 January

Location: London
Venue: The Tower Hotel
Saint Katharine's Way
London E1W 1LD
Organiser: City of London
Dollshouse Festival

FEBRUARY 2020

2 February

Location: Lincoln
Venue: Windmill Farm Hotel,
Runcorn Road, Off Whisby Road
Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN6 3QZ
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

16 February

Location: Porthcawl
Venue: The Grand Pavilion,
The Esplanade, Porthcawl,
Bridgend, CF36 3YW
Organiser: MGM Fairs

29 February

Location: Thame
Venue: Thame Sport & Art Centre,
Oxford Road, Oxon, OX9 2BB
Organiser: Little Priory Fairs

MARCH 2020

21-22 March

Location: Birmingham
Venue: National Exhibition Centre,
Perimeter Road, Birmingham,
West Midlands, B40 1NT
Organiser: Miniatura
Exhibitions

JUNE 2020

7 June

Location: York
Venue: York Racecourse,
York YO23 1EX
Organiser: Warners Dolls House
& Miniatures Fair

ORGANISERS DETAILS

Dolly's Daydreams

T: 01945 870160
Mob: 07860 517048
E: dollysdaydreams@btinternet.com
W: www.dollysdaydreams.com
See our advert on page 15

Kensington Dollshouse Festival

T: 0044 (0)20 7812 9892
E: kdf@dollshousefestival.com
W: www.dollshousefestival.com
See our advert on page 26

Little Priory Fairs

T: 01945 870160
M: 07860 517048
E: littleprioryfairs@outlook.com
W: www.littleprioryfairs.co.uk
See our advert on page 15

MGM Fairs

E: enquiries@mgmfairs.co.uk
W: www.mgmfairs.co.uk
See our advert on page 31

Miniatura

T: 0121 783 9922
Ticket Hotline: 0844 581 1291
W: www.miniatura.co.uk
See our advert on page 15

Warners Dolls House & Miniatures Fair

T: 0844 581 4946
W: www.yorkdollshousefair.co.uk
See our advert on page 49

MINI MEETINGS

Members of Aylesbury Dolls House Club reflect on how much they enjoy miniature-making, and how they got into it in the first place.



▲ Liz Hilder's fantasy tree stump

Helen Talbot

How did I get into miniatures? My earliest memory was being 'seduced' by The Borrowers and making a Borrowers house in a shoe box with furniture from cotton reels and buttons and the like! Take it from me that my tastes are a bit more sophisticated what with it now being 2019 and me being about 65 years older... I'd always liked dolls houses and one Sunday my husband took the whole family to the Kensington Dollshouse festival he'd heard about back when it was run by Caroline Hamilton. It was a revelation, all those beautiful miniatures I didn't know existed, and I wanted it all. However it was all so overwhelming that I bought nothing at the time, but I was hooked from then on.

Yumi Coyte

There's something about being able to re-create something as tiny as a miniature and making it identical to the real-sized item. It is a challenge to your eyesight, your fingertips and your mindset of replicating something in 1/12th scale, 1/24th scale or even in 1/48th scale! My mother introduced me to the hobby. She used to take me to a dolls house shop in Squirrel Hill, Pennsylvania, USA, when I was a child. I remember the heart-fluttering

fascination when I first saw the small houses, inside the rooms with various furniture and accessories.

Since joining Aylesbury Dolls House Club, I have learned countless 'tricks of the trade!' i.e. sewing mini-quilts/patchwork, beach hats from burlap, baskets from twine and much more. My favourite memories include my first dolls house, all of my takeaway foods, the revelation when I learned how to soften burlap in glue water, then shape with wine cork to make a beach hat, the mini-quilting that made me 'sew' (something I detest doing!) and how a tip of a rubber glove can become a sweet beach bag! But my favourite is first and foremost my time sitting next to my dearest friend, Jack, at the club meetings and working on a project together, borrowing his tools, (which were always far more efficient than mine), and him teaching me the little 'tricks of the trade,' as he called them. Our common phrase was always, "This is so fiddly!" But he always had a way to finish the project and I believe he was a genius. I called him 'the Maestro Carpenter.'

Liz Hilder

Thinking back before joining ADHC I didn't do much in the way of miniatures at all, it was always something I thought I would do when I retired, which is a good job as I now spend more time on miniatures than I did on work. Joining a club of like-minded people also filled in the gap of having a busy job and being home alone. Being a club member means you can do as little or as much as you want and all contributions are gratefully accepted.

It opens a whole new mini world, lots of new friends, places to go for exciting exhibitions and seeing the dedication and skill of many artisans who you would not know about unless you are a mini maker. I love my new mini world and will live a very happy retirement. Regrets? Yes. I wish I had started 40 years ago!

Suzanne Denver

My friend and I had been interested in miniatures for a few years and regularly attended fairs, bought kits to try and make together and poured over the magazines. In fact I was half way through writing a book myself on making miniatures at home when we found an old magazine article that referred to the Aylesbury Dolls House Club, so we decided to investigate and within a month we were fully paid up members and have been ever since.

The club members were invaluable with testing and editing the projects for my book and they have all been wonderfully supportive. Now we can't imagine following the craft without belonging to the club, and we're both on the committee!

Ann Bowles

As a child, I longed for a dolls house. My father died when I was eight, and in his workshop there were miniature windows and doors: he was obviously on the case for making the longed-for house. Decades passed and my husband made one for a friend. It was beautiful and I was smitten, so he made another. I finally got my dolls house at the age of 47... or thereabouts!

Jeanette Green

I have always liked miniatures and made my own whilst living on a farm. I planned to have a dolls house if and when I had a daughter, but I had two boys! When a friend mentioned coming to a dolls house club, I couldn't wait, and was immediately hooked! 🏠

▼ Maria Hidalgo



INFORMATION

🌐 www.facebook.com/aylesburydollshouseclub

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