

Dollshouse & MINIATURE SCENE

OVER
101
INSPIRATIONAL
IDEAS INSIDE!

FROM BEGINNER TO EXPERT MAKES!



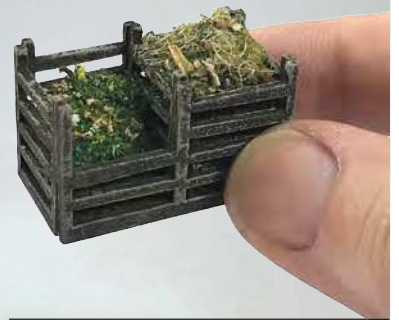
**A MODERN
MARVEL...**

The heart of the dolls home



A feast for the eyes!

Make it for outside



Every little space counts



All in the detail

Exquisite hand painting

3D printing



Small, smaller & smallest!

Good enough to eat



Dessert heaven!

PLUS

- FISHERMAN'S SHED PROJECT ● WOODEN NORWEGIAN HOUSES
- CREATE A MINIATURE FLAMINGO ● SHOPPING ● FIND OUT WHAT YOUR FAVOURITE MINIATURISTS HAVE BEEN DOING IN LOCKDOWN

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WELCOME

to the August issue

August! Already! Wow, what year. So many events which will shape our future and have both educated us and given us reason to reconsider how we act, think, shop and more. This will certainly be a year to look back on.

Thankfully things seem to be getting back to 'normal' with regards to shops reopening and businesses back in action. I hope that your experience of lockdown and all that it entailed was a positive one. But for now, let's enjoy the here and now. As mindfulness has taught us, be fully present and aware, and absorb all the wonderful content you will find over the coming pages.

We explore some really wonderful projects in this issue including Marie Knight's lighthouse and Sonia Minter's modern miniature abode while we take a closer look at Linda Cumming's plates of food! Such a lot of talent between them! There's projects for you to recreate including period furniture in the form of a mini Chippendale chair and what summer would be complete without a miniature flamingo! We also bring back a project from the archive, from 2012 in fact, an authentic fisherman's shed which is a great project to really get stuck into!

Keep tagging me in your creations, sending me emails letting me know what you're up to and let's celebrate this lovely crafty community we've got going on!

Stay safe and enjoy the issue.



Carl
Carl Golder
Editor

**FANTASTIC
GIVEAWAY!**
ON PAGE 33 & 62

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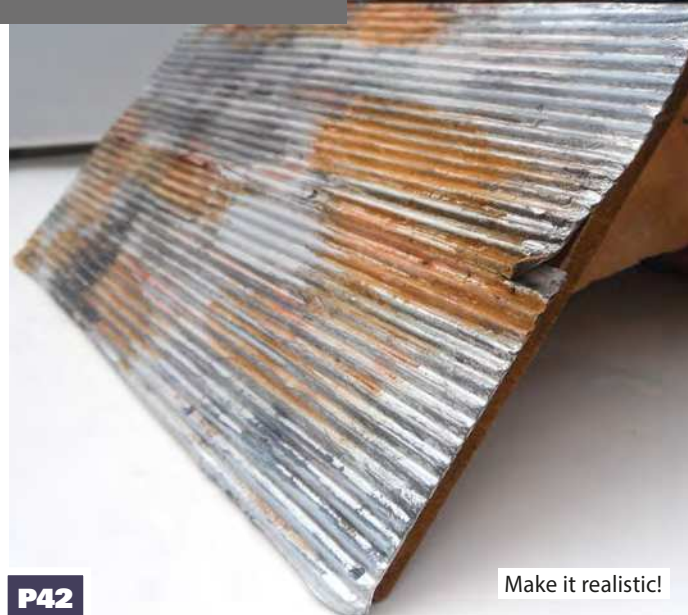


If you're reading the online version of this magazine...
Keep an eye out for these symbols

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

Julie Campbell, Sadie Brown, Kate Ünver, Bea Broadwood, Anne Evans, Angie Scarr, Sally Stirling, Alan Ronay, Maive Ferrando, Joe Wareing, Moi Ali and Kati Kainulainen

WE GIVE YOU THE SKILLS...



P42

Make it realistic!

SUCH INSPIRATION...

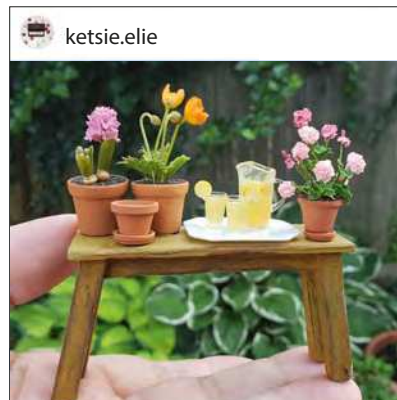


P39

...could influence full size!

CARL'S FAVOURITE FIND ON INSTAGRAM

"This image screams summer and skill! This bench was made by miniaturist Ketsia for her potting shed. On it the drink and the plants are so incredibly realistic, if it wasn't for the hand showing the sense of scale you might think this was full size!"



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INSIDE YOUR AUGUST 2020 ISSUE...

26



30



Regulars and Reviews...

06 The miniature scene
Read about what's going on in the miniature world.

20 Garden shopping
It's the time of the year to get your miniature garden scenes in tip top condition! If you don't make it yourself why not add one of these fantastic mini accessories!

26 Across the pond
Kate Ünver of The Daily Mini meets Mary Kinloch, maker of miniature flowers and plants and a Fellow of the International Guild of Miniature Artisans.

32 At Home with the Broadwoods
Professional miniaturist Bea Broadwood shares her latest small-scale project and shows us how she transformed a plain MDF base into a timeless allotment setting.

36 Reader project ▶
Mari Jökulsdottir shares her makes with lolly sticks resulting in incredibly realistic Norwegian buildings.



38 The business end
Making money from miniatures? Angie Scar talks about how market research can help you set up a miniature business!

62 The whole kit & caboodle
Moi Ali explores the making of a Notions counter kit by Jennifer Khan Miniatures.

63 What's in the September issue?
A look at the content you won't want to miss including some truly incredible talent!

56

HOW TO ENTER...

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The closing date for all entries is
31st August 2020. Good luck!



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Collections and Features...

- 10** **Lighting the way** ▶
Sadie Brown explores Marie Knight's wonderful lighthouse with its en-suite luxury and stained glass windows.
- 15** **Food for thought** ▶
Discover what's on the menu with IGMA Fellow, Linda Cummings – a truly talented maker of miniature food!
- 22** **The world of 3D printing** ▶
How visiting the Kensington Dolls House Festival on a whim lead Amy Scott-Murray to discover a passion!
- 28** **Spoilt for choice**
Karen Griffiths shares her collection of German Biedermeier furniture imitating French Boullework.
- 30** **Aurearte Miniatures** ▶
When we discovered Aurearte Miniatures we couldn't wait to share this highly decorative French-inspired range of furniture, all handmade with love.
- 34** **Teeny tiny tomes**
Moi Ali leafs through an amazing collection of little books by miniaturist Karen Griffiths.
- 39** **Designing a modern classic** ▶
Sonia Minter inspires us with a mix of Georgian and contemporary style.
- 48** **Holiday snaps** ▶
There may be travel restrictions in place now, but enjoy the summer holidays vicariously with a leaf through Moi Ali's Far East vacation photo album.

Exclusive Projects...

- 24** **Art Deco umbrella stand**
Create your own umbrella stand for the perfect authentic touch in your 20s or 30s scene.
- 42** **Archive content: Fisherman's shed**
Find out exactly how to create this realistic miniature fisherman's shed with its weathered effect and accessories.
- 46** **Flamingo**
Looking to add a tropical touch to your miniature scenes? Try sculpting this miniature version of a Chilean flamingo from polymer clay. This is a simple design, but feel free to add single feathers and to play around with more vibrant colours!
- 50** **Mini Chippendale chair**
Follow this project by Alan Ronay and you will have created yourself a lovely historical Chippendale chair.
- 52** **Tiny luggage**
Make this tiny 12th scale luggage bag for your dollhouse residents to use on their travels. And then personalise your tiny luggage with this easy-to-make label!
- 56** **Tropical Sunset**
Miniature artist Stephanie Guy tutors you through the simple steps required to create this masterpiece to adorn the wall of your miniature scene.

02 **Free blog content**
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**REMINDE YOURSELF WHY
WE'RE THE BEST ON PAGE 54**



DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE
August 2020 Issue 315

FROM BEGINNER TO EXPERT MAKES!

OVER 101 INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS INSIDE!

39 **A MODERN MARVEL...**

10 **The heart of the dolls home**

32 **Make it for outside**

15 **Good enough to eat**

PLUS **FISHERMAN'S SHED PROJECT • WOODEN NORWEGIAN HOUSES • CREATE A MINIATURE FLAMINGO • SHOPPING • FIND OUT WHAT YOUR FAVOURITE MINIATURISTS HAVE BEEN DOING IN LOCKDOWN**

EASY TO FOLLOW STEP BY STEP PROJECTS • TOP TIPS, IDEAS & MORE...

The Miniature SCENE

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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 contacting us via the above:

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

News copy deadline for the October issue (No. 317) is 19th August 2020

READER LETTER

I thought you might like to see the project I have been working on during lockdown. I bought a terrarium from Ikea early in the year but hadn't done anything with it so decided to turn it into a Tudor great hall. The wood for the floor and walls was from the base of a drawer we had replaced and the panelling is squared wood cut to fit with a few material flowers to add decoration. The chimney breast and fireplace were created from wood covered with Polyfilla and scored to look like stones. I made the furniture from odd pieces of wood I had left over although the settle I had made from a pattern in DHMS a while back but hadn't found a home for. I bought a few bits to finish the room, the suits of armour, swords, plates and the aumbry cupboard. The pictures were from my store cupboard as was the earring I used for the shield



over the fireplace. The candlesticks were pieces from a 1/24th scale railing and the candles were cut from a birthday cake candle. The table was made from balsa wood with cut down newel posts for the legs. The armorial shields were from the cut-out page of the Inns of Court a while back. I always knew that all the bits I saved would come in useful! The food was made from Fimo following patterns from the magazine and then painted.

The last thing was the dressing of the dolls. Sewing is not really my forte so a lot of the clothes were glued on. The male doll was originally from the Victorian era so I had to repaint his hair and give him a beard to make him more suitable for the Tudor period. The project took me about a month to make and I am pleased with the result. It is amazing what you can make from a few odds and ends of wood and a lot of time!

Julie Grimes



NEWSFLASH

IMoMA February 2021 Show Announcement

The International Market of Miniature Artisans show will be held on 18th and 19th February at Gold Coast Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, USA.

For more information visit imomalv.com



READER LETTER

Our dolls house miniaturists group, Cleveland Miniaturists UK presented £500 to the Great North Air Ambulance in February. We have raised £2050 for this chosen charity so far by way of tombolas, events and Christmas craft fairs. Unfortunately, due

to the corona pandemic we have not been able to fundraise at all this year but as soon as is practically possible, we shall start again.

Earlier this year our group were invited to exhibit our current project, which is a camping and caravanning scene, at Beamish Open Air Museum in County Durham.

Beamish is currently building a Fifties style town complete with an art deco cinema, period shops one of which is a dolls hospital, houses and a welfare hall. This project will take at least six years for them to complete. It was in the welfare hall where we held our exhibition in February, the same weekend the museum celebrated fifty years of the Museum being open. Our camping and caravanning scene fit in nicely because it was the type of holiday that many families would take in the fifties and the exhibition created a lot of interest, so much so that we have been invited to go back with our miniature Christmas display when the Museum start it's Christmas events in November this year. The twelfth scale caravans were bought as kits by some of our members from Crabpot Models, owned by Richard and Caroline Mansell. Beamish Museum is a unique living museum in the North of England and is certainly worth a visit for ideas and inspiration if working on an Edwardian or Georgian house. The Museum plans to add an eighties theme attraction because by 2040, the eighties will be history also!

Kind regards,

Linda Innes

Chairperson for Cleveland Miniaturists UK



MINIATURA ONLINE

Regular visitors to the Miniatura website may have noticed some changes recently. You can now see 'Miniatura Online' which is effectively a Miniatura Show that runs 'virtually' all year round. As organisers of shows we recognise that our main task

is to put enthusiastic collectors in the same place as talented craftspeople. Between our shows we hope we can make our website as much a part of that as possible.

What will you see?

Each 'exhibitor' will have at least three photos of their work, a hundred words about what they do and a contact link so you can buy from them. We are also encouraging everyone on our Miniatura Online Exhibition to add extra content and videos. In the future we hope to add more and more content but for now we hope it will help during lockdown and isolation.

Who will you see?

As you would expect we include all of our real-life exhibitors as part of their booking but we are also welcoming other miniaturists and services as well. They would still have to qualify to be part of the real show. This means that whoever you see on our online lists

will be of a high enough standard to be seen at Miniatura. It also means that you can search our site with confidence, knowing that the makers you find will have been checked by us.

How can you help?

That's right, everyone can help to make 'Miniatura Online' a success. If you know of a maker you feel should be on the list let us know and we will get in touch with them. They'll be reaching new audiences and making new sales. We want this virtual world to be as close as possible to the atmosphere of the friendly, supportive, community that we see at the shows.

How you can be an "exhibitor"

A taster page costs £25 for three months and a full calendar year is £50. As an added incentive if any of our virtual 'exhibitors' decide to go on and become actual exhibitors at any of our shows we will move that annual subscription to cover some of their booking fees. As an applicant you will need to provide us with three clear images and a description of what you make. We cannot guarantee inclusion and reserve the right to refuse and remove any 'exhibitor'. Our full terms and conditions are available on request.

Get in touch with Andy Hopwood for more information - office@miniatura.co.uk



JULIE CAMPBELL



Miniature enthusiast Julie Campbell shares one of the most exciting times in her miniature journey, her dolls starring on screen and brought to life in a television commercial!



My craft space, 'the shed'.



A still from my work appearing on television

Last month I talked about travelling. The next step of my doll making journey was closer to home, with a little bit of fame thrown in, for my dolls at least!

One of the nicest things about exhibiting in Chicago was being in the doll room amongst the other doll artists. It was awe inspiring to see all the beautifully hand crafted dolls and I came home all fired up and wanting to improve my skills. Although it's often said that everything is bigger in the USA, that could be not be said for the miniatures - they seemed even finer and smaller than those I had ever seen before.

I was working then in what I fondly called 'the shed', a pretty log cabin in our garden where I spent every spare minute I could. It really was my happy place! I decorated it in soft pastels and hung blinds and voile curtains to filter the light. I filled it with old upcycled furniture and the vintage dolls I collected. I found an old fireplace and bought a little electric stove so I was warm there in all weather. In the summer I would throw open the double doors and sit out sewing and painting on the porch. Finally I had a proper workplace and I knew I was very lucky to be able to walk down the garden path to my place of work each day! There I planned and dreamed and created my characters.

The dolls I had admired most in Chicago had very petite proportions and although my dolls were 12th scale I worked to fine tune the features and proportions so that they were more pleasing to my eye.

It was ironic that just as I was making my characters even smaller I had a call from an advertising agency to ask if I could make some out of scale dolls for a TV advert! It was 2011 and Talktalk were doing an advertising campaign called 'A brighter home for everyone'. The storyline was to show a lady in her own home sitting at her laptop with an open dolls house in the background where life was also going on complete with a miniature laptop and phone! The advertising company wanted it to be a traditional dolls house with a mixture of toys and dolls inside, much as you might find in any family home. Initially they wanted the mum doll to be like a blythe doll but that wouldn't work size wise so we decided that I would make two dolls, a mum with big eyes and doll like features and also a similar type dad doll who would be reading a miniature newspaper.

I was incredibly excited to be working on this project! They needed to have two of each

doll and as I don't use molds this proved to be difficult, it's so hard to make two dolls look exactly alike! I also had to make the clothes look doll-like rather than realistic so just as I was working to make my characters more realistic I had to take a backwards step for the project! To make things even more tricky for me, these dolls were going to be animated with stop motion so had to be sent in bits that would be fitted on to a rig. I sent off the figures and waited with bated breath to hear the reaction to them. Everyone loved the dolls but the hands broke easily during the animating process so I had to send off a few extra sets of hands! Then that was it, all the excitement was over and there was a long wait before I even saw a sneak preview photograph.

It was magical one evening when my daughter shouted "Mam! the advert is on!" and we all sat around to watch. It was beautifully filmed and so sweet to see the mum doll baking a cake sadly missing someone, then running through the house excitedly to answer a message on her miniature laptop! Then soon after, there was another version of the advert where the dad doll sat reading his newspaper. I was thrilled. Talktalk actually sponsored The X Factor at that time and to our amusement there was mum dancing in the short ad intro before the show! My little figures were really enjoying their moment of fame and it really was the highlight of my doll making journey up until that point. I had no idea what would be in store for me next but I was having so much fun and now it seemed so were my dolls! 🏠



The figure I created for TalkTalk

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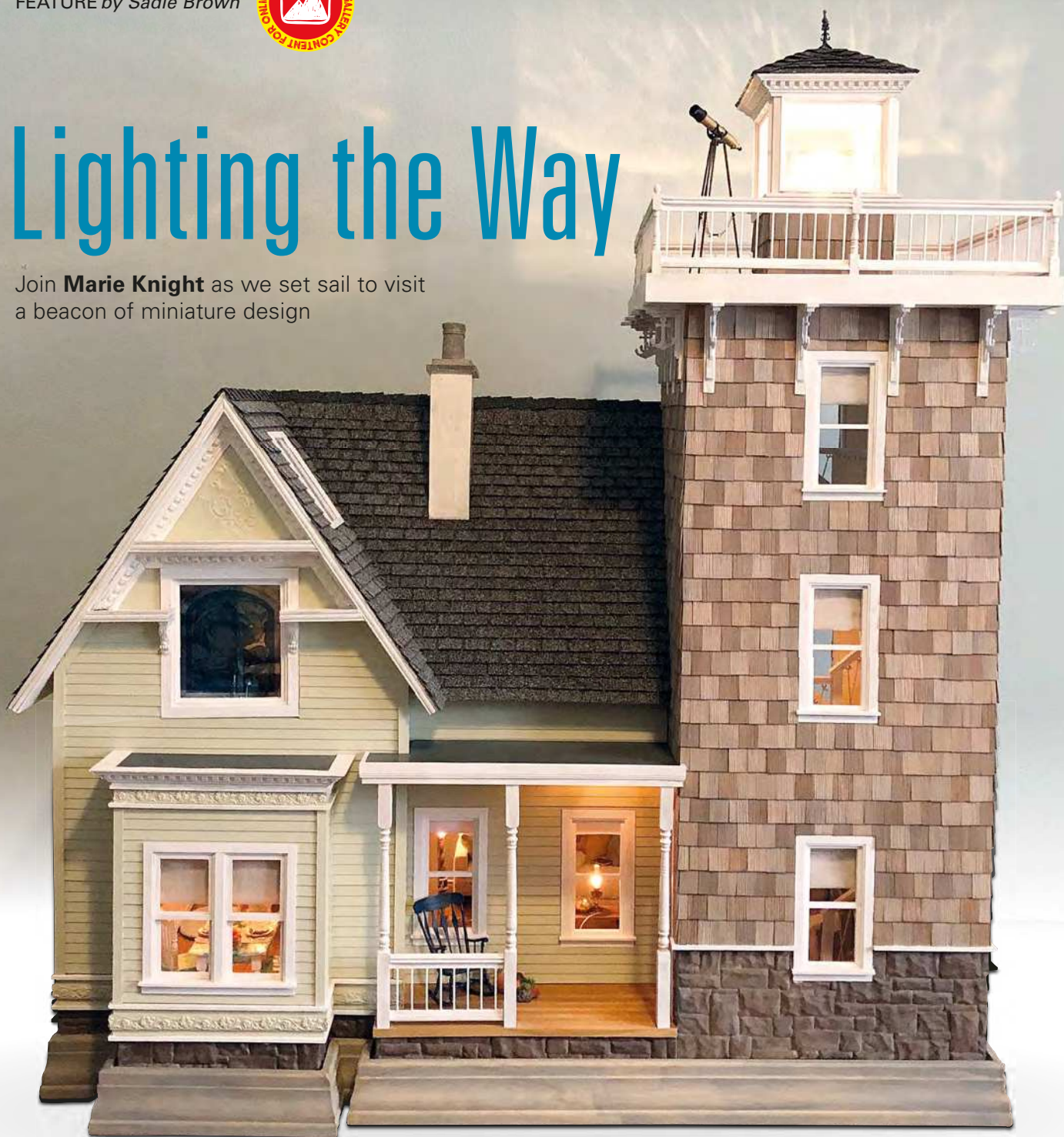
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Lighting the Way

Join **Marie Knight** as we set sail to visit a beacon of miniature design



▲ All lit up!

A shining light

The importance of realistic detail in Marie Knight's work shines as brightly as the beacon found at the top of Lady of the Light. The nautical theme is blended into the fabric of this unique 1/12th scale lighthouse, but it is Marie's knack for adding those hidden elements you wouldn't expect to find, such as a genuine coffee stain on a tiny napkin, which makes you realise that you never know what's going to be round the next corner in her projects, literally or metaphorically! "I think one of my favourite details is the fully functional folding ladder steps that take the mini resident from the third floor of the tower

to the tower roof where the beacon is," says Marie. "I made them from scratch, and they do come down out of the ceiling by pulling a short chain and unfold all the way to the floor. There's a hatch door that opens at the top of the stairs that is built into the floor of the tower. Fully folded up into the ceiling, you'd never know they are there unless you happened to spy the small pull chain."

It is Marie's stringent attention to detail which meant it took around eight months of careful research before she actually began construction on the lighthouse. Accumulating a collection of inspiration and notes, Marie built an ideas bank which would move her

initial idea forward. She also used this time to discover miniatures which would influence the interior and find their forever home inside the finished rooms of the lighthouse.

And as readers who visited Corked, an inspirational 21st century winery and tasting cellar in last month's issue will know, Marie is now well known for her ability to use and transform kits within her projects, and Lady of the Light is no different. Several pieces taken from a Westville kit which Marie had been keeping to one side were used in the construction of the living accommodation, with ½" foam board used to build the three story lighthouse tower. "Many of the pieces

from the kit that I used were bashed to fit my needs using ¼" foam board and illustration board," she says. "All kit walls, floors, and ceiling pieces were reinforced with ¼" foam board for a more realistic thickness and so that they could easily take the windows I wanted to use."

Getting things square

It was important to Marie that the shape of the tower reflected the structure housing the living accommodation. "I didn't want the round shape so often seen with lighthouses, but instead wanted the shape of the lighthouse tower to be square like the cottage so it looked more uniform and deliberate."

The attention lavished on the interior construction is also equally thoughtful, with each interior wall lined with a shiplap finish created through horizontal grooves which Marie explains were carefully cut into illustration board with the aid of a craft knife before each section was attached to the wall with glue. "Once the glue was dry, the walls were then painted. Pine floors were installed throughout except for the bathroom, which received a faux dyed concrete floor using a peel and stick floor tile. The ceilings were done with bead board. I used my Cricut Maker to make the railings for the lighthouse tower roof and front porch, as well as the anchor brackets at the top of the lighthouse tower, from cardstock."

The 3D printer Marie originally purchased whilst looking for a viable way to acquire the extremely large quantity of wine bottles



needed for Corked also came into its own once again for this project. It allowed her to create not only the more mundane requirements of any home such as coffee cups and even a rolling pin, but also incorporate a selection of unique nautical themed miniatures, including the seahorse and shell handles found on the

stylish kitchen cabinets. "The candle holders in the living room and the bathtub, toilet, sink, ship's wheel mirror, and rubber ducky in the bathroom were also 3D printed by me. I think the most versatile pieces I 3D printed however, are all the boat cleats that were used to not only make several bathroom items like the





▲ The beautiful finish on the kitchen table and chairs were created using the pour painting technique

towel hangers, toilet paper holder, towel shelf, and bathtub caddy, but the winding staircase in the lighthouse tower. If you look closely at the staircase railings, you will see they are made from rope that is secured to the treads by 3D printed boat cleats!"

Water features

The real masterstroke of Marie's 3D printing skills, and perhaps her most impressive piece so far lies with the fantastic kitchen faucet, the ships wheel design combining the functional with eye-catching aesthetics. A long-held dream to own a piece by Pete Acquisto of

Acquisto Silver, whose work has been seen in, amongst many others, the National Geographic Museum, finally came true when she discovered a beautiful water jug at the Seattle Miniatures Show.

The jug takes pride of place by the large butlers sink and next to the faucet, one of Marie's own finest works of miniature art. Marie was also especially delighted to have the opportunity to add the beautiful pendant lights by Ray Storey, which provide another focal point in the exquisite kitchen, to her collection. There is, though one favourite piece which holds a personal



▲ Anyone for coffee?

connection to Lady of the Light. On the outdoor porch sits a rocking chair, made cosy by an extra special cushion crafted by Diana Boyle of Miniature Lane, with a delicately hand painted image of the lighthouse itself.

From colour schemes influenced by shades of the ocean to a lighthouse inspired floor lamp in the living room, along with genuine seashells and tiny pieces of coral, Marie ensures the maritime theme is subtly threaded through each room, climbing far into the upper reaches of the tower itself. Nowhere are the tales of the sea more evident than on the top floor, where an old



▲ The living room features a giant skeleton clock made using Marie's Cricut Maker



▲ The welcoming entrance to the tower

Ahoy there, Captain



painting of a ship's captain sits on an ornate desk behind a selection of nautical maps and a pair of binoculars ready to seek out the next story from beyond the waves.

Life in 3D

For those who have found inspiration in Marie's projects, and particularly the ways in which a 3D printer can open up the potential to add a vast range of customised miniatures to a scene, she reminds us of the importance of remembering that this isn't just a financial consideration, but also one which is going to require the investment of the artists time and energy. "While I would encourage every miniaturist to give 3D printing a go because of all it enables a person to create, I also would like to encourage those who are seriously thinking of taking the plunge to do their research first," advises Marie. "3D printing is so much more involved than many people think. There is definitely a learning curve, and it does require some technical skill. Just about every 3D printer available today has its own Facebook group now, so join up, ask questions, and read all the valuable information that can be found there. YouTube also has an endless supply of videos to shed light on the subject."

New ideas

Not content with having recently put the finishing touches to *Corked* and *Lady of the Light*, both expansive projects, Marie already finds herself underway with two new ventures. Equally complex designs in their own way, these include a house heaped with extra pressure as it's certain to become a much-loved family heirloom. "One is a French chateau-style dolls house made using the Montgomery Hall kit and will be a gift for my cousin and her new baby girl. This dolls house will feature many pieces from artisan, Alison Davies, as well as plenty of items made with my Cricut Maker and 3D printer."

As we talk, the second of these new ventures is currently going by the cryptic title of 'Mystery Project 2020'; and in a testament to Marie's clear desire to keep challenging her miniature skills, features a fully operational lift. "I'm keeping what the project actually is a secret until one of my wonderful followers can guess what it is. Despite only working on it for a few weeks so far, I've had some really good guesses, but not 'the' guess. It's going to be an awesome project once it's completed, and I'm pretty excited about it." 🏠



INFORMATION

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▲ Dragonfly bedding brings a twist to the delightful bedroom

DollHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

Lighting the Way

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Food for Thought

Discover what's on the menu with IGMA Fellow, **Linda Cummings.**

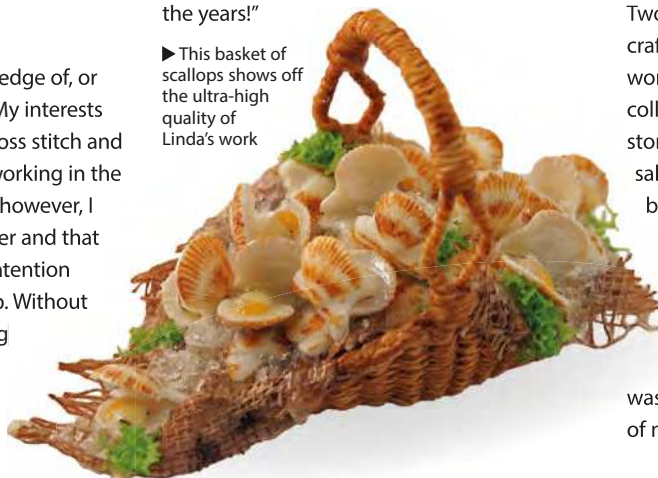
Around twenty years ago, Linda was yet to discover the rich tapestry of miniature food which would make her name. It was the chance gift from her mother, a Sid Cooke dolls house kit, which initially introduced Linda to a pastime which would see her go on to become a distinguished IGMA Fellow.

Taking a chance

"At that time, I had no real knowledge of, or interest, in the miniature world. My interests in those days were counted as cross stitch and watercolour, whenever I wasn't working in the garden. One miserably rainy day however, I decided to put the house together and that was it," says Linda, recalling her intention for the kit to become a cake shop. Without the aid of the internet connecting artisans in the way it does today, and unable to find what she was looking for to stock

the completed kit, Linda decided to begin creating her own miniatures. "That was the start of an all-consuming interest in all things 'mini'! The first mini that I made was, I think, a black cherry gateau. I still have it somewhere and to look at it now, I laugh, realising just how much my work has evolved over the years!"

► This basket of scallops shows off the ultra-high quality of Linda's work



▲ Linda's magnificent tiered fruit display.

Weaving minis into a future

Two decades on and the realistic, skilfully crafted miniature food cooked up on Linda's worktable is always eagerly awaited by collectors, but she still clearly recollects the story and excitement behind that very first sale. "I went through a stage of making baskets of vegetables. Before I taught myself to weave the baskets, I would make them out of Fimo. It was one of those veggie baskets and my youngest daughter who really set me on the mini making road," Linda tells me. "She was a student at Bath university and on one of my visits to see her she suggested I ►

► Steamed garlic scallops offer a taste of the sea



took my work to a local dolls house shop to see if they would be interested in stocking it. The owner wasn't in at the time, but a customer in the shop snapped the basket up for the grand sum of £25.00! My first ever sale!"

When it comes to what Linda finds most rewarding about her work, it's evident that a love of food is at the root of everything she makes. "The interesting thing about creating my miniatures is that the foods I like to eat most of all always seem to turn out better than those I'm not too keen on." It's therefore not surprising that shellfish makes a regular appearance amongst Linda's creations. From the luxury of steamed garlic scallops to a sumptuous platter of prawns, oysters and clams on a bed of lettuce, Linda's shellfish

brings a taste of the sea to the miniature dining table. "My all-time favourite dish to eat, summer or winter would be lobster, or in fact any shellfish."



▲ Quite literally a fish dish!

Time for tea

Replicating a wedding cake in miniature is something which has brought small scale to a wider audience in recent years as couples seek to keep a slice of their happy day on the mantelpiece, and Linda's worktable has not been immune from the trend, as she describes a beautiful tea set cake she was commissioned to make. "This cake had to be on a fondant tray, have a tea pot, decorated with birds and flowers, sugar bowl filled with coloured sugar cubes and tea cups with tea flavoured roses in each! It was a real challenge, but at the end of the day worth all the effort. I still wonder how on earth the real thing was cut into portions!"

From shellfish and replica wedding cakes to tropical pineapples, a plate of griddled vegetables and lavish displays of fruit, Linda can credit a hugely varied selection of miniature food to her name. Her Christmas themed miniatures, which have previously included everything from a basket of deliciously tempting iced reindeer cookies, to imaginative cakes featuring a sleeping Santa Claus are a joy and the idea of seeing what she comes up with to mark this year's festive season makes you actually anticipate the dark days of winter.



◀ Linda turns her hand to the perfect water and honeydew melons



▲ Vine tomatoes

► Fresh from the fields



Another feather in her cap

Having created so many beautiful things doesn't mean that there isn't still a list of ideas waiting to be pulled out of the creative drawer and Linda cites finishing a beautiful peacock cake currently languishing in her work room as high on her list of future aspirations. "The cake, topped with a peacock, minus tail, has been sitting on my windowsill for over 3 years now. The poor thing is waiting patiently to have a sumptuous tail made to sweep down over the cake. I rather think he might be there for a while longer as I just never seem to have the time to work out a cane to reproduce the fabulous eye feather. The only attention he gets at the minute is a dust down every now and then. One of these days I will complete him!" The peacock is a bird which wholly revels in the magical remit of nature and combined with Linda's talent for authentic detail, the final result will be more than worth the wait.

The moment which has brought Linda the largest sense of achievement in her career to date was undoubtedly that of attaining IGMA Fellow status. "To be judged by your peers to be worthy of that accolade was definitely a highlight," she says. There's also no doubt just how much having the opportunity to meet the many fans of her work means to Linda, who attends the annual Kensington Dolls House Festival Christmas Show, an event which gives her customers the opportunity to express just how much they love her miniatures. 🍷

► Summertime in miniature with strawberries and cream



"To know that all the hours that go into each piece are truly appreciated makes the work worthwhile!"



► Glazed ham for dinner



▲ The laborious task of shelling broad beans and peas in miniature

► Caramel shortcake for the miniature sweet tooth



True to life

"To anyone trying to create miniature food, I would say that, wherever possible, try to work from real life. If you have the real thing in front of you, it's more likely that you can create a realistic reproduction," says Linda, offering some excellent advice for those seeking to give their work that same ultra-realistic edge. "Failing that, at the very least try to have a good picture of whatever it is you are making and refer to it as you work. I'd like to encourage everybody to 'have a go'. If you can't find that 'special' piece to complete your scene or add that extra touch to your project, try your hand at making it yourself. You may well be very surprised at what you can achieve and will most definitely gain great enjoyment and satisfaction from trying. Above all never give up, have fun and remember that practice makes perfect!"

Combining that love of shellfish with a talent for miniatures which has been fed by two decades of ever-expanding creativity, there's no doubt that the world of small scale is definitely Linda's oyster! 🏠



The fruits of a tropical summer.
Freshly sliced pineapple

► Cheese galore



► Who's for the washing up!



◄ Linda's replica tea set wedding cake commission



 **INFORMATION**
Lin's Minis
www.etsy.com/shop/linsminis

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12th Scale Garden Bench - Plain Wood, £5.69
www.craft-products.com



White Arbour Bench, £8.95
www.dollshousemania.co.uk
(01384 638833)

SHOPPING
Guide

GARDEN DELIGHTS

It's the time of year to make sure your miniature gardens are tip top and ready for summer!

We've put together this selection of miniatures to help provide the perfect scene.



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www.hobbies.co.uk
(01508 549330)



Active Garden Gnomes, £5.95
www.hobbies.co.uk
(01508 549330)



Dolls House Barbeque, £10.69
www.craft-products.com

12th Scale Row Of 4 Cauliflowers, £1.25
www.hobbies.co.uk
(01508 549330)



12th Scale Pink Window Box For Dolls House Garden, £6.95
www.hobbies.co.uk
(01508 549330)



Grey Stone Pond, £2.99
www.hobbies.co.uk
 (01508 549330)



Weaved Garden Fence Panel, £6.38
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 (01795 665336)



Streets Ahead Wood Bird Box, £1.97
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 (01795 665336)



Green Watering Can, £2.25
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Streets Ahead Wellington Boots
 (2 pairs), £3.57
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Garden Tools (3 pieces), £2.15
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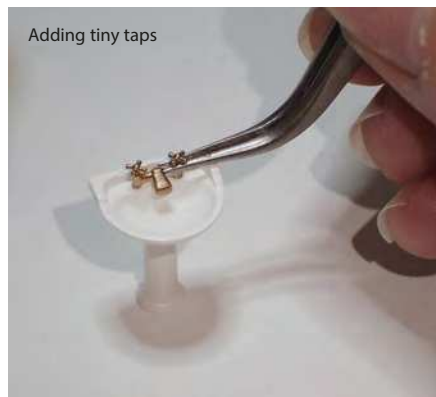


Bird Feeder/Bath/Planter, £23.99
www.dollshousegallery.co.uk



The world of 3D printing

Amy Scott-Murray may be new to miniatures but she's already made a big impact, as *Moi Ali* discovered.



Miniature life in three dimensions

Little did Amy Scott-Murray know, when she started using 3D printing to prototype marine research equipment during her PhD, and making tactile replicas of specimens and museum objects at work, that she would end up using the equipment to create wonderful dolls house miniatures!

It all started about a year ago when she wandered into the Kensington Dolls House Festival on a whim. Amy takes up the story: "I have a perennially unfinished Petite Properties 'Raven's Perch' which I bought about a year ago at Kensington, having fallen in love with 1/48th scale. It's great that this scale lets us be more architecturally faithful, and to concentrate more on the building and its fittings. I would love to spend more time on it, but my online shop has taken off much quicker than I ever expected, so it's hard to find enough time for my own projects! It's a good kind of problem to have, though."

How Amy started

Amy continued: "My background is in 3D computer graphics, and I used to make animated short films. I'm very lucky in that I'm already up to speed with modelling software and can translate my ideas accurately into digital form. I started out by printing some fireplaces and chimneys to put into my own mini house. I had some spares left over and thought I'd try my luck listing them on Etsy. It has grown and grown from there!"

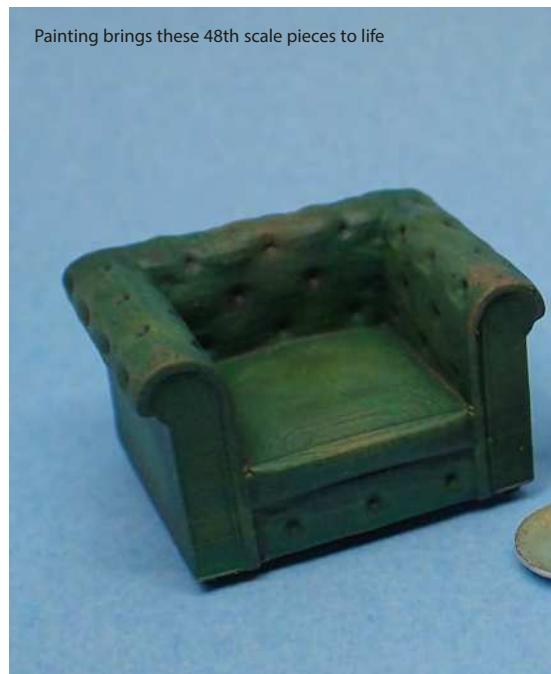
Amy's shop currently specialises in 48th and 24th scales but there's good news for 12th scale lovers: "I've been commissioned to make 1/12th scale versions of my smaller pieces. Because of that I'm planning to start producing in one-inch scale routinely." She also stocks 1/144th scale, saying: "I've only very recently added those tiny pieces but they seem to be very popular already."

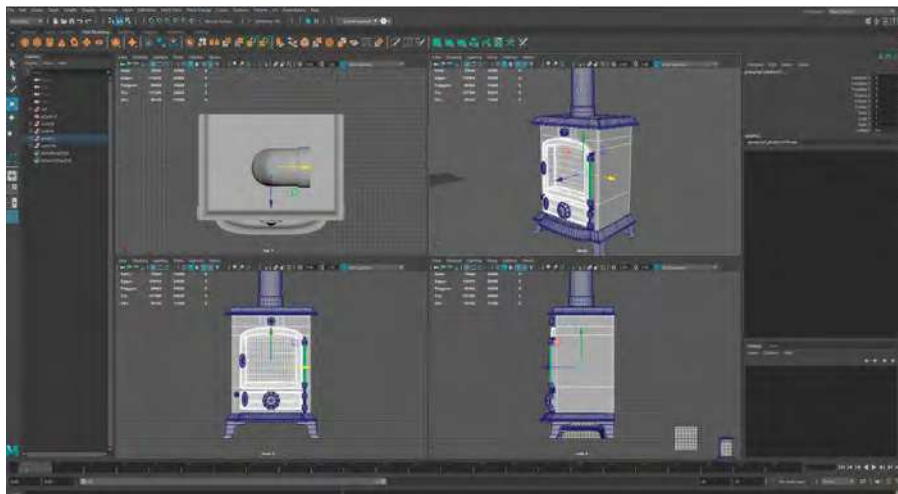
An entrepreneur by nature, Amy is immensely creative too and is very much open to special commissions and collaborations:

I think Amy's right. People today are looking for something more personal and unique.



"I would love to work with clients to digitise their real-life sculptures or architectural details and reproduce them in miniature. I think there's a lot of scope for bespoke work like this."





▲ The design process is complex

The design process

I asked Amy about the design process for 3D printing. She explained: "I'm keen to dispel the idea some people have that things pop out of the printer perfectly finished and ready to go. They don't! I start off by doing lots of visual research into the piece. Once I've assembled plenty of photos to work from, I'll begin modelling the object in my 3D software, which results in a digital wireframe model like in a video game. I put in as much detail as I can at this stage, working mainly by eye as if I were making a drawing. (The alternative to modelling like this would be to scan a real object, but that's not been an option during lockdown!)"

Amy continued: "Then I'll do some test prints at different scales and modify the model so that it will work with the limitations of the print process. Commonly I need to simplify some details or make very tiny parts more robust, and that will be done differently for

each scale I intend to produce at. Once I'm happy that the model will print well, I make a batch and paint them. I'll often find there are more modifications I can make so that a piece becomes easier to paint. One example is where I split my fireplaces into two printed parts, meaning the grate and the surround can be painted separately and glued together after. It's much easier to get a neat result that way!"

Is 3D printing for miniaturists?

Miniaturists have yet to harness the potential of 3D printing. I asked Amy whether the equipment is just too expensive to be worth the investment, especially for the level of refinement that is required for miniatures. She responded: "3D printers which can handle the detail level we need for miniatures and are becoming more and more affordable. Two years ago, I would have had to spend thousands to achieve what I'm doing now. My current machine, which I've had less than a year, cost under £300! For 3D printing to become truly accessible, what we need now is a similar leap forward in software that is easier for beginners to learn. I do think we're going to see more and more 3D printed miniatures, and also more variety, as it's easy to do short runs or one-off items."

She continued: "3D printing has been hyped for years as a revolutionary technology, but we are only now starting to see the tide of real-world applications which people are finding for it. I'm really excited to be one of the people exploring printing for dolls house miniatures, and to find out how it will complement traditional skills and techniques to push our mini worlds even further."

Amy has set a very high standard with her exquisite miniatures, but as the technology becomes more user-friendly, perhaps the rest of us can start printing our own miniatures. That would really be a dream come true!

Sometimes the brush is bigger than the piece!



Many colourways are available



Small, smaller and smallest!



Printed as two pieces to ease painting



INFORMATION

Visit www.lasershrinkray.com
or email amy@lasershrinkray.com



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The World of 3D Printing

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Art Deco Umbrella Stand

Give your hallway a touch of delightful Deco with Moi Ali's exclusive design.



YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- 2mm thick wood
- Thick card
- Paint or stain
- Glue
- Mirror



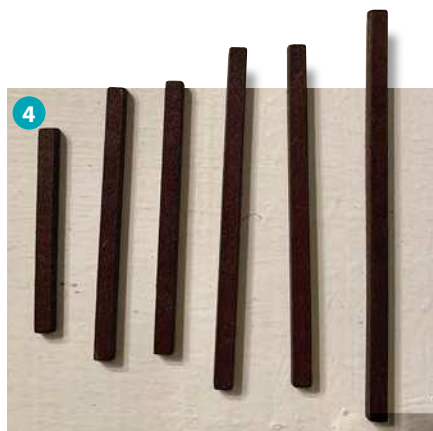
1 Cut the back piece to measure 140x65mm. Trim off the corners, as illustrated. Cut the base to identical measurements, but only 25mm rather than 140mm. Cut a second base piece that is 1mm larger all around.



2 Glue the two base pieces together so the straight backs are flush and the front and sides of the top piece are offset.



3 Cut the pieces for the umbrella holder. The front is 35x17mm. The sides are 45x14mm each, with a rounded top as shown (but you can cut it diagonally if easier). Cut a sunburst design from card. Make up the umbrella holder using glue, having first stained or painted the pieces.



4 Cut the trims. All are 3mm wide. Cut one piece 60mm long, cut two pieces 50mm long, two pieces 40mm long, and one piece 30mm long. Stain them dark brown.



5 Cut the shelf 40mm long and 15mm deep, with the front corners cut as shown. Cut brackets by cutting two quarter-circles each 10mm along the straight edges, and another pair at 8mm. Assemble the shelf by stacking

the circles to form brackets and gluing the shelf so everything is flush at the back. Stain or paint.



6 Secure the base to the back, then attach the umbrella stand, shelf and trims in the arrangement shown in the picture. You may need to sand the top trims at a 45-degree angle. Add an oval or rectangular mirror (a square or circle are the wrong dimensions to fill the space).

Moi says...

"If you can't find a mirror to fit, find an archetypal Art Deco image from the internet and use that in place of a mirror, or add another shelf or a hat hook, or just leave it blank."

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ACROSS THE POND



NAME:
Mary Kinloch

CREATES MINIATURES IN:
Clearwater, Florida

FULL-TIME OCCUPATION:
Retired nurse

WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO CREATE IN SMALL SCALE?
I have always loved miniatures, especially the smaller scales.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT TROPICAL PLANTS AND FLOWERS THAT SO INVIGORATES YOU?
I have loved my garden ever since I bought a house, 38 years ago. I grow a lot of tropical plants and flowers. The latest was a Devil's Trumpet, where I took a real flower apart and had the pieces laser cut. The first one was not to my standards but the ones after that turned out great. I had to work out a few problems putting the flower together.

WHAT MATERIAL DO YOU PRIMARILY USE TO MAKE YOUR MINIATURES?
I work with paper. I have over 100 designs laser cut in three scales.

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 we're introduced to **Mary Kinloch**, who makes beautiful miniature plants and flowers!

You can connect with Kate via Twitter: **@thedailymini** or via her website: **www.thedailymini.com**

Angel's Trumpets: One of the most common questions I get is, "how long did it take to make that miniature?" I have a hard time even estimating time. While glue or paint is drying, I am doing something else. Sometimes it may be a day or two before I get back to that particular piece



Q: WHAT IS THE DAILY MINI

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

Coleus: To watch this Coleus come to life, check out my YouTube channel by searching 'Mary Kinloch'



Fuchsia: My only secret is... always use good quality art materials that will last



Gloriosa Lily: I use a lot of Japanese crepe art paper that is handmade in Japan. One of my YouTube videos demonstrates my painting of the paper. I paint both sides mixing a little water with the paint. It gives good colour variations. Then, I hang to dry using clamps or a small clothesline



Daisies: These miniature Daisies are part of my personal collection. My work is in many of Lady Jane's pieces that are in museums



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE TROPICAL PLANT OR FLOWER TO CREATE IN MINIATURE?

I love them all.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY FOR READERS TO CONNECT OR COLLABORATE WITH YOU?

I am on my flower-making group on Facebook every day. I give tips, answer questions and see pictures of other people's miniature flowers. The group now has over 4,400 members from all over the world.

IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS, HOW HAVE STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS IN YOUR AREA CHANGED YOUR MINI-MAKING ROUTINE?

I get more work done since I can't go out as much! Also, many more people are making miniature flowers, so I am busy filling orders or answering questions on the Facebook group. 🏠



INFORMATION

To join Mary's Facebook group search for 'Making Dolls House Flowers in all Scales' on Facebook.

To see more of Mary's work visit:

[ebay.com/str/tropicalminiaturesbymarykinloch](https://www.ebay.com/str/tropicalminiaturesbymarykinloch)

Spoilt for choice

Moi Ali returns to the collection of Karen Griffiths, a prolific collector of miniature antiques to find out what other treasures can be found within her extensive collection.

Regular readers will already be familiar with much of Karen Griffiths' collection. The Seattle miniaturist is a prolific collector of dolls house miniatures with an extensive and valuable collection of beautiful antiques. So far, we've looked at her silverware, bone and ivory, Queen Mary-related items... but Karen was struggling with what to share next, her haul is so large! She explained: "I must admit that it took me a while to decide what to show you. As I looked in all the houses and room boxes, there were so many nice things!" However, Karen decided that she would focus on items that were easy to get at!

She has a few pieces of German Biedermeier furniture imitating French Boulle work. Andre Charles Boulle invented a way of embellishing furniture using thin cut brass work over a tortoiseshell or ebony veneer, creating stunning and intricate marquetry designs. Karen's miniature versions use gold stenciling over dark wood. The stunning deep blue interior of her little cabinet is typical for this type and age of furniture.

Germany was a prolific supplier of dolls house furniture and the Boulle-inspired pieces are not the only ones in Karen's collection. She owns pieces by Gottschalk (who also made dolls houses), and she has a bedroom set by Paul Leonhardt. The white painted pieces are embellished with gold lines and stenciling, plus there is also a mirrored wardrobe to match. The golden oak bed is also German and it too is part of a bedroom set. Karen has the matching chest of drawers, chair and bedside table too. Another German bed Karen owns comes with pretty fabric and lace hangings. The flower decoration is a decal. "There are many pieces of this type available," explained Karen. "They made tables, chairs, pianos, flower stands - all manner of other items. My little bed is probably German and made for the French market."

English pieces also feature in Karen's



▲ Boulle work key cabinet



▲ German bed with drapes

collection. She has a charming Queen Anne cabinet made by Triang, a brand name created by Lines Brothers, a British toy manufacturer founded in 1876. The three sons of one of the original founders took over the business. The three Lines brothers soon realised that three lines formed a triangle, hence the brand name Triang! The company also owned iconic toy brands such as Meccano, Hornby and Dinky.

As an American collector, pieces made in the United States are a strong feature in Karen's little museum. Her darling little pink wooden chest of drawers is by Tynietoy, a company started by two ladies in Rhode Island. They were mostly working in the 1930s through to 1950. The floral details on Karen's chest are handpainted. They also made furniture in natural wood.

An especially pretty piece is Karen's wooden cabinet with colourful lithographic paper decoration. "I have other colour variations in my collection, but they're just too hard to get to easily to photograph," she exclaimed.

One specialist area of Karen's collecting is ormolu (or gilt bronze) - a gilding technique of applying finely ground, high-carat gold mercury amalgam to a bronze object. The mercury is burnt off in a kiln, leaving behind a gold coating. "The process to produce these things was poisonous," explained Karen. "However, the finished product is not poisonous. Soft metal items can sometimes look similar to ormolu but they bend easily, whereas ormolu does not."

Karen has German ormolu tables, chairs, clocks, vases and other small accessories from the firm of Erhard & Sohne. Her rarer pieces include a fan, with blades that rotate. The squirrel cage is perhaps her rarest item in the ormolu collections.

"The squirrel cage actually revolves and there is a little squirrel inside!" said Karen. "This was the hardest piece for me to get. It took bidding at three different auctions before I won it." A prize worth winning, Karen! 🏠



▲ Cabinet by Triang



▲ Tynietoy chest



▲ Part of Karen's ormolu collection



▲ Golden oak German bed

To see more of
Karen's collection
turn to
PAGE 34



◀ Boulle work sideboard

► Lithographic
papered cabinet





We discover:

ÁUREA SEGURA AND AUREARTE MINIATURES

► Hand-painted 18th century French inspired music chair and harp



When we discovered the amazing 12th scale work by by Áurea Segura under her brand Aurearte Miniatures we were seriously impressed. Áurea has combined her passion for art and decoration with an interest in dollshouse furniture to create a mission – to light up every dollshouse with unique and hand-painted furniture. Each of her pieces is carefully made with extreme attention to detail to capture beautiful characteristics. Work is upholstered in silk, linen and cotton giving the collection touch of sophistication as we can certainly see here!

Aurea explains "I started painting at a very young age and was lucky enough to make a career of it. I have exhibited my paintings in Barcelona and San Francisco and I painted large murals for international conferences. I also combined my art career with work in interior design and in a way, that led me to the miniatures world. Somewhere I can combine both art and interior design to create spaces I dream about and picture in my imagination. It's such an amazing world!

I have two incredible daughters, one lives in Dublin and the other one here in Barcelona, and I have four loving dogs that keep me company while I work on my miniatures. I have attended a number of international shows and I look forward to keeping doing so when it's safe to travel again. I also sell my miniatures on Etsy and on my website.

My hobby history

I have painted oil paintings my whole life. Almost twenty years ago I bought my first miniature dollhouse and I thought it would be fun to hand paint my own miniature furniture. My friends and family always said how beautiful and unique those pieces were and a few years ago, I decided I wanted to share that with the world, so I started Aurearte Miniatures. My mother had a dolls house and we built it together. We painted the house, covered the walls, selected the flooring and then worked together on the decoration. She couldn't find the pieces of furniture that matched her scenes so I suggested working on her pieces myself. She loved the result and encouraged me to keep doing miniature



▲ Hand-painted baby room rocking chair in soft shades of pink and white

furniture and that's when I decided I could share it with the world. Working on miniature furniture makes me feel really happy - while I'm upholstering and hand painting each piece, I keep thinking about the smile on people's faces when they get a new piece for their dream house. Being able to be part of that, is a true gift. I feel very fortunate.



▲ Chest of drawers with hand-painted in soft blue tones.

Soft green hand painted chaise lounge



Hand painted bedroom collection

"I believe that every miniature dollhouse piece of furniture has a story to tell and a dream to reflect"

Style icon

I think my style is a reflection of romance surrounded by natural settings. My pieces combine light colors to make them elegant and sophisticated. I've always found inspiration in the 18th Century and Louis XVI's France as well as in Jane Austen's novels. The scenes I typically paint are a reflection of the romances of that time, with all the detail and sophistication that they carried with them. Recently I've been working on pieces inspired by nature - such as my bird collection. I really like upholstering and hand painting

miniature furniture because it gives me the opportunity to really focus on the details. I choose the fabrics I use very carefully and I create my own color combinations. I've always enjoyed painting and although my career in art has focused on oil paintings and even doing murals, I really enjoy working at such a small scale. It can be challenging at times because the details are minuscule but the end result is always beautiful. Now to find the inspiration in nature I look out my window and see the blooming flowers and the birds flocking, especially in the Spring.

Working from home

I create my pieces in my studio at home. I've created a cozy space in the attic where I have lots of natural sunlight all day. It's my special safe place - when I go into my studio it's like entering a whole other world. I'm surrounded by miniatures, wonderful pieces that are finished, others that are yet to be upholstered... it's a great place.

Top tool

Thin paint brushes are my number one tool with which to work on the fine details of my miniatures. If you look close at my pieces you will understand why these are my most cherished things with which to create!

Sharing the dream

Miniatures are a reflection of dreams - they allow us to make those dreams come true. I believe that every miniature dollhouse piece of furniture has a story to tell and a dream to reflect, and they bring light and happiness to each owner's dollhouse. You can be part of that dream with your creations and it's wonderful. 🏠



INFORMATION

www.aurearte.com
www.instagram.com/aurearte_miniatures
www.facebook.com/Aurearte-Miniatures
www.etsy.com/es/shop/Aurearte

◀ Dining table hand painted Louis XVI style and aged



DollHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

Aurearte Miniatures

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At Home with THE BROADWOODS



GRANDPA'S HIDEAWAY

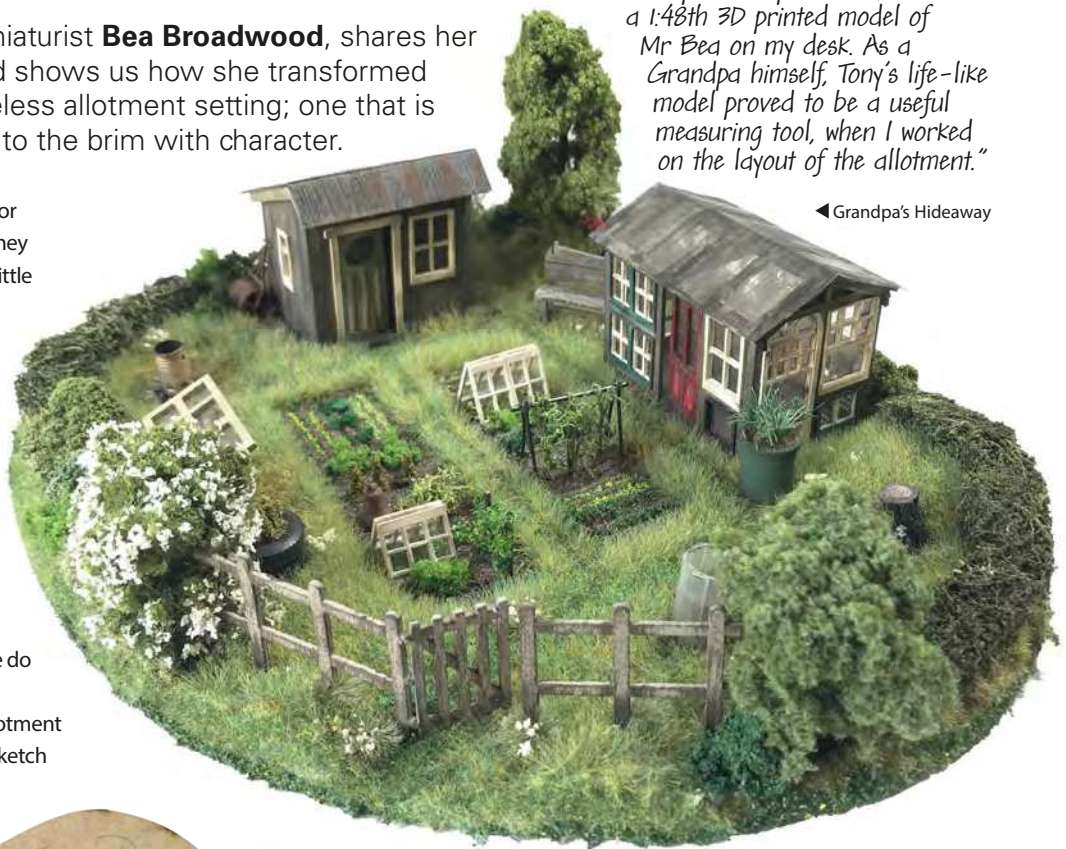
This month, professional miniaturist **Bea Broadwood**, shares her latest small scale project and shows us how she transformed a plain MDF base into a timeless allotment setting; one that is steeped in nostalgia and full to the brim with character.

The humble allotment has been around for centuries and over the last few decades they are a familiar sight all over the UK. These little parcels of land, divided up into individual garden plots, create not only a haven for wildlife, but they also provide a peaceful sanctuary for the enthusiastic (full scale) gardener too!

My fascination with allotments stems from the charm of the outbuildings, sheds and greenhouses that are found within their boundaries. An assortment of old reclaimed materials jostle together to form hand built structures, which are steeped in both nostalgia and ooze 'make do and mend' charm.

To be honest, my idea for a small scale allotment scene has been bouncing around in my sketch book for many years. Gradually, over time I added individual elements to the overall design... but it took the (accidental) discovery of some quarter scale tires to provide the final piece of my allotment puzzle that allowed my design to leap off the pages of my sketchbook and become a miniature reality! *Bea.*

▼ The final piece of the puzzle...



◀ Grandpa's Hideaway

◀ Planning the layout with a little help from mini Mr Bea

It's all in the preparation!

I really can't stress enough how valuable it is to plan ahead. The very first consideration for my allotment scene was to decide which individual elements I wanted to include and collect them together. I then drew various base shapes onto a large sheet of card and began to play around with the positioning of the shed and greenhouse. As I intended my diorama to be a 360 degree scene, I also spent a lot of time considering different view points, to ensure that whichever way you looked at the diorama;

there was always something to catch the eye.

Once I had finalised the layout, I drew the plan for it directly onto my wooden base. I then protected the areas that needed to remain flat using masking tape. This ensured that features such as the shed and greenhouse would sit flush against the base and therefore appear grounded in the final setting.

Slap it on...

Before creating soft undulating contours on your base, you must first prepare the area! To do this I applied one generous coat of PVA adhesive to the surface and edges of my base and then left it to dry completely before continuing. Next, I mixed powdered (interior) decorator's filler with cold



◀ Mr Bea in quarter scale



▲ Mask out the areas where you do not want the filler paste to be applied

water to create a stiff paste. I applied the paste to the base using a butter knife and molded the filler to create hedge banks and contours onto the surface of the allotment. Whilst the filler was still wet, I removed the masking tape patches and then left the allotment to dry overnight at room temperature.

▼ Liberally cover the base with filler paste



Faking it!

Once dry, I used fine sandpaper to neaten up and smooth out the contours I had previously created. I personally love recycling materials that I have collected over the years. So, to create the undulating surface of the allotment's seed beds, I simply used sections of corrugated cardboard from coffee cup sleeves, stuck down with PVA adhesive. I then painted the whole base with a liberal coat of dark brown paint and left it to dry thoroughly before continuing.

▼ Bea used fine corrugated card to create the seed beds



▼ Paint the base with two coats of dark brown paint



How does your garden grow?

When it comes to landscaping a base, I always start by positioning the large elements first, as this helps to create the underlying structure of the scene. Using a cold melt glue gun for instant adhesion, I stick any trees, hedging or shrubs into position. Once I am happy with the composition, I then move onto covering the surface of the base using a wide variety of landscaping scatters.

▼ Use a cold melt glue gun to position shrubs and trees etc



▲ Bea added shorter static grass to create the effect of a mown path

▼ The remaining exposed base was covered with long dry grass scatter



Bea will be taking a closer look at static grass applicators in a future issue so stay tuned!

And finally...

Regular readers will know just how passionate I am about creating miniature landscaped dioramas and Grandpa's Hideaway was certainly no exception as it was so much fun to work on from beginning to end! I really hope that you will be inspired to have a go yourself and create your very own nostalgic allotment scene for your miniature Grandpa to escape to and enjoy. Happy mini-ing!



INFORMATION

www.petite-properties.com
01526 328738

Grass roots...

Most full size allotments I have seen and researched all seem to have a slightly wild look to them and I wanted my Grandpa's Hideaway to also echo that overgrown feel. To achieve this, I didn't keep my landscaping too neat and used long dry grass scatter to cover the majority of the bases. After painting the lawn areas of the allotment with a coat of medium green paint, I then applied two different lengths of grass to create the illusion of a mown pathway, surrounded by longer grass. I was also aided in the application of the grass, by using a static grass applicator. I found this to be a very helpful modelling tool, as the static charge it creates ensures that the grass fibres stand upright, replicating 'real' grass perfectly!

GIVEAWAY!

DHMS have teamed up with Petite Properties to offer one lucky reader the whole kit to make your own Grandpa's Hideaway!

To enter simply visit www.dollhouseandminiaturescene.co.uk and click on giveaways!

Competition closes on 31st August 2020. Good luck!

For more information regarding competitions visit www.warnergroupp.co.uk/competition-terms/

▼ Karen's 'Hymns Ancient and Modern', with a leather back



▼ Karen's silver 'Birthdays' book



Teeny tiny tomes

Moi Ali leafs through an amazing collection of little books by miniaturist **Karen Griffiths** as we delve even further into her collection.

Moi says...

"A miniature book is defined as one whose height and width do not exceed three inches (7.5cm)."

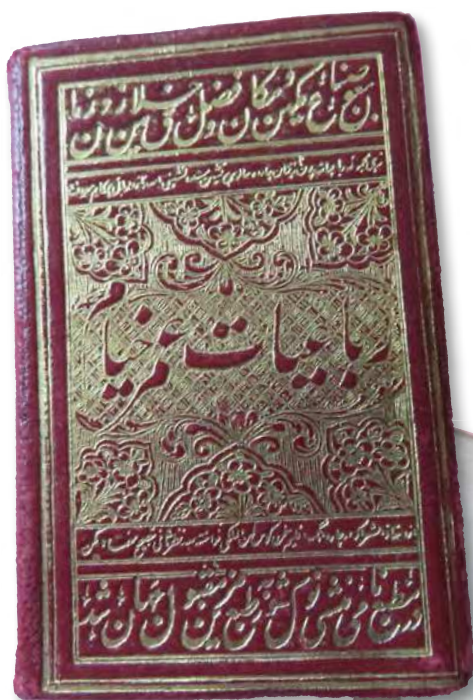
Karen's superb collection

Even non-miniaturists adore a little book. There's something beguiling about them, and oh-so-very tactile. It was therefore such a treat to take a look at miniature connoisseur Karen Griffiths' collection of tiny tomes.

Karen has a collection of 94 antique

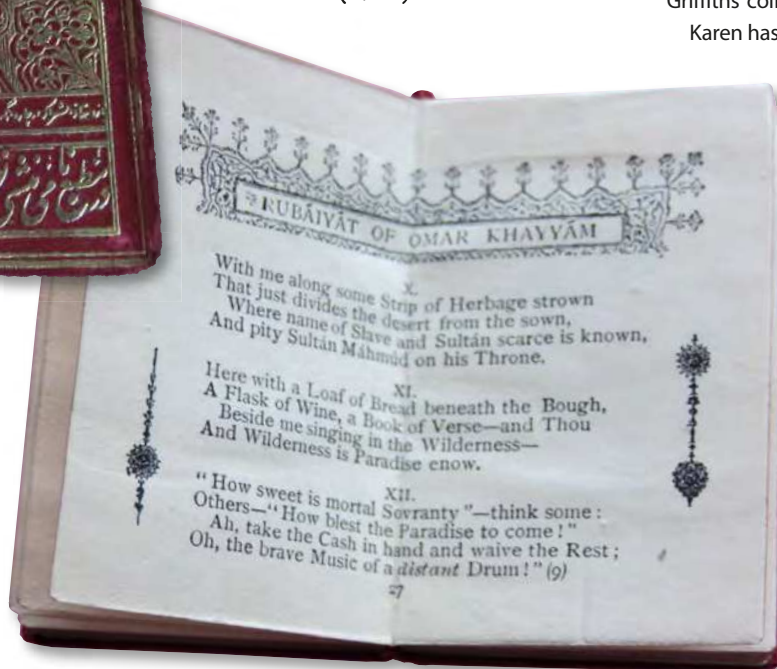
miniature books. "I also have lots of more modern miniature books," Karen told me. "I haven't counted them. Most of the books are approximately dolls house size. I do have a few that are larger, at around two to three inches tall. I bought those because of the subject matter, or most likely because I didn't realise the size! I must admit that growing up learning inches and not metric is a hindrance!"

Of her antique books, six have silver covers, including my personal favourite - an exquisite Art Nouveau birthday book containing



▲ Karen's Bryce Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

► Beautiful spread inside the Rubaiyat



▼ The oldest in Karen's collection, 1823, 'Valeur et Constance'



▲ Some of Karen's modern Dateman books

▼ Bryce Qu'ran in Arabic, with a magnifying glass



▲ Karen's Bryce English dictionary



▲ Newspapers by Dateman in Karen's collection

To see more of Karen's collection turn to **PAGE 28**

a page for every day of the year. As well as writing in whose birthday falls when, there is a small quote on each page.

The subject matter of Karen's books is as vast as the collection itself. She told me: "I have Shakespeare, bibles and other religious books, small calendar books, and books with stories for children. The small bible books may have been given to children to keep them quiet in church. Soldiers may also have taken these small books with them to war. They don't take up much space and could be comforting in wartime."

Given that I live a short drive from Glasgow, I was thrilled to hear that Karen owns many books published by David Bryce & Son, a maker from that city. In fact, I used to own a David Bryce Qur'an, which I foolishly gave away. These were often supplied to Muslim soldiers fighting for the British in the First World War. The text is perfectly legible with the aid of the magnifying glass inset into the metal locket that accompanies the book. Karen owns an utterly charming Bryce English dictionary, which is just an inch tall. Inside it claims to be "The Smallest English Dictionary in the World."

DAVID BRYCE (1845-1923)

David Bryce was one of the world's most prolific and successful makers of miniature books. He entered the book trade at the age of 17, working in his father's publishing house in Glasgow. After his father's death in 1870, Bryce started producing the miniature books that were to make him famous. Bryce embraced the latest advances in photolithography — a type of photo reduction using electroplates — to reduce larger volumes to the smallest imaginable size.

The National Library of Scotland (NLS) in Edinburgh has a collection of Bryce's work. It includes a 20-volume set of William Shakespeare's works housed in a tiny wooden replica of Shakespeare's desk modelled on the original in a Stratford museum. The desk is made of oak taken out of Holy Trinity Church, Stratford, where Shakespeare was baptised and buried.

If you would like to start a collection of miniature books yourself, join Karen in collecting antique books from auction houses and online auction sites such as eBay. Alternatively, why not collect more affordable modern books from miniature makers such as Dateman. All their books are fully printed, miniature versions of the full-sized originals, and are hand-bound in their bookbinding

workshop in England. More than 350 titles include classics such as *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mrs Beeton*, *Alice in Wonderland* - and the Bible. Karen has many of theirs, including a set of ten Beatrix Potter books, as well as some of their miniaturised newspapers recalling important historic events.

Turn over a new leaf and start your own collection! 🏠



Made by You:

My Norwegian houses

by Mari Jøkulsdottir

We love to share your projects to help inspire other readers and show that the world of miniature is alive with creative talent producing wonderful pieces all over the world! We absolutely loved these little houses created by Mari and were thrilled to be able to share them!





"I am a Norwegian woman who started to build miniature houses out of popsicle sticks and cardboard about four years ago. I was looking around on the Internet and came across some miniature popsicle houses on Pinterest. I wanted to give it a try and developed the one technique I use now pretty fast. I lived at that time, in a small apartment in a building in the centre of Trondheim, the third largest city, in Norway. I posted pictures of my houses online on Facebook and got customers who wanted to purchase my makes! I have since built over 150 houses. I make them, not only for money, but because I just love to build them too. I'm moving soon and am focussed on creating a large workspace in which I can have a big display of my work and can hold workshops as well as being able to meet my lovely customers. I love to build copies of original houses, and am inspired by old Norwegian houses. I drive every day and this helps develop my skills as I see many inspirational buildings. Every house here is unique and each has a history. People love them as they can evoke childhood memories, and I love to offer them the chance to relive this memory. My favourite house is the houses with whom I had the most communication with the customer. I got to know their life story and the meaning of the house. 🏠"



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The Business End

GET TO KNOW YOUR MARKET INSIDE OUT.

Market research is a tool for looking at the type of business you plan to create and is essential to give you focus and direction.

Angie Scarr shares her top tips in this guide to making sure you're on the right track!



Market research is not the same as marketing strategy. Market research is vital before you even start looking at marketing strategies. It's not a big frightening subject. It's just taking a long hard look at 'the business you are going into' and 'where you think you might fit in'. Even if you've already started, it's never too late to go back and do these exercises again. Your first most important question should be "What am I making that's original?", or if there is something similar on the market, "What sets my creations apart from the competitors?". Ask yourself whether you are making because you want to be creative or because you need the money. If you need the money you need to get a clear idea of market saturation and price levels, you really need to be offering something different in terms of design, quality and 'heart'. Heart is that special something that makes people want to buy from you even if they can get the same product cheaper elsewhere. You do need at least two of the above three points. You can get away with two if you can build on them. If you have all three then you could be on to a winner. If one of your tricks is design, ask yourself 'do I have more ideas up my sleeve?'. You can start with just one but you may need to consider the life span of your one idea. Even when quality and heart are always in your work, if your first idea goes out of fashion or you've mined the market, how easy will it be for you to move on to another project?

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

1. What am I making that's original?
If there is something similar on the market what sets mine apart from the competitor
2. Who is my audience?
3. Who am I to them?
4. What are my values?
5. Is my personality visible in my work?
6. Do people want to talk about my work?
7. Will I still enjoy making this item if I have to make a thousand of them?
If the answer is no, put up the price!
8. Do I want to sell ODAK (one of a kind) works?
If you have answered yes to number 8 you may not want to teach. If no:
9. Do I have a technique, a tool, etc. to sell alongside my work?
10. Do I want to and could I teach my work?
11. Can I write good instructions?

Point 9, 10 and 11 are important in my business, but may not be in yours.

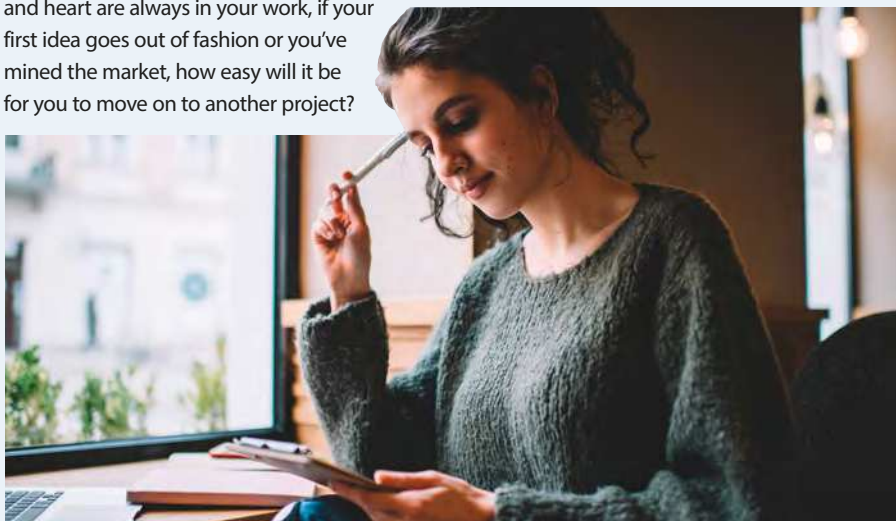
It really helps to have a very clear idea where your business is going and it's never too late to go back and look at these questions again, especially if you suddenly find you have too much or too little work. At this point you may need to ask yourself 'Do I want my business to grow or am I happier with a simple one man/ woman business with no pressure?'. By the way, I don't want you to think that pressure is always bad, sometimes you can do your best work under pressure. How many of us have got right up to the wire for a fair or exhibition and resented the fact that we've just had a fabulous idea which we just don't have time to put into practise? Stress can sometimes trigger the best inspiration! At some point you are going to have to make a decision about your direction.

One more thing for this very condensed look at market research. Don't only look at the people's work that you love, especially if you're aiming to make something different. Take a good look at the work you hate. Why do you dislike it so much? What would/could you improve on? How would your work 'wow' people when this work doesn't 'wow' you? I would say it's more helpful to look at what you don't like in the current market and go in another direction, than it is to follow the people whose work is already highly regarded. And once again, this is something I keep 'banging on' about, do not start out by underpricing your work. It's easier to live with fewer customers at a higher price. So when taking a market research overview of your business do aim to be in a higher price bracket because it's easier to work up to a price, than down to one. Then if you have to drop you will at least be the best in the lower bracket. Next time we'll look at marketing strategy. Or, in simple terms, you know what you've got, now to tell the public how wonderful it is! 🏠



INFORMATION

For more information visit:
www.angiescarr.co.uk





FEATURE
by Sadie Brown



Designing a modern classic

Talented miniaturist Sonia Minter inspires us with a mix of Georgian and contemporary style within her home furnishings.

Starting out

A breakout talent on the miniature scene, Sonia Minter refers to her current work in progress, the Craft Works Georgian Dolls House kit, as her very first miniature project, but a lifelong love of design reveals her model making skills have solid foundations back in her school days. "As a child I wanted to design homes. I would love going to display homes and I'd collect all the brochures of the designs and then go home and design my own," recalls Sonia. "When I was 17, I made a model of my home with renovations for a school project. I enjoyed

everything about the process. My career took a completely different path, I'm in IT, but it has always been something I am drawn to and enjoy."

Sonia spent night after night researching the grand facades of Georgian properties, going on to prove her worth as a talented artist some time before main construction on the kit even began, through drawings which detailed her plans for the interior's sparkling contemporary layout. "I love the elegance of the Craft Works Georgian dolls house. It reminds me of those big beautiful family homes you see in movies like Father

of the Bride and Home Alone. The external I'd like to keep traditional. The internal is a mix of modern styles I like. I sketched those rooms by picturing myself living there and that's how I work out what feels right."

Authentic design

For Sonia it was the perfect gift! With her flair for design, it should come as no surprise that she quickly found her feet in the world of miniatures, tackling some pretty heavyweight projects.

Away from the main construction of the house, which many would see as a large enough project in itself, the interior has seen Sonia undertake several individual ventures as part of the interior layout, including the recessed bookshelves found at the far end ▶

of the living room. More complex than they perhaps sound, they are cleverly designed with the addition of a false wall at the rear of the illuminated fireplace, lifting the scene to another level of authenticity.

"I prefer working with wood. I have no experience with clay and I'm pretty hopeless with textiles," admits Sonia. "The kitchen cabinetry I built myself using balsa wood. It's easier to work with, especially when I need to work silently while the kids are asleep." The bar stools sitting in front of Sonia's island unit are also handmade and are replicas of those found in Sonia's own home, a place she finds proves a wonderful source of inspiration. The seats are made from circles of hand cut balsa wood, whilst the legs are constructed using toothpicks! Sonia concedes that impatience almost got the better of her whilst waiting for the glue to dry, but ultimately it was an experience she says she found rewarding and seeing one of the tiny stools stood on top of their real-life counterparts shows you just how beautifully crafted they are.

Hidden details

In addition to the cabinets, island and a large handmade table, the latter is accessorised with six stunning chairs from eminent artisan, Phillip Nuveen whose work has been featured in numerous high-profile publications and



▲ Lighting a world of ideas

"You know you've achieved official miniaturist status when your husband gives you a cordless drill as a present and you find yourself thrilled."

notably in the famed Bloomingdales festive window display.

An enviable kitchen that finds us in the lap of miniature luxury, it also features a range of sleek appliances by Elf Interiors. It's easy to see why, as a fan of Elf's high-quality detail, Sonia's choice of appliances are amongst her favourite purchases for the house. Not all the



The hallway sets a high bar for the rest of the house



Sonia's handmade living room mantel clock

Sonia's flair for design detail sets the scene in the living room



detail found in the kitchen is immediately visible, however. Opening the doors to the large fridge reveals its hidden contents, the shelves fully stocked as Sonia seeks to combine relatively minimalist modern style with building the layers of exceptional detail which provide that lived in feel, the magic ingredient for any dolls house.

Sonia has compiled a gorgeous collection of cushions, throws and rugs to bring the comfort of home to the interior and it is the fun of accessorising which Sonia cites as her favourite aspect of the build. With its expensive feel, you'd never guess that one of the most impressive accessories Sonia has handmade herself is also the one which cost the least to create. The large clock which stands on the living room mantelpiece was made from just three simple materials, a bottle top, a printed clock face and some leftover pieces of dowel for the legs.

Illuminating ideas

3D printing, a skill fast becoming a bastion of the miniaturist's workshop, also finds its way into the beating heart of this Georgian property, with high quality light shades from both Marion Russek and Paper Doll Miniatures amongst Sonia's other favourite pieces. Lighting is an incredibly influential aspect of any build, helping to create the

overall ambience, but it can also have its challenges. "The electric has been a very frustrating aspect. My wire extensions have been a little temperamental but definitely worth it! Having it all lit up creates a different mood and brings more life to the house."

Seeking to create the perfect atmosphere and in keeping with modern trends and style, Sonia also set the scene with realistic downlighters. However, Sonia initially found herself uncertain of their warm white tone. She laughs when asked if she has now, for want of a better word, warmed to them? "I have warmed to them a little," she replies. "I've decided to keep the warm white in the rooms you would more likely use to relax like the living room and bedroom to create a cosier mood. In rooms like the kitchen and eventually the bathroom, I've used the pure white for a more practical lighting."

Sonia has no need to worry as the true to life variation in shade bears the appearance of being very cleverly designed, only serving to add to the realism which flows through the house. With books on the shelves and milk in the fridge, the ground floor appears ready to move in, but a look around the upstairs reveals Sonia is currently working on another unique design element which could well be set to rival her recessed bookshelves and kitchen cabinets.

▲ Picking up on detail! Toothpicks provide the basis for Sonia's bar stools

Walking into a bright future

"Right now, I'm working on the master bedroom," says Sonia. "I had a plan in my head and installed the electric accordingly. Now I've completely changed my mind on the layout." Even so, it's all coming together beautifully and once complete, the fabulous walk in wardrobe Sonia is building will feature shoe shelves which run from floor to ceiling and, to facilitate access for those of us who aren't 1/12th scale, a removable interior wall. With a selection of further items from Phillip Nuveen waiting in the wings which would seem destined to bring the wardrobe to life, the first floor is certain to be as stunning as the rooms below. A future as bright as the gleaming white walls of this initial project is there for the taking for Sonia. Her skill and talent can see her go far in the world of miniature interior design and she is already well on her way to becoming one of the most inspiring miniaturists of 2020. 🏠



INFORMATION

For more details please visit:

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The Fisherman's Shed

We love delving into our huge archive collection of hundred of projects!

First included in July 2012, Joe Wareing shows us how to make this delightful Fisherman's Shed based on a Dolls House Concept kit.

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

6mm MDF

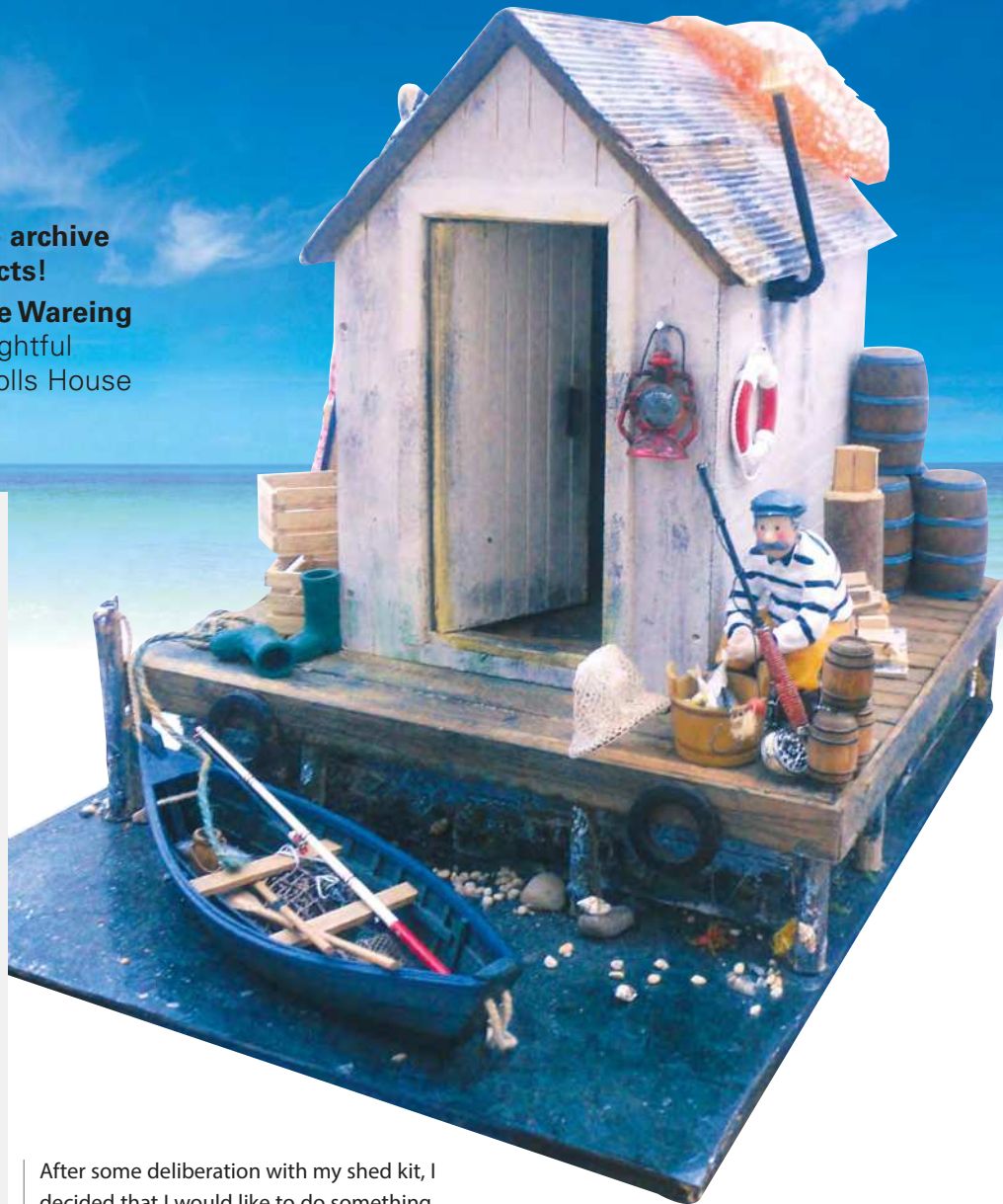
- Main base - 14-1/4" x 12"
- Jetty base - 10-3/4" x 10-3/4"
- Jetty walls - 2 pieces, 9-1/2" x 2"
- Jetty side walls - 2 pieces, 9" x 2"

Strip wood 3/32" thick

- Jetty sides - 2 pieces, 1/2" x 10-1/2"
- Jetty front - 1 piece, 1/2" x 11"
- Side planking - 28 pieces, 1/2" x 2-1/2"
- Front planking - 4 pieces, 1/2" x 10-5/8"
- Strip wood 1/4" wide (or wooden coffee stirrers!)
- 2 lino floor tiles - I used charcoal grey but any colour suitable for the sand/mud in a harbour will do
- Corrugated card - cut 4 sheets, 2-1/2" x 8-1/2"
- Basic shed kit plus a piece of acetate for the window
- Winter twigs approximately 1/2" diameter
- Black bendy straw and jewellery finding
- Bead spacer bar
- Light fill for jetty base
- Fine wire
- 'Glue 'n' Glaze' glue
- Deluxe Materials Scenic Rust
- Mid oak Georgian wood stain
- White masonry paint
- Acrylic paints - black, grey, stone, green, white, blue and brown
- PVA glue
- Sand
- Artists pastels - greys and black
- Small pebbles, stones and shells

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Fine file
- Brush for stain and paint
- Modellers knife
- Sanding block



After some deliberation with my shed kit, I decided that I would like to do something a little different. I had some rowing boats and a fisherman and the idea to make it part of a fishing scene developed from there. I collected together some more accessories from fairs and my wife's craft room and drafted out my thoughts. The result is 'The Fisherman's Shed'.

Accessories

These are all personal choice. In my case as well as the model fisherman and rowing boats I also had four midsize barrels, three miniature barrels, a wooden bucket, wellingtons, a fishing rod, nets, buffers on the jetty (coloured flat wooden curtain rings), a lantern, a stove, nets (orange netting from a pack of oranges), a wood pile with axe and coarse string for rope.

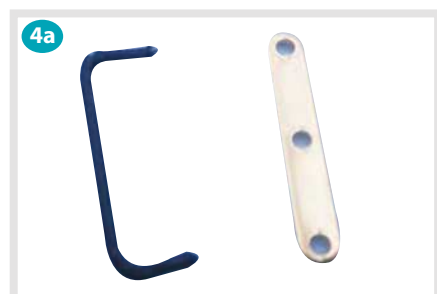
CONSTRUCTION



1 Etch in planking on the shed walls and door using a fine file as a scribe, about 1/2" apart. These should be vertical on the front and back walls and the door and horizontal on the side walls. I did this for both sides of each piece as I would be accessorising inside the shed.

2 Roughly apply the Mid oak Georgian woodstain to the inside of the walls and roof. Apply the stain to both sides of the roof and the edges. The MDF will absorb at different rates and this will create its own aging effect. Allow the stain to run from the brush down into the etched lines to accentuate the planking and leave to dry. Also apply the stain to the inside of the door. When coating the edges of the door with stain some will leach to the front side of the wood - leave this as it will add to the ageing appearance when you colour the outside of the shed.

3 On the outside of the walls and door apply one coat of white masonry paint. This will provide sufficient coating for the weathered look - I didn't want it to appear immaculate.



4 Make the door handle using a spacer bar (used when stringing beads) 1/2" long with three holes. Paint it black and bend a short length of wire to make the grip. These are then positioned on the door.

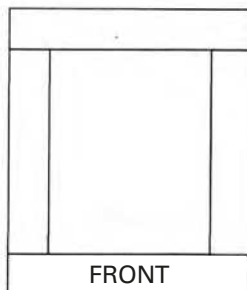
5 Cut a piece of the acetate sheet to fit inside the window frame and glue in position. Glue 'n' Glaze is perfect for this purpose.

Joe's Top Tip!

"Dry fit before applying glue to ensure walls etc are correctly positioned."

SHED ASSEMBLY

6 Assemble the walls. Back and front go around the base and the side walls are fitted inside the front and back walls as in the diagram.



7 Assemble roof by sliding triangular pieces into the grooves provided. Glue the window in place and insert the door and door frame.



8 Cut corrugated card pieces - these are slightly larger than the roof parts so they will form an overhang at the front, back and lower edges. Paint with grey acrylic. Curl or crumple the ends where you can apply extra rusting.



9 When painted attach to the roof overlapping the bottom with the top piece on both sides of the roof.



10 Apply Scenic Rust as per instructions.

These are simple to follow but be aware that the rusting takes time to develop. When it does show you can add more of the material if so required. The more you add the greater the degree of rusting.

THE JETTY



11 Make the jetty support walls and glue together.



12 Colour your light fill with a stone coloured acrylic paint. Apply this to the sides of the jetty base walls. Etch in large stone shapes with a suitable pointed tool or knife. Allow to dry completely then gently sand.

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13



13 Glue a 10-3/4" square of MDF on top of the jetty support walls, fitting it flush to the back but overhanging on the front and sides and allow to dry.

14 Glue jetty in position on the 14-1/2" x 12" main base, fitting it flush with the back.

15 Cut the lino tiles to fit onto the parts of the main base still showing. Even though these tiles are said to be self adhesive you will need to attach them with glue.

14



16 Place shed in required position on the base with back of the shed.. Draw around the shed to mark its position.

17a



17b



17 Roughen all stripwood pieces with file or sanding block to give a worn appearance. Stain all pieces using Mid Georgian stain as before. Glue the planks on top of and around the pencilled edges. Glue pieces of the winter twigs in place around the base as jetty supports.

FINISHES

18



18 Using a dry brush technique with acrylic paints apply a variety of greens, grey, white, blue and brown to the stonework and woodwork to show the effect of the sea, salt and sun on various areas of the jetty.

19 To age the shed I used a very light dragging motion with pastels. I also used a minimal amount of green acrylic which I applied lightly with my finger at strategic positions.

19





20 Add small pebbles, stones and tiny shells in appropriate places clinging to the jetty supports and the sea floor where the tide has receded.

21 The crates are made with 1/4" strip wood and are approximately 2" long and 1-3/4" wide. Use the match wood in the corners to support the framework.



22 I had a stove which I wanted to have in my shed, so I needed a chimney. I drilled a hole in the side wall and used a black bendy straw as the pipe and a jewellery finding as a chimney top.

As with all dioramas the best part is the adding of accessories to bring your scene to life. Have fun! 🏠



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Fabulous flamingo

Looking to add a tropical touch to your miniature scene? Try sculpting this miniature version of a Chilean flamingo from polymer clay. This is a simple design, but feel free to add single feathers and to play around with more vibrant colours! Feeling confident? Why not create a whole flock!

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

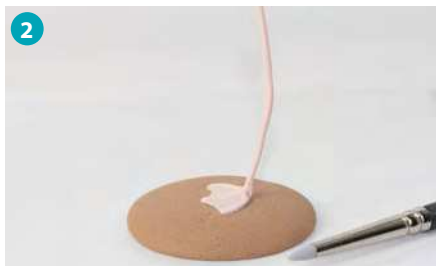
- Strong wire
- Tin foil
- White, light pink and scrap clay polymer clay
- FIMO liquid (or other liquid polymer clay)
- FIMO gloss (or other water-based varnish)
- Acrylic paints

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Round nose pliers and side cutters
- Craft knife
- Paintbrushes
- Sculpting tools: dotting tools, silicone sculpting tools, toothpick (or anything your normally sculpt with or feel comfortable using)
- Toothbrush



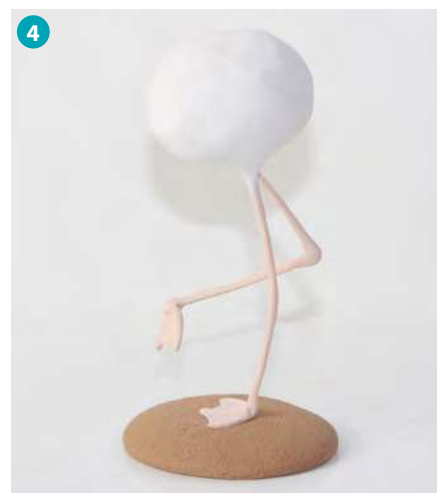
1 Make the base for the flamingo from scrap clay (this can be painted later to suit the scene) and texture with a toothbrush. Cut a piece of wire for the leg, bend it at the knee and coil the end. Push the coiled end into the clay, taking care not to push the wire through the bottom of the base and smooth down the clay. Bake for 20 minutes.



2 Cover the wire with a thin layer of light pink or white polymer clay. Dab a little FIMO liquid on the base and place a triangular piece of clay for the foot. Shape with a knife, indent the webbed area of the foot and add a little texture with a toothbrush. Part-bake for 15 minutes.



3 To make the body, make a ball of tin foil and poke two holes underneath for the legs. Cover the ball in clay and attach it to the leg. Blend some of the white clay down into it (using more if needed) to secure it and part-bake for 15 minutes.



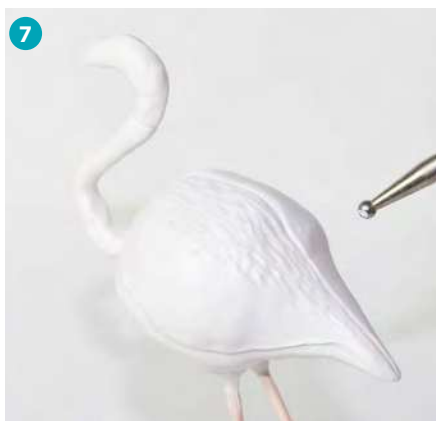
4 Make the other leg, bake it and once cool, attach it to the other hole in the body using a little polymer clay and FIMO liquid to bond the baked and unbaked clay together. Part-bake.



5 Shape a piece of wire into the position you want the neck to be and cover it in a layer of clay. This does not need to be too perfect as it is just a foundation. Part-bake.



6 Add a thin layer of FIMO liquid on the body and add another layer of clay. To make the tail, shape a ball of clay into a cone and attach it to the back of the body, blending the clays together. Trace a line down the top of the body and another two on the sides to define the wings. Push the clay below the wings to make them stand out.



7 Use a dotting tool, or a tool of your choice, to trace lots of feather-like strokes on the body following the direction in which they would grow. I strongly recommend looking at a reference picture of a flamingo during the sculpting process. Part-bake.



8 Add another layer of clay on the neck and head, making it as smooth as you can and blend it to the rest of the body seamlessly. Use a dotting tool to indent a circle for the eye. Shape a small piece of clay into a beak and gently blend to the head. It doesn't have to be perfect at this stage, just make sure it's secure enough to bake it again for 15 minutes.



9 Finish sculpting the details on the face and beak adding clay where needed to correct the shape and anywhere else for that matter and bake one last time for 30 minutes.



10 Once baked and cool, apply two coats of light peach/pink acrylic paint on the body of the flamingo.



11 Stipple an off white, peachy tone on the legs to create some texture and apply a coral tone on the feet and knees. To define the claws and make them look a little dirty from walking in muddy water, apply a little brown paint.



12 Using the same coral tone, apply it to the base of the neck and the tail, blending it outwards.



13 Brush some thin coral lines on the wings, following the direction of your feather strokes and finish painting the face. Use a needle to apply a dot of black acrylic paint for the eye.

14 Apply two/three layers of water-based varnish, allowing the varnish to dry in between coats. For a beachy look, try gluing craft sand on the base. 🏠

Maive's Top Tip!

Always allow the polymer clay to cool down before removing it from the oven, sculpting it, sanding it and/or painting it."



Holiday Snaps

There may be travel restrictions in place at the time of writing this piece, but we hope you'll enjoy the summer holidays vicariously with a leaf through **Moi Ali's** Far East vacation photo album.



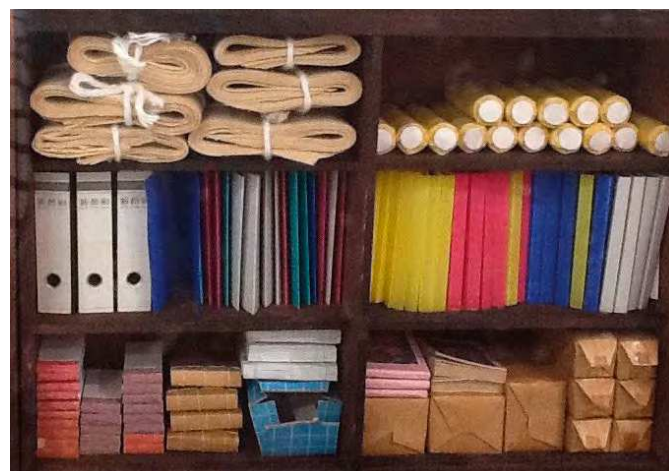
A feast all laid out

Not so long ago, pre-Covid19, when we could travel freely, I was headed for Shanghai but fog resulted in an unexpected visit to Hong Kong instead. Hong Kong was not the only unexpected part of my itinerary. I also managed to chance upon miniatures, which was especially exciting as I'd done my research and was sure that there were no minis to





A chance find at the airport in Hong Kong
– a miniature stationery store!



A little eatery kiosk

be had on my travels! Having resigned myself to a miniature-less vacation, all of a sudden I started coming upon little scenes and models here, there and everywhere. In shops, in museums, even at the airport – although I've no idea why there was a display of 12th scale models in an airport! It was particularly impressive, containing as it did street scenes, a typical Chinese restaurant, a traditional Far East café and

a very well stocked miniature stationery store. It is a shame that many will miss out on seeing these with the Tokyo Olympics scheduled for 2020.

Although it will be a while before any of us are able to globetrot the way we used to, I hope that meantime you'll enjoy a peak inside my holiday scrapbook for a reminder of pre-Covid days. 🏠



DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

Holiday Snaps

CLICK & SWIPE TO VIEW IMAGES



Chippendale inspired chairs

Derived from a book of furniture designs published in 1754 by Thomas Chippendale, the book was the first of its kind. His designs were often copied by cabinet makers in Britain, America and throughout Europe, and are still replicated today.

YOU WILL NEED

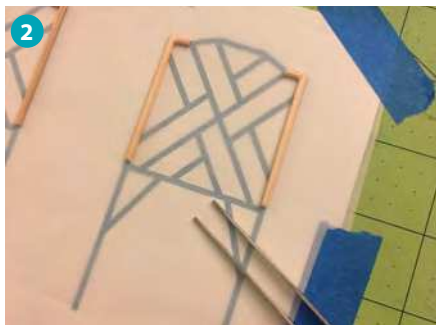
MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Cocktail sticks
- Wood or craft glue
- Translucent wax paper
- Tape sand paper or emery board
- Acrylic paint
- Foam board

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Hand saw or craft knife
- Ruler

1 Tape the template to a sturdy work surface and tape a sheet of translucent wax paper or parchment paper on top to protect it.



2 Place a cocktail stick on one of the sides of the chair template and mark the length on the toothpick.

3 Cut the cocktail stick on your marks using a hand saw or craft knife and sand the edges for a neat finish.



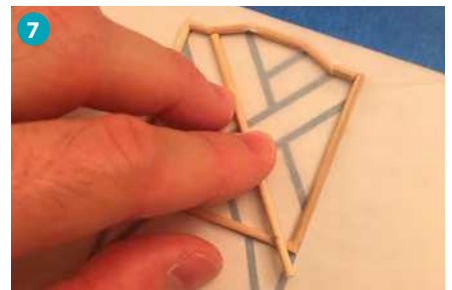
4 Repeat Step 3 for all sides of the chair.



5 Place a very small dot of wood glue on the wax paper where two pieces meet. Place the cocktail sticks on the joint so they stick to the paper.



6 Make the frame of the chair first and glue it down on the paper.



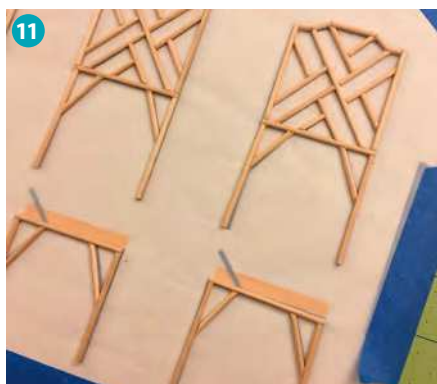
7 Start on the interior pieces the same way, placing a cocktail stick on top of the template and marking where the cuts should be. Most of the interior pieces require angled cuts so mark them accordingly and saw at the angle to give a neat flush joint.

8 Glue and place all pieces until the entire chair is finished.



9 Make the sides and turn the chair on its side to glue down those to the back of the chair.

10 Glue on the front of the chair. Add the chair angled supports for an authentic look and for stability.



11 Clean up the joints to make sure they don't have excess glue squeezing out.

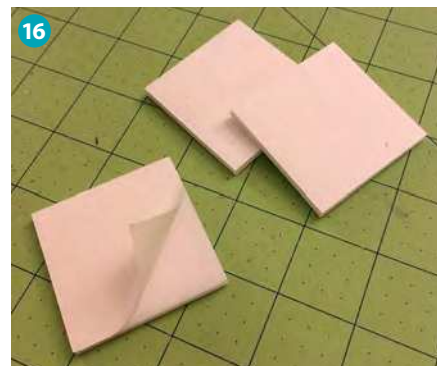
12 Paint the chair with acrylic paint. The paint will add a layer of stability to the joints so do a few coats.



13 To make cushions, cut a square of foam board and peel off the paper layers on both sides.

14 Sand the edges to create a rounded profile and sand the top at an angle to make it look fluffy.

15 Paint the cushion with acrylic paint.



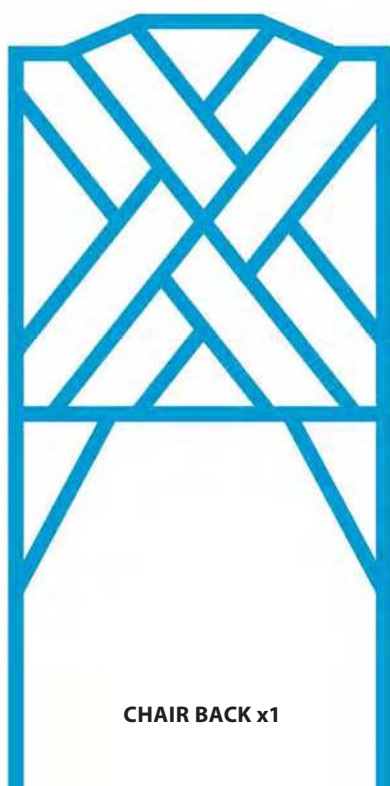
16 Secure the seat cushion to the chair to finish. 🏠



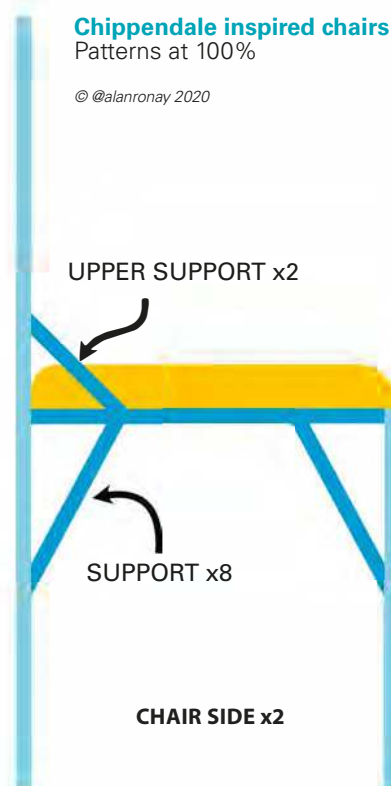
INFORMATION

If you enjoyed this projects you'll find even more tutorials over on our website such as these miniature intarsia cottage cushion's that you might like to create to go with your chair!

Visit www.dollhouseandminiaturescene.co.uk to find out more!



CHAIR BACK x1



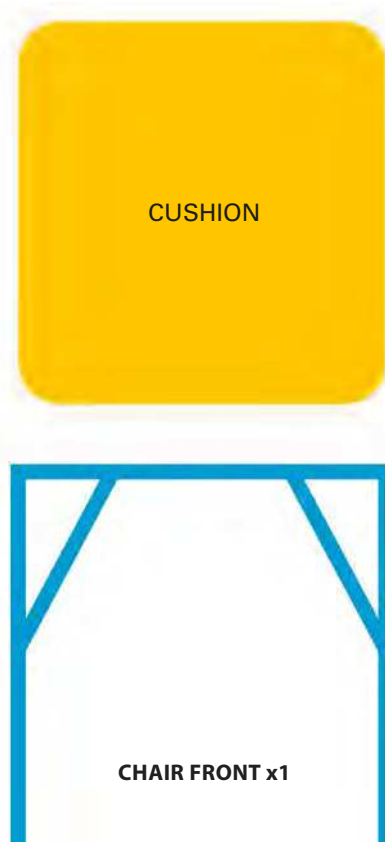
Chippendale inspired chairs
Patterns at 100%

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UPPER SUPPORT x2

SUPPORT x8

CHAIR SIDE x2



CHAIR FRONT x1

CUSHION

Tiny vintage suitcase and label

Make this tiny luggage bag with a personalised label for your dolls house residents to use on their travels.

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

For the suitcase:

- A match box or similar cardboard box
- Blue silk paper
- Thin brown craft paper
- Masking tape
- Two small beads
- Paper glue

For the label:

- White paper
- Brown craft paper
- Clear tape
- Paper glue

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Scissors
- Craft knife



HOW TO MAKE THE SUITCASE



1 Close the box and tape all around it with masking tape. Apply tape several layers to achieve a stiff base.



2 Cut the short sides and one long side open with craft knife being careful to cut straight.



3 Neaten and finish the cut edges by applying more masking tape.



4 Cover the inside of the case with silk paper.



5 Stick brown craft paper on the outside of the case. Cover the outside completely. Let the glue dry.



6 Cut a 30x5mm piece from brown craft paper. Bend to form a handle and fix on the top of the case. Secure two beads on top also as a lock.

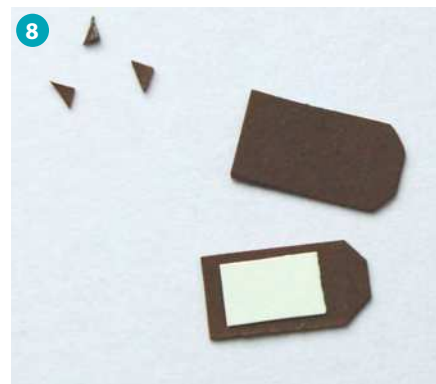
Kati's Top Tip!

"Make different size bags in matching colours for a luggage set, then give each one a different colour luggage label."

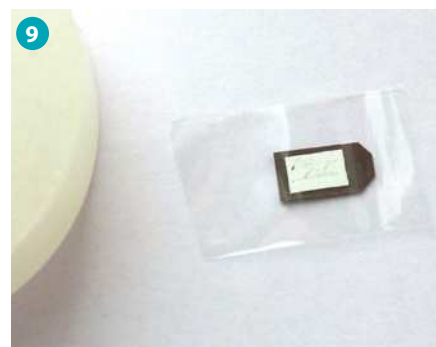
HOW TO MAKE THE LUGGAGE LABEL



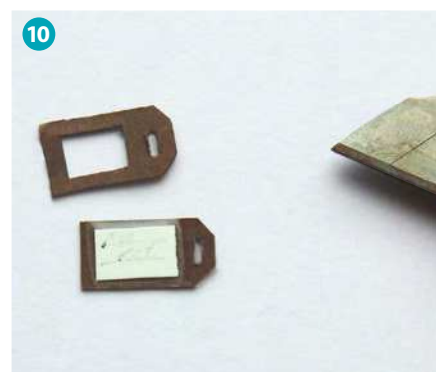
7 Cut the main pieces for the label, two pieces measuring 13x7mm and one piece for the strap measuring 25x5mm. Form the strap as shown.



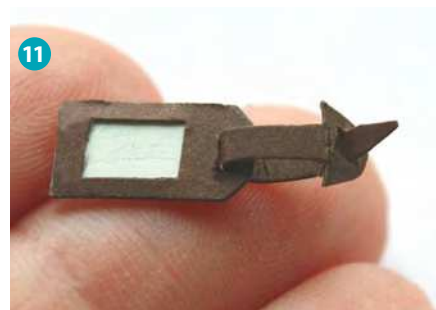
8 Cut a 7x5mm label from white paper and stick it in the middle of a brown piece. Write a name on it. Trim two corners of the brown pieces.



9 Cover with clear tape and cut off the excess tape.



10 Use a craft knife to carefully cut a 6x4mm opening in the top part and fix it over the name tag. Carefully cut a thin opening in the end of each piece and on the end of the strap.



11 Thread the label onto the strap and secure the ends of the strap together through the hole. 🏠

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DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE



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Tropical sunset

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Lemon yellow, crimson, purple lake acrylic inkpads
- Drawing gum (or masking fluid and ruling pen)
- A palette, old plate, piece of sellotape or plastic lid from your recycling
- Two pots of water
- 300gsm (or heavier) NOT surfaced watercolour paper

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Size 2 small round watercolour brush



This painted artwork is easier to achieve than it looks, plus it doesn't require much in the way of materials!

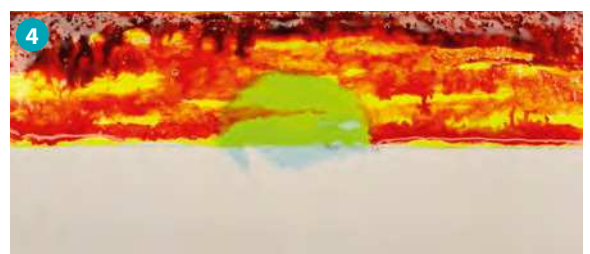
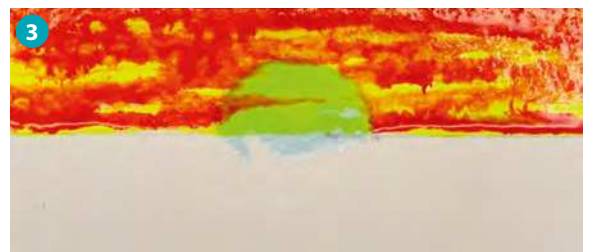
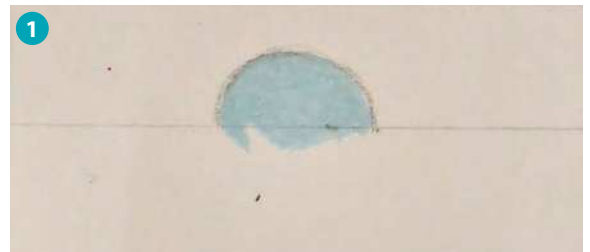
1 Using your steel ruler and craft knife, cut out watercolour paper to a suitable size for your display. Mine is 55x25mm. If you're planning to frame your painting then I recommend adding at least 5mm all around the edges to allow for overlap – you can always trim this off later if your chosen frame does not require the extra allowance.

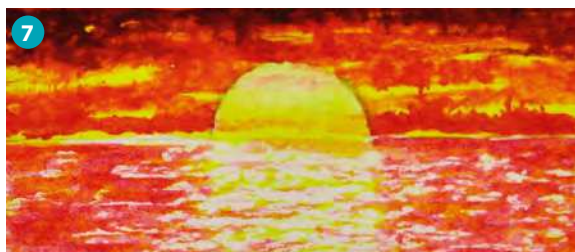
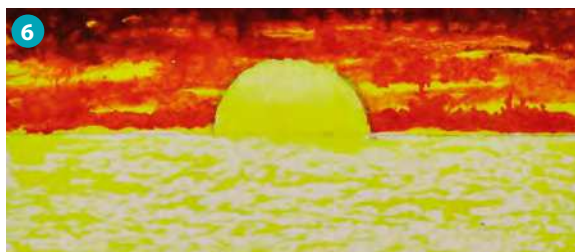
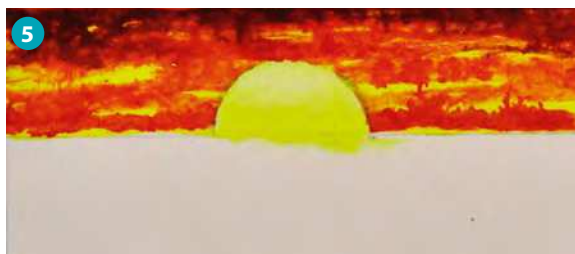
2 Begin by drawing the horizon, just 1 or 2mm above the centre of your paper. Next, it's important to make sure that the sun stays clean and bright, and we do this by preserving the white of the paper with drawing gum or masking fluid. If you're using Pebeo's drawing gum you can apply it with a small synthetic brush, washing your brush thoroughly clean water afterwards. If you're using masking fluid, you'll need to apply it with a cocktail stick as masking fluid ruins brushes. Make sure the edges of your sun are as smooth as possible. You might find it helpful to draw the sun first – I did. Whilst this is drying, give all of your ink bottles a really good shake.

3 When the drawing gum is completely dry, apply a generous layer of yellow ink right across the sky with your round brush. You can paint right over the sun – you want to be able to see the wet ink shining, but not puddling. Clean your brush.

4 Whilst the yellow is still wet and shiny, dip the tip of your clean brush into the red ink and brush it gently across the sky at a very slight angle. Paint several almost horizontal stripes, varying the gap between each stripe. Don't be too careful about this, we don't want regimental stripes here. It's up to you how much red you add to your sky – I've put quite a lot of red in but you don't have to.

“The beauty of painting your own artwork for your dolls house is that it will be totally unique to you. Everyone's sky will be different”





5 Sunsets are darker at the top than at the bottom, so whilst all the ink is still wet, add some purple stripes across the very top of the sky. Bring in partial stripes in from each side, just towards the top. Wait for all the ink to dry thoroughly and then pick off the drawing gum. Be patient! You should now have a bright white sun in the sky.

6 The sun at sunset isn't white, so we need to paint it yellow. Wet the sun a little at the top with a damp brush, then paint the whole of the sun yellow with just one dip into the ink pot, starting at the horizon and working upwards. Because you wet the top of the sun and worked from the horizon upwards, your sun will be paler at the top than the bottom.

7 Next we'll work on the sea. Pop one or two drops of yellow ink onto your palette. Dry your brush, pick up some of the yellow from your palette, and using a horizontal motion, drag the belly of your brush across the page. Allow the brush to skim the surface of the paper, leaving yellow ink on the raised bumps of the paper while the dips remain white. Your palette doesn't have to be anything fancy. Mine is quite literally a piece of sellotape stuck to a scrap of paper.

8 Repeat the last step using the crimson ink. Be very sparing with the red in the centre of the sea, keeping the strong reflection of the sun mostly yellow.

9 Repeat again, this time with the dark purple ink. Build up the shadows in the sea by dragging ink in from each side. Be bold!

10 Moving on to the foreground, use the purple ink to draw in the structure of the palm trees. Roll the brush in ink on your palette to bring it to a neat point, then draw with the very tip of the point with plenty of dark ink.

11 Roll your brush in the purple ink again and this time, lay your brush against the paper at the bottom of the page and print one large leaf. Lift your brush off, change the angle slightly and print a second leaf, and a third, and so on.

12 Continue in this way, making some leaves taller than others until you have filled the whole of the bottom edge of the paper. Notice how the ones at the far right and far left are not as tall as the ones in the middle. Finally, return to the tops of the palm trees and very gently, with the very tip of your brush and not much ink, add in the feathery fronds. 🏠

STEPHANIE TOP TIPS FOR PAINTING WITH ACRYLIC INK

- Always store your brushes flat, never resting on their points as this will damage them (either in or out of your water).
- Before changing colours, wash your brush in a series of two or three water pots, beginning in the dirtiest water pot and working towards the cleanest. You should find that this means that your clean water will stay clean for longer, you will need to change water less often and your colours will not get muddy.
- Like watercolour and gouache, inks can very easily form 'cauliflower' patterns if you add more water or more paint before the previous layer has dried. Cauliflowers can be very beautiful in art, especially in skies, so consider whether yours adds to your painting before deciding whether you want to remove it.
- If you make a mistake simply wait for it to dry and paint over it. If your ink won't cover the colour underneath you can paint over it with opaque white gesso and then try again. Once they are dry, acrylic inks do not rewet.
- Always replace the lids on your ink bottles as soon as you're finished using them.

keeping spirits up during lockdown

With life seeming to have been put on hold during this dreadful pandemic, we wondered how a handful of our favourite and resourceful miniaturists got themselves through lockdown. Had it sapped creativity or spurred them on to greater things?



▲ Colette Stacey. Inspired by flowers in local gardens

Colette Stacey and her atmospheric little houses featured in the Quatermaster feature in November 2019. Catching up (virtually) with her recently, Colette said, "Lockdown has found me in my little cottage in Devon with Rosie my Jack Russell. I'm used to seeing the majority of my family weekly, and normally work full time in a special school, so the last few months have seen life change a huge amount, but I've tried to look for the positives rather than the negatives. Right from the

offset I have been determined to come out of this situation having learnt something new, adapted and hopefully coped well.

"Concentrating on my creative work has been a huge comfort and has helped me reach out to others through my Instagram and Facebook pages. Sharing images of new pieces and ideas has kept me on track and given me real purpose. I've been able to keep meaningful structure to my days which has definite advantages when it comes to maintaining good mental health.

"My houses are, mostly, made from repurposed wood, and I luckily, had plenty to work with. But the bases are driftwood and my supply was dwindling as the winter storms had stripped the beaches rather than left their usual treasure. However, necessity is the mother of invention, and I decided now was the ideal opportunity to try something new. I decided to challenge myself. I knew that trying new techniques would keep my mind busy and hoped that facing my own fears with my work would stop the obvious fears of being in lockdown.



▲ Colette Stacey, so imaginative.

"I've always concentrated on the structural details of my little houses but had reservations about painting flowers or climbing plants. Lockdown has given me the opportunity to face my personal fears and develop artistically. The beautiful cottage gardens in my village where I've been taking my daily walks inspired my new pieces. I think the hollyhocks, daisies, wisteria and other cottage garden favourites really compliment my dear little houses and have helped brighten my days."

Sonia Bethwaite, or Little Miss Miniature who featured in March 2019 has been putting husband Eddie to work after he was furloughed. Sonia handmakes micro houses, furniture and characters sometimes scaled down to 1/288th. She's been really busy during the lockdown and has been glad of Eddie's help. Sonia said, "He's been an absolute gem, cutting kits, packing them and daily runs to the post office as well as shopping for food supplies. I don't want him to go back to work!

"For the first two weeks of lockdown I did not know what to do with myself, it was really weird. I was still doing the kits, I work from home anyway, so my routine hadn't really changed but it all felt really weird."



Tiny fantasy house by Little Miss Miniature. 288th scale

Before lockdown Sonia was just in the process of ordering more stock of the very fine Birch wood that she uses, only to discover she'd left it too late and her supplier was on the verge of closing down. "I've literally been using every micro of wood that I could find until eventually the supplier was able to deliver me a supply."

In between orders Sonia has also managed to put some new kits together that are proving popular. These include a fantasy house and a room box scene in 1/288th scale, designed to fit in a 24" scale dolls house as a picture on a wall. "The kits have gone a bit crazy! A lot of people want them for their own sanity, wanting to create something and keep themselves mentally active. This has kept me very busy."



▲ Jenny Kelm of Kastle Kelm Miniatures at work

Jenny and Mike Kelm of Kastle Kelm Miniatures are very glad they have miniatures in their lives. Jenny says: "Miniatures have never been so important to us at the moment. With Mike's film work on hold he hasn't worked for a long while, but he has something special for the PIMA competition at Kensington Dolls House Festival, which we're hoping will still be going ahead at Christmas. Mike's work is under wraps and won't be seen until the KDF show but I can tell you it is something very special. So while he's happy creating in his workshop, I'm busy making lots of characters."

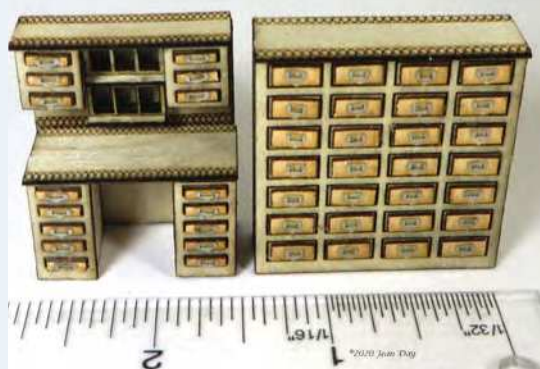
Kastle Kelm Witches emerging from spell books



Jenny has been making lighthouse keepers, witches emerging from their spell books, and waiters with attitude! She added, "The Miniatures world is a great place to escape what's been happening in the 'real' world. With more time on their hands, many people have been working on their houses and room boxes. The lockdown has also meant people are looking on the internet for

items and we've had a lot of new customers from around the world buying from our Etsy shop. We haven't closed the shop during the lockdown period thinking people would want something to take their mind off it all. That's been great for our sales. So we'll continue to keep happy and carry on – and hope everyone is staying safe and enjoying their hobbies."

Jean Day's haberdashery kits



Jean Day who lives in Canada, and featured in the March edition told me that in this devastating and unpredictable time she has been so fortunate to have her customers telling her how they appreciate her staying open and selling her kits. Jean makes a range of laser cut and other kits in 1:12 and 1:48 scale in wood, silks and paper, as well as laser cut cotton lace.

"We really do enjoy being busy and I think that has helped us cope," she said. "We



▲ Jean Day and husband John. A sign of the times!

were fortunate enough to have purchased supplies and materials before the virus took hold. But while we were coping, my computer's hard drive crashed, but my hero and husband John went out, stood in lines with a mask on and bought me a new computer and components. I quickly got my programmes working and attached to the laser cutter again and I was on my way! Very scary though. Fortunately, I always used back-up drives.



▲ Jean Day's Shadow Box

"I seem to have more time for designing and have designed a quarter scale standing desk and a shop haberdashery style cabinet, new frames and a framed shadow box or memory box kits recently." But what Jean and John are really looking forward to is the time when their youngest son can come over again and help as he used to before lockdown. 📺

Dr. Melissa Hirst-Chaple, an Oxford historian and artist, now living in Minnesota, USA was featured in our May 2019 Quartermaster. Coronavirus has impacted strongly on her life. She said, "In my small studio I recreate everyday faery tales trying to capture those ineffable moments of enchantment when that wall between fantasy and perceived reality is translucent. Coronavirus has turned the everyday world into the very stuff of dark fantasy where nothing seems totally real and creating art becomes a way of coping when the nightmare seems to envelope you."

"As we moved into lockdown in March, spring was just beginning to appear in our city of Saint Paul in the far north of the United States. I delightedly lugged all the paraphernalia of the miniaturist back into the glass studio in the front porch of our bungalow built in 1919 ironically during the worst year of the Spanish Influenza Epidemic in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Spring meant the blessed return of warmth and longer days of sunlight after our long, Siberian winter."



▲ Melissa Hirst Chapel at work in her studio



▲ Melissa Chapel's Here Be Dragons

"A new commission had materialized for a 1:12 scale thatched fairy cottage based on J.R.R. Tolkien's fairly obscure poem about a fairy cottage written at Exeter College, Oxford University in 1915, 'For You: The Cottage of Lost Play.'"

Then the news turned darker and the Covid-19 virus intensified its grim march across the world. Time, once scarce, became suddenly overabundant. Some days seemed immeasurably long as one fought against mounting worry, followed by depression and inevitable survivor's guilt as deaths continued. As the repercussions of the pandemic steadily intensified, as unemployment rose and businesses collapsed. Creating unchanging, miniature worlds became a coping mechanism."

Melissa talked of all the things she is missing – simple things. "I miss taking life for granted," she said, adding, "Creating a bit of life in miniature is one way of preserving a moment where everything is perfect even for just one enchanted moment and where we hold fear at bay."



Rob Crouch. Looking into the wash house and W.C.



▲ Rob Crouch Thimble Cottage and wash house with WC

Robert Crouch who we featured in the April edition has thrown himself into his miniatures since lockdown started. "I've had to develop a different routine as I couldn't work during the virus due to a pre-existing medical condition. My mornings were spent in my own garden, the afternoons were spent in my workshop. At the beginning I was working on Petite Properties Last Breath Inn kit that I made into a French lady's boutique and dressmaker. My next project was to make Thimble, Bluebell and Post Offices cottages (also by Petite Properties) which I'll mount on a landscaped base to form a little country scene."

Robert said he had really missed going to the Miniatura and Kensington fairs. "Kensington being my nearest, was always a fun day out and I normally pick up a few (little!) pieces. Also I missed catching up with the marvellous creators of the kits that I use and the occasional tap on the shoulder with someone saying 'are you Robert Crouch?' and subsequently having a chat and making a new friend or two."

"I am very lucky that I have a hobby that I thoroughly enjoy as it's given me a focus during lockdown. During this time, I have also been offering advice and how-to's to many

people and assisting them where possible. It's certainly a noticeably international hobby as I speak to people from the US, Canada, Australia and others."

Robert has plenty on the horizon to look forward to. He has St Thomas and the Little Stump House kits to do. Plus he's setting up an Etsy account where he will be selling made-up and finished Petite Properties and Jean Day kits; there is also a YouTube channel in the pipeline so that all his tutorial videos will be accessible from one place.



Julia Tolliford's plants for a friend's project

Julia Tollafeld of Tolly's Treasures moved from Banstead, Surrey with her husband Chris and two daughters to the San Francisco Bay area of the USA in 1991. Recently Julia was due to spend time back in England with her family but the virus put paid to that. However, she's been busier than ever with her miniatures. Julia told me, "I've been surprisingly busy during the lockdown. As president of the local miniature group in San Diego, with almost 40 members, I've been organizing Zoom meetings for the board and membership and often sit and create while on a video call with friends or family.

As I have an Etsy shop, I've found that I've been busier than I could ever have imagined with visits to my shop up over 1000%. A sure sign of the times and the experience of many artisans. I had expected to spend time on personal projects and creating new items but so far there has been little of that."



Julia Tolliford's plants in Lynne Raudaskoski quarterscale scene

Claudia Heckart of Checkmouse Miniatures

runs the Facebook group Micro Miniature Dollshouses. Claudia of Nebraska USA was featured in the February 2019 Quartermaster. She said, "The lockdown has not been too difficult for me because I have a workshop and office in my home. So I have been very busy adding to inventory and designing a few new pieces. We've also added a new line of resin furniture with more to come. My wood supplier is still in business, so that has been a blessing! Internet sales are continuing as folks have more time for their hobby these days. I was planning on a big show in July, but that has been cancelled. Hopefully another, later in the year, will go ahead as planned.



Claudia Heckart. 1/48th Windsor Dining Chair

Jane Harrop who many readers know for her dolls house kits in 1/12th, 1/24th and 1/48th scale, has found that lockdown has had quite an impact on her work. She told me: "It has been a strange time for everyone, what we have taken for granted in our normal everyday lives is suddenly not accessible. My workshop is at my woodcutter Bob's house and because of restrictions I've been unable to visit. I always have a backlog of kits to pack so that has kept me busy at home, plus I am working on a new website, something that I've always had done for me before so that is proving a bit of a challenge! Bob was meant to be semi retiring

▼ Jane Harrop's contemporary ladder shelves



this year, but current circumstances have meant that he has continued cutting out kits.

"Customers who would have normally seen us at one of the miniatures fairs have made orders online and it has been nice to keep in touch via email. We were due to showcase a new range of kits but that has been postponed. I am looking forward to getting back to work, however I will only be doing that when it is safe to do so.

"Bob and I are both very grateful to those working on the front line fighting the virus, carers and key workers, they are so dedicated in what they are doing for the country. Take care and stay safe everyone."

And that's the message for everyone – stay safe and well – and keep enjoying your miniatures. 🏠



INFORMATION

Colette Stacey

www.facebook.com/Cosy-Cottage-Designs

Jane Harrop

www.janeharrop.co.uk

Sonia Brethwaite, Little Miss Miniature

www.littlemissminiature.com

Jenny Kelm, Kastle Kelm Miniatures

kastlekelm.wixsite.com/kastlekelm

Jean Day, Jean Day Miniatures

www.etsy.com/ca/shop/jdayminis

Melissa Chapel,

The Enchanted Woodland Faery Dollhouse Co.

www.youtube.com/user/MelissaChaple/videos

Robert Crouch

Facebook: [Rob Crouch Miniatures Group](https://www.facebook.com/RobCrouchMiniaturesGroup)

or email: robcrrouchminiatures@gmail.com

Julia Tollafeld, Tolly's Treasures

www.etsy.com/shop/TollysTreasures

Claudia Heckart, Checkmouse Miniatures

www.etsy.com/shop/CheckMouseMinis

The Whole Kit & Caboodle:

NOTIONS COUNTER BY JENNIFER KHAN MINIATURES

Moi Ali has a notion you'll like this month's kit! There might be a lot to do but the result is worth it!



Initially when I opened the box for this MDF 12th scale notions (haberdashery) counter, I was a bit worried to say the least. There were so many parts, I'd say at least 100 for the drawers alone! However, I was needlessly concerned as this proved to be a simple kit to put together and I'm thoroughly delighted with the results.

Scotland-based Jennifer Khan designed the kit for her Etsy shop, where she also sells a vast range of other 12th scale miniature kits and other miniature items. With 5 star reviews and over 2,397 sales the shop speaks for itself.

Jennifer's unique kits, supplied on pieces that can be safely delivered through the letterbox, are laser-cut so they fit together like a dream. Just push the components out from the backing, lightly sand to remove any tags and you're ready to glue! The kit comes with illustrations to help you work out what goes where and although there are many

components, very few steps are required to complete the counter itself. The screws are actually simply glued in so there is no need for a screwdriver and the plastic glazing comes with a protective cover to peel off to keep your make in pristine condition.

If you're creating a miniature haberdashers, take a look at Jennifer's haberdashery cabinets with loads of little drawers. She also sells ready-made items to go in your counter, such as wool, silk thread, buttons, scissors and knitting patterns. 🏠



THE FACTS

Buy from: Jennifer Khan Miniatures' Etsy site
www.etsy.com/uk/shop/Miniaturesandcraft

Cost: £25 plus postage

Comes with: All components, including glazing and hinges

Additional materials needed: Glue and paint or stain

Time: A weekend

Experience: Beginner

Top tip: Use tacky glue as it has good 'grab'

READER GIVEAWAY!

Would you like your very own notions counter kit?
One lucky reader will win this lovely kit courtesy of Jennifer Khan.

To enter simply visit www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk
and click on giveaways!

Competition closes on 31st August 2020. Good luck!

For more information regarding to competitions visit www.warnersgroup.co.uk/competition-terms/

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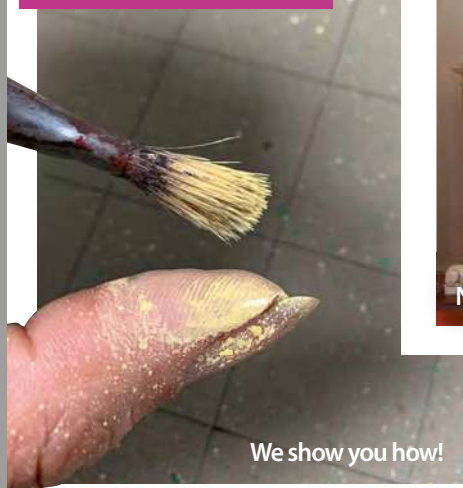
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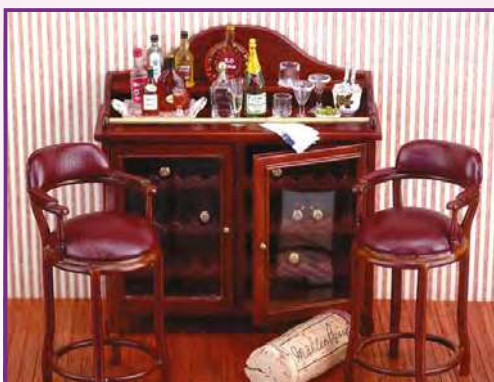
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