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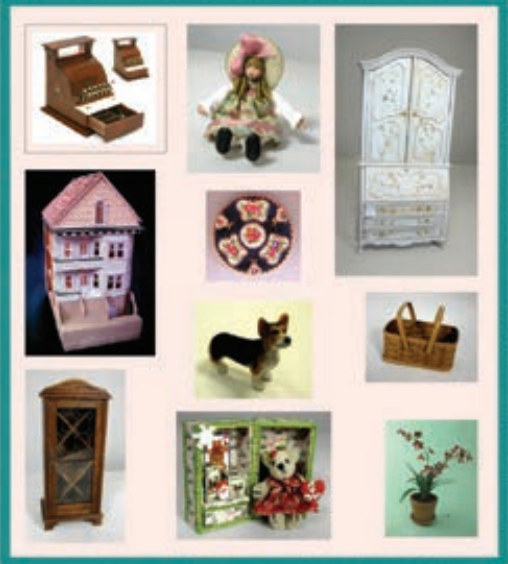
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Sept-Dec 2020 • Issue 77/78

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**Publisher:** Kelly Johnson  
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**Editor:** Auralea Krieger  
Email: [auralea@ashdown.co.uk](mailto:auralea@ashdown.co.uk)

**Advertising Sales:**  
Email: [adsales@ashdownmagazines.com](mailto:adsales@ashdownmagazines.com)

**Customer Service:**  
Email: [usoffice@ashdown.co.uk](mailto:usoffice@ashdown.co.uk)

**Design:** Auralea Krieger

**Ad Design:** Steven Parker

**Cover Photo:** Kelly Kuehnert

### Subscriptions:

US: [usoffice@ashdown.co.uk](mailto:usoffice@ashdown.co.uk)

UK: [support@ashdown.co.uk](mailto:support@ashdown.co.uk)

### Subscription prices:

1 year (6 issues): \$59.99

Canada \$91.99 CAD; UK £69.99;

Europe €98.99; Rest of World \$109.99 USD

Dollhouse Miniatures (ISSN 1094-1916 (USPS 957-440)) is published bi-monthly at PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944. Subscription price \$59.99. Periodicals postage paid at Kasson MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address corrections to Dollhouse Miniatures, PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944.

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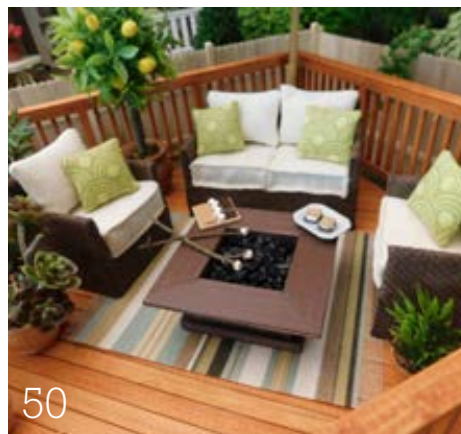
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## welcome

We have a lot packed into this issue so you can be sure to celebrate the

upcoming holidays in miniature. I have been celebrating Halloween since August by making goblins and witches. I even tried my hand at making some mandrakes! Slipping off into fantasy land where anything is possible is my happy place.

There are many artists in this issue that will motivate you to elevate your art work and try new things. There are also some extra tutorials to keep you busy and entertained while you wait-out the remaining shut downs.

While you have this extra time to create be sure and share what you are making with *DHM*. As November rolls around there will be little elves running around on my work table. Santa needs all the help he can get this year so maybe my sculpts will help the big guy.

To help get you through the rest of the year be sure to keep your TV and movies positive, listen to music you listened to back during your happiest times, and most importantly, create miniature art. Art is the best form of therapy. It helps in so many ways that you don't even realize. So Happy Halloween and Happy Holidays!

Auralea Krieger, Editor  
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# A Spook'tacular Remodel

Miniaturist Kelly Kuehnert transforms a beloved dollhouse into something quite remarkable. Each room holds remarkable wonders and fine details.

BY DEB WEISSLER

Most builders, when asked to construct a dollhouse, begin from the ground up. But when the clients already own a beloved dollhouse they want enlarged without altering its origins, builder Kelly Kuehnert took a different approach and ventured below ground.

When Kelly first met her clients, Linda and Emma LaPage, they had already commissioned the entire cast of the Addams Family from talented doll maker Lillian Bass. It was soon obvious to them the existing dollhouse was never going to be large enough to accommodate this enormous family. Since Linda and Emma loved the original facade of their Real Good Toys' Alison Jr. model Victorian, Kelly proposed adding some wings and a basement. Brilliant!

Much of the additions were made of 1/4" MDF and birch wood, but she didn't stop there. Unlike most structure artists who stop once the building is complete, Kelly went on to create much of the furniture, lighting, and accessories. With the exception of the dining room furniture, a few beds, an electric chair and the bird cage in Morticia's conservatory, the rest was Kelly's own work, includ-

ing the rolling island it sits on. In fact 85% of the house and contents were her own creations using kits or items handmade.

As with any complex project, things morphed over time as artist and owners tweaked the design. "The original idea was perhaps a small rolling cart with 5 basement rooms and 2 custom additions on the sides of the main house," Kelly





The dining room featuring cousin Itt and baby What. This family has a great way to store knives in the kitchen.

explains. "The finished product turned out to be over 6 feet long by 6 1/2 feet tall, with a rolling island with this monstrous dollhouse on top of and inside of it! There are a total of 10 single, removable room boxes in the basement levels, plus the main house and 2 additions."

So how does one go from being a dollhouse lover to dollhouse contractor capable of creating finished houses, room boxes, and furniture? "I first became interested in miniatures as a young child when I went on a field trip with my class to the Children's Museum in Indianapolis and saw a huge dollhouse all lit up and furnished. I was in awe at the idea of using my imagination to shrink myself down into this amazing little world and live there."

Kelly had always been fascinated with fairies and loved creating tiny homes in which they could live. About 3 years ago, she fell and broke her ankle badly. It took a year to heal and during that time she took her fairy homes to a whole new level. Never having had a dollhouse, she began to experiment with constructing larger and more elaborate structures. Her Sorceress Castle was her

first huge project and the result led to K & K Custom Miniature Creations. Kelly waved goodbye to her hair-dressing career.

For this talented artist, the sky's the limit. "What I love most is the imagination and ingenuity of it all.

I love seeing someone take something as simple as a piece of paper or cardboard and making a functioning staircase or entire dollhouse. The idea that we can take something that we would just throw away and make art from it blows my mind!





Grandmama rules the kitchen which is full of odd ingredients, while Lurch greets or disposes of house guests.





ist Charles Addams for The New Yorker magazine, led to four television series, mini series and specials, four movies, and a theatrical musical. "After watching the Addams Family movies, way more times than I could possibly imagine, my imagination grew wings and took off," Kelly laughs.

Much of the creative process took place using still images and then determining what materials were needed to make certain items. Some items were just trial and error. Principle pieces of furniture were carefully measured out, a design drawn on grid-line paper to use as a template, and then Kelly used miter shears or Moto saw to cut the wood out. Other items were just free-formed by hand.

Her favorite parts of the project were creating those spaces in which the movies only gave brief glimpses, so Kelly could use her imagination and create something fantastic that fit so perfectly into the Addams Family world. Everywhere in the dollhouse are creative nods to



**The vault is full of valuables that were collected over many lifetimes.**

On my Facebook group page, I call us the "Misfits". What we can do in miniature scale is artistic and being a Misfit means we do not follow art's conventions to create something beautiful. We bend reality. Some see a wooden dowel rod or an alumi-

num can; we see something we can manipulate into a broom handle or a trash can."

Much of what Kelly created for the LaPages required enormous research. The Addams Family franchise, originally created by art-





The house is equipped with many creative torture devices as well as comfortable bedrooms full of cobwebs.



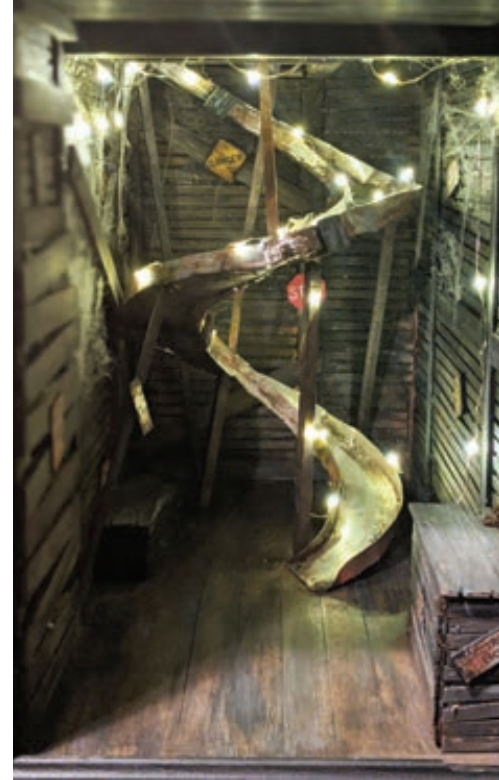


Charles Addams and the Addams Family cast. "In the entry way there is a large black and white picture of the Addams Family creator, Charles Addams. Throughout the house there are New Yorker magazines that had Charles Addams's cover art for the Addams Family cartoon strip. The upstairs hallway is my favorite part. The entire hallway is full of pictures of the original Addams Family cast that I kept in black and white and the cast of family members from the movies that this house is based upon. I even included photos of my clients to include them as part of the Addams Family on the wall of family portraits."

The dollhouse took a year to complete. Since this was Kelly's first paid commission, she obsessed over every small detail. Once completed, it was filled with not only her hand-made furniture, but pieces from other artists as well: lighting from Minimum World, kits from Houseworks, rugs by Mike Guidry, dolls by Lillian Bass, a portrait of Morticia and Baby Wednesday by Isabel Samaras, and Uncle Fester's quilt by Kelly's

**There are also many room for entertaining and enjoying hobbies.**





Each tower and small space was filled with spooky and brilliant touches. Below the front door cautiously invites you in.

mentor Lynn Fuller, and Kelly's mom and head cheerleader of the project, who made the stock ticker for Gomez's office. For the moment will now reside in the Indiana Miniature Museum in Carmel, IN.

Looking ahead, Kelly says, "The idea of making my creations full time and as a career is my main focus and goal. I love what I do and when you love what you do, you never work a day in your life. I genuinely look forward to being in my workshop and finding new ways to create custom items for people. I currently am making a Chicago Cubs bar for my husband out of a old children's acoustic guitar. I've been promising it for months and now that the Ad-dams house is done, I can finally get that started for him."

Kelly welcomes new commissions. "What I truly enjoy is making custom room boxes. Room boxes still allow for a custom and personal scene on a more reasonable scale and time-line that is also more manageable for me to ship. If a client should choose to, they could make their own dollhouse one box at a time."



# A Wickedly Fashionable Miniature Witch

Who says witches can't be cute? Join one of the top doll makers in our miniature community and dress your own 1:12 scale doll for Halloween.

BY DANA

I am delighted to share a brand-new doll making tutorial with you, and I hope that you like my Halloween witch, Salena.

**Step 1:** Paint your shoes with a matt black fingernail polish. Let dry. Glue on thick black thread around the shoe and crisscross up her legs.

## You will need

- Ruler
- Various materials, trims including black rose
- Halloween accessories, wheelbarrow, pumpkin
- Scissors
- Pins
- Needle and black/white thread
- Tweezers
- Flat iron
- Regular iron
- Black matt fingernail polish
- Aleene's original Tacky Glue
- Doll assembly materials
- Index card
- Hair spray
- Super Glue
- White paint or fingernail polish
- Viscose (doll hair)
- Knitting needle or corsage pin for curls

## Assemble your doll

**Step 2:** Tightly gather a rectangle of batiste, iron flat and glue around her hips for an underskirt.

**Step 3:** Cut off a small section of the gathered batiste to make an additional ruffle on the edge.

**Step 4:** Glue in a wheelbarrow for a festive vibe.



**Step 5:** Cut out a black silk rectangle (approximately 3" x 3/4").

**Step 6:** Glue it around her chest for Part #1 of the bodice.



**Step 7:** Cut out the bodice pattern from both the batiste and the black silk. Glue the two pieces together. Then glue on the doll's front torso as shown in photos.



## PROJECT



**Step 8:** Glue down the shoulder sections as shown in the photo.



**Step 9:** Outline the neck and the chest opening with a black thread to finish.

**Step 10:** Cut out a small section of the batiste, and hair spray the material 2x. Now cut out the collar pattern piece and glue on around her neck.

**Step 11:** Cut out the skirt pattern piece and line up (and glue) the V in front. Let dry.



**Step 12:** Once the glue is dry, hand-pleat or gather the material around her back waist on each side. Then overlap the seams and glue.



**Step 13:** Paint your gloved hands white. Glue them onto a pipe cleaner. Insert into the doll's torso to check the length. Remove to make the sleeves.

**Step 14:** Cut out (2) sleeves from the black silk, 2" x 1 1/4". This size must be adjusted to fit YOUR doll arm. Remember to showcase your pretty gloves (if you have used that porcelain arm), the sleeve should go above her short glove.

**Step 15:** Turn one side edge to the wrong side and glue. Now overlap both side edges to form a tube. Slide on the doll's arm.

**Step 16:** Gather the top of the tube (for the sleeve) and insert/glue the arm into the doll's torso.

**Step 17:** Glue little pieces of black lace over her shoulder/sleeve top to cover any of the raw edges. I also glued around her cuffs for a pretty look.

**Step 18:** Wrap very thin, long strands of viscose (doll hair) around a thin knitting needle or corsage pin. Clamp on with a flat iron for a few seconds to set. When cool, slide the curl off the rod and glue around her head (leaving the top open for her hat).

## PROJECT



velvet paper. Glue together. Glue on the top of her head and bend up the sides if desired.

**Step 20:** Find a 3/8" black satin ribbon. Cut out a piece of the index card 2" long and the width of the satin ribbon. Glue together, let dry. Then glue crown on the top of the doll's head.

**Step 21:** Put a line of glue around the top of the crown (very carefully) and put a piece of black velvet



paper on top. Quickly take off the black velvet and cut out the circle (made by the glue) and glue back on crown top to finish.

**Step 22:** Decorate your hat as desired. I used gathered silk ribbon, dried flowers and a pretty black rose by Mari Smith-Welch. I also used a BatCat on a barrel by JIL Weisz.

I hope you enjoyed this year's witch version. I wanted to do something a bit differently, and a sexy Puritan seemed just the ticket! For those that enjoy Goth, you could make her a bit darker, or if you would like a pretty cocktail scene, simply omit the hat and put her hair back into an upright bun.



**Step 19:** Cut out the hat oval from cardboard, red silk and black



# Goblins That Make You Giggle

Auralea Krieger has been busy making goblins for Halloween. They are positively mischievous, but how could you stay angry at that sweet little smile?

BY AURALEA KRIEGER

It all started when I came across an illustration of a goblin in a bunny costume. Immediately my imagination began to swirl and I made time to sculpt. As the clay came to life I couldn't stop giggling. Each had their own expression and personality.

The diorama had to be put on hold because I started getting requests to make to sell. So I started a batch of seven and before I could even dress them they were sold!

If you have a place in your heart for a 4" tall goblin buddy you can



email me at [auraleakrieger@gmail.com](mailto:auraleakrieger@gmail.com) or hit me up on my Instagram @auraleakrieger. They will be trick-or-



treating on Halloween and my vision will come to life through Instagram so be sure to follow!

They have a wire armature to move their thigh joint, ankles and arms. The heads move as well. I never thought my happy place would be sculpting these little rascals but they sure have brought me and many lots of smiles. Happy Halloween!



They had to have name tags for their bed because one always wants what the other has. Exhausting!



One of the goblins that were for sale. Girl goblins have a small tuft of hair!

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# Mystical Miniatures

Alexandra Blythe returns to the miniatures fold, meaning it's time to watch out for hidden octopuses and flying dodos this All Hallows Eve.

BY SADIE BROWN

**W**ith a Scottie dog who retrieved his favorite ball, discovering to his horror that it's hatched, to a skateboarding dodo, and a chimney featuring the world's most unconventional trick or treater, an octopus, it's impossible not find yourself spellbound by the unique designs born from the imagination of Alexandra Blythe. "I used to make sensible animals to go in dolls houses. After about 10 years that got a bit boring, so I started adding in the odd vulture and octopus to amuse myself," says Alexandra, her boundless enthusiasm infectious. "These sold a lot quicker than dogs and cats, so my head was turned, and I never really recovered. Everyone loves dodos and wishes they were still around, who knows

how they would have evolved. Penguins make me laugh. In fact, I have given myself permission to laugh at everything I make, it's hugely therapeutic!"

**“In fact, I have given myself permission to laugh at everything I make, it's hugely therapeutic!”**

A familiar name to miniaturists throughout the Nineties and early Two Thousands, Alexandra took a sabbatical from miniatures back in 2007, something which allowed her to focus on new artistic oppor-



Miniature artist Alexandra Blythe.

tunities. Life was far from quiet for Alexandra during her time away from the miniatures scene, meaning she begins the Twenty Twenties with a degree in Art and Wellbeing and an MA in Fine Art under her belt, having also spent four years as an Art Facilitator at a support centre.



Opposite page: Alexandra's steam-punk coffee machine is a show-piece! By the looks of this piece, Alexandra is 'diving' into new ideas. **1** Spells abound for the garden witch. **2** A work in progress: a sneaky look behind the scenes in Alexandra's studio.

the world she previously had been such a part of and those she had got to know during her time as a miniaturist hadn't drifted far. "I had so much fun experimenting with different techniques and materials," she recalls, explaining how she also found herself restless from an artistic point of view, and unable to put down

**“The collectors she had so missed had missed her too and were thrilled to see one of their favorite miniaturists again.”**

the easy roots she had been able to during her time working in small scale. "I missed my collectors and the feedback they gave me. At one point I was having a studio clear out and found the remaining stock of miniatures from my former life, some of which I will never part with."

However, already running an online shop for her artwork, there remained plenty of enthralling pieces which tempted Alexandra into opening a second store, this time exclusively for her miniatures. The collectors she had so missed had missed her too and were thrilled to see one of their favorite miniaturists again. Her new venture became an immediate success and



"I discovered that I could draw and paint as well as working in 3D, my final exhibition piece was actually based on abstract film. A few years later I also did a diploma in art textiles. I also produced an environmental awareness book illustrated with forty paintings of humorous animals in unusual situations. Sound familiar?" Now though, Alexandra

is firmly back within the miniatures fold, wowing us with characters bearing her trademark wit and humor as she focuses on a wonderfully eclectic mix of magic and fantasy, with lots of exciting new ideas on an ever-expanding horizon.

Despite becoming an award-winning artist during her period away from 1:12 scale, the draw of

FEATURE





4

**1** An action dodo bird. **2** Watch out for this rebellious teenage dodo. **3** A spooky hand toasts marshmallows in this fun fireplace. **4** Hats off to a great idea. **5** Taking a seat.

this, in turn, led Alexandra to breathe fire back into her much-loved range of dragons.

Alexandra's 'garden magic' table sees one of these fearless dragons lurking below, having successfully snaffled the broomstick belonging to the inventive witch who calls this miniature dropleaf table their own. Covered in miniature marvels, the table offers a perfect example of how Alexandra's work sees you instantly immersed in an intriguing world of magical design where you never know what's going to pop up next!

Her 'tattooed' witches' hats are another brilliant idea, and are a fun, eye-catching take on an eternally



5



Be careful where you sit! Taking a break from all things spooky with this fun one-inch scale gin bike.

spooky classic for the fashion-conscious witch looking to stand out from the coven!

Alexandra has found herself able to bring the depth of knowledge and many new skills she has attained in recent years to the fore in her miniatures work. "I made a conscious decision to alter the way I worked, the materials I used and to try and assimilate some of the techniques I had picked up during the intervening years." An exceptionally versatile artist, she has also combined her two artistic worlds through the creation of a range of 1:12 scale prints featuring some of her beautiful original drawings. You can almost hear the barn owl's cry as it stares back at you from the confines of its tiny wooden frame.

Accomplishing a huge amount in a little more than twelve months since she returned to miniatures, Alexandra had been working on her showpiece for Spring Miniatūra when the Coronavirus Pandemic struck, leading to the show's cancellation. A steampunk coffee machine, alive with ingenuity and illuminated with atmospheric LED

lighting, she describes it as a real concept piece. "I had an idea how I wanted it to look, but really made it up as I went along. There was a lot of cutting up other things, including a 1:12 scale trombone, and fitting them together in a 'logical' sequence. It was assembled and taken apart many times."

**“I’m looking forward to being able to get back to shows and getting that feedback live.”**

Steampunk designs are something Alexandra clearly has a huge flair for, and they were among the initial ideas she was drawn to and began researching following her decision to return to her first of love of miniatures. "I love the madness and creativity which goes into it, so why not twelfth scale," she asks. "This led to a crossover with my dragons, and the magic happened somewhere in

between. This allows a combination of complete fantasy, with absolute realism, and everything in between. It is so exciting for me; I have allowed myself the freedom to jump between materials and styles. It suits my restless nature and hopefully keeps my imagination fresh."

It says a great deal about the continual draw of the miniatures world that, after experiencing many different aspects of the wider creative scene, such an imaginative artist, burgeoning with originality has now chosen to lay down solid foundations here. "It's been wonderful to reconnect with former collectors and other miniaturists, as well as capturing a few new ones along the way," says Alexandra. "I've only been back with miniatures for just over a year, but it feels like I have come home and found where I really belong. I'm looking forward to being able to get back to shows and getting that feedback live. If the past is anything to go by it will involve a lot of shrieking, waving arms and hysterical laughter, and that's just me!"

## 2021 Shows

# T & D Miniatures Presents

[Miniatureshows.com](http://Miniatureshows.com) - [tminiatures@gmail.com](mailto:tminiatures@gmail.com) - 314-277-2601

### September 11 & 12 2020

#### **Nashville Dollhouse and Miniature Show**

Franklin Marriot, 700 Cool Spring Blvd, Franklin, TN  
Show Times: Fri 4-8pm Sat 9am-3pm  
Classes on Friday

### October 2 & 3 2020

#### **St Louis Dollhouse and Miniature Show**

Machinist Hall, 12365 St Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton,  
MO 63044  
Show Times: Fri 4-8pm Sat 9am-3pm  
Classes on Friday

### Nov 13th & 14th 2020

#### **Chicago Autumn Showcase of Miniatures**

Holiday Inn, 1000 Busse Rd, Elk Grove, IL  
Show Times: Fri 4-8pm Sat 9am-3pm  
Classes on Friday

### April 15, 16, 17th 2021

#### **Chicago Spring Showcase of Miniatures**

Wyndam Garden Hotel, 1725 E Algonquin, Schaumburg  
IL  
Show Times: Thurs 12-8 Fri 12-8 Sat 9-4 Classes

### May 7 & 8 2021

#### **Ann Arbor Dollhouse and Miniature Show**

Wyndam Garden, 2900 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI  
Show Times: Fri 4-8 Sat 9-3pm Classes on Friday

### May 14 & 15 2021

#### **Wisconsin Dollhouse and Miniature Show**

Waukesha Expo Center, 1000 Northview Road, Waukesha WI  
Show Times: Fri 4-8pm Sat 9am-3pm  
Classes on Friday

### June 11 & 12 2021

#### **Kansas City Dollhouse and Miniature Show**

Abdallah Shrine, 5300 Metcalf Ave, Overland Park, KS  
66202  
Show Times: Fri 4-8pm Sat 9am-3pm  
Classes on Friday

### August 6 & 7 2021

#### **Minnesota Dollhouse and Miniature Show**

New Brighton Community Center, 400 10th Street NW,  
New Brighton, MN  
Show Times: Fri 4-8pm Sat 9am-3pm  
Classes on Friday

### September 10 & 11 2021

#### **Nashville Dollhouse and Miniature show**

Location TBD  
Show Times: Fri 4-8pm Sat 9-3pm classes on Friday

### September 17 & 18 2021

#### **Indianapolis Dollhouse and Miniature Show**

Cambria Hotel, 18592 Carousel Lane, Westfield, IN  
Show Times: Fri 4-8 Sat 9-3pm Classes on Friday

### October 1 & 2 2021

#### **St Louis Dollhouse and Miniature Show**

Machinist Hall, 12365 St Charles Rock Rd, Bridgeton MO  
Show Times: Fri 4-8 Sat 9-3 Classes Friday, Exhibits

### Nov 12 & 13 2021

#### **Chicago Autumn Showcase of Miniatures**

Holiday Inn, 1000 Busse Rd, Elk Grove, IL  
Show Times: Fri 4-8 Sat 9-3 classes Friday, Exhibits

All shows will require face coverings and social distancing policies going forward based on state and local requirements.

Please check [miniatureshows.com](http://miniatureshows.com) for classes and information regarding the show.

Check out [miniatureshows.com](http://miniatureshows.com) for class and show information for each of the shows.

Attendance prizes, free gifts, kids make n takes, and raffles at most shows.

Come enjoy a good time with some of the best miniature artists and dealers from across the country

Classes are held on Friday a list of classes can be found on [miniatureshows.com](http://miniatureshows.com) by show



# Making Thank You Gifts in Miniature

Jeffrey Winkel is a retired aerospace engineer and now enjoys making what he likes to call “Handscapes”, landscapes made by hand that turn into creative gifts.

BY JEFFREY WINKEL

From childhood, I was always interested in the scenery side of model railroading and military dioramas. Way before the Internet, I stumbled into a bookstore while out of town and actually found a book with some diorama “how-to’s” in it. I was hooked.

Being retired, I thought I would have endless time to build my handscapes. Surprisingly, volunteer work, socializing, exercising, etc. really filled my days. When the lock-down went into place, I realized two things; how long it takes me to make a handscape and how much I enjoyed doing them. So, as we emerge from quarantine, I will be making some adjustments in my time allocation to continue my interest in this art form.

My workspace is a dream. I have a ‘clean’ room and a ‘dirty’ room and even a mini-studio for photos and videos left over from my working days. It was called “Studio B” for ‘basement’. The dirty room is where you’ll find the table saw, sanders, grinders and too much dust, even with a collector. The clean room has three work areas. This way I can work on a piece and leave it in place to dry and go to another work area and work on something else. Lighting is good in general and I augment it

with an Optivisor that I rigged up with a bright LED light that has an adjustable focus area.

While creating there are a few things I try to keep in mind. In order to please the eye, I have to fool the eye. True scale can look wrong to the viewer. They might not even know why the diorama looks ‘off’ to them but it does. Buildings have to taper to satisfy the parallax issue. Second floors need to be shorter than ground floors. Third floors need to be even shorter. Even an ever-so-slight-lean-in



Miniature artist Jeffrey Winkel.





**Jeffery wonders if he was a bricklayer in a previous life because he enjoyed making the crumbling chimney.**

helps. Often an item in view needs to infer a mental picture rather than define one.

Execution for me is making everything from scratch, not to save money and certainly not to save time, but for the satisfaction, the challenge, and to insure that what I do doesn't look like what others create. Again, not building these for commercial purposes gives me time and budget wiggle room for these things.

Building a scene when

everything is purchased is challenging enough. Trying to figure out how to make every item and then executing the construction and build plan can be very frustrating. I've spent many days and, I have to admit, some nights working on one tiny piece. So, why do it? It seems to me that the distraction is therapeutic by wiping away non-productive musings and memories. With my big hands and the tiny pieces that want to go airborne all the time, it takes 100% concentration.

"The Cottage" is an abandoned English home with an overgrown flower garden. It is approximately

1/35th in scale or about 1/3rd the typical dollhouse scale.

I saw a picture of a leaning, falling apart mansion while wandering the Internet. After several iterations, it led to a cottage as the tool to justify flowers, weeds, bushes and trees and the rest.

The only purchased items in the diorama are the bricks in the chimney. But, even those bricks were laid one-by-one.

"The Cottage" is all scratch built by me. I used sawdust and ground-up foam and florist foam for turf, ground cover and some tree leaves, polyester for foliage nets, sea-foam, sagebrush and super-



1



2

1 A small stream runs through the property. 2 Making the flowers was one of Jeff's favorite elements. 3 The front of the aging cottage. 4 The chimney is slowly falling apart. 5 A view from the stream side of the diorama.



3



4



5

fine antenna wire for armatures for bushes and trees, balsa and basswood for the wheelbarrow, foam-board for the structure, styrene, acrylic and oil paints, individual silk fibers for the spider nests, tracing paper, construction paper, copy paper, spray inks and baby oil (to turn paper to vellum) for the flowers, artist's matte medium for scenic cement and gloss medium and high-solids medium for the water effects.

A secret ingredient was dirt, real fine dirt. I found a narrow vein of it in my neighbor's yard when he was installing sprinklers. With his permission, I scooped up a few jars of this almost talc-like dirt. By wetting a surface and fly-specking it on, the reality of a neglected building pops.

It was very difficult for me to limit the overwhelming amount and variety of flowers and weeds I had put together for the project. And, there were literally dozens of failures before I could get the right materials and settings for the laser machine not to incinerate or suck away pieces that were as small as a pinhead. In my professional career there could not be a problem without a solution because so much was at stake. Therefore, I just had to keep at it until each problem was solved. I had the time, I enjoyed the process, and now I hope others enjoy the outcome.

"The Cottage" was never a planned project, other than the droopy cottage itself. It just had to look right and often it didn't through a number of attempts. What's the old saying, "When it's right, you know it. When it's good, you feel it."

This piece was just a personal challenge, an opportunity to make a larger piece, to tell a bigger story,

to use my latest flowers and weeds. Since this one is a keeper, I just wanted to satisfy myself.

I like engaging the viewer with typical scenarios like these. If the chimney is crumbling and the shingles are falling, where did they go? Oh, here they are!

I like mixing the originally planted flowers, in a typical mashed-up English garden, with weeds that came along later. And, maybe even generate questions like, "How long has the cottage been abandoned?" or "Why did the occupants leave?"

I love the challenge of miniatures, from getting the 'eureka' moment of what to do, through the mini-victories and multiple defeats of figuring out how to make various items, to the completion. Flowers

are my favorite, though.

I believe the future of miniatures is timeless because people will always have imagination and dreams and appreciate hand work. Whether the work is to please themselves, please others and/or sell, it is a valuable and worthwhile pursuit.

To *DHM* contributors: I am new to these amazing periodicals of miniatures. Now that I have had the opportunity to read some of them, I just want to tip my hat to all of you. Your work humbles me and encourages me at the same time. Thank you.

If you have any questions about the process feel free to email me at [HandscapesbyJeff@gmail.com](mailto:HandscapesbyJeff@gmail.com)".

**"The Cottage" is proudly displayed on Jeff's dining room table.**





# Speaking Volumes

Jimmy Landers shares a look inside his newest finished miniature project, The Harville, a two-story library with 4,000 handmade books filling the shelves.

BY PAM NORTH

Indiana resident Jimmy Landers is a builder of museum-quality architectural structures and a master miniaturist. There also may be other descriptions as well for someone who hand-makes 4,000 tiny books for a two-story library, such as painstakingly diligent, detailed perfectionist. Retired from the corporate world as a regional manager for an international environmental corporation, he has chosen architectural miniatures in 1:12 scale as his new focus in his life.

He made that transition in 2006 when his wife, Sue, asked him to build a dollhouse for her. His undertaking of that task was so successfully executed that he ended up selling the dollhouse for a very tidy sum, and to this day he still owes her that promised doll-

house. "My wife still would like to have kept one of my subsequent pieces in lieu of the dollhouse she never got to keep!" Landers said. Despite that, she totally supports his newfound hobby, which makes it easy for him to combine home life with his miniature crafting. "It's not a problem, as this is all I do, and it takes up my spare time," he explained. "I fully enjoy creating new structures."

Like many miniaturists, he has no formal training in the miniature field. "I have taught myself the craft. I simply see the structures in my mind and start building them. I never make drawings or detail my work on paper."

Working in a very small, open garage, he makes his pieces with the intention to sell, marketing his

products through a Chicago show as well as word-of-mouth. His prices range from \$2,000 to \$100,000. One special item he made was a commission piece for the wife of Boston Bruins owner, Jeremy Jacobs; it can be viewed on Jimmy's website, along with many other of his fine creations.

Asked what he loves most about miniatures, he cited, "The reaction from people when they first see my work," and that he finds his inspiration in his dreams and imagination. Like most artists, he wrestles with his own personal difficulties involved with working in miniature. "While working in the present moment of trying to translate the idea or look into the current structure, I know what it should look like, but trying to get that image or design





**1** Miniature builder Jimmy Landers showing his version of the Painted Ladies. **2** The Harville room box shown from the side. **3** The miniature book-making shown in progress. **4** A view looking up from the first floor of The Harville. The hanging lights are full of detailing.



into what I am working on can be a real challenge." He has developed a real ability for using a hand-miter for cutting small moldings, and considers it his most valuable tool.

His most recent piece is called The Harville, and it is a 1:12 scale, two-story library. It came about as a result of the numerous and favorable comments on the library that was included as part of his previous piece, The Sahlberg, because he wanted to create a library by itself. The library was 90% scratch-made from leftover materials in his shop, with the other 10% purchased.

The main materials used for the structure were all cherry and oak woods. He also made all of the 4,000 books lining the shelves of

the library. Some works by other artists were included in the piece as well: Carl Sahlberg did the electrical wiring; Barbara Sabia did the leaded glass panels; Ron Steckwich made custom brass brackets for ladder rails and door hardware; Linda Orleff of Lightning Bug made the one-of-a-kind chandelier; Penny Chambers provided the animal mounts; Sue Cook provided the fireplace mantel.

The techniques Jimmy used for creating the piece have become a bit of a blur in his memory. "They're still there in my dreams maybe. Now that it is completed, I have no idea how I made it! The finished piece always amazes me, as I put nothing down on paper. I have to admit that

the end result came out very close to what I had envisioned, with only a few tweaks. The hardest part about creating the piece was making 4,000 books from scratch, a very monotonous task! I made the library because I felt a need to do so, and my favorite part about it is how realistically it turned out. All of it was fun to create."

Asked if he planned to sell the piece or keep it himself to display, Jimmy responded, "I hope to sell it at a future show at a price of \$14,900." The sale is likely, since Jimmy's pieces are readily purchased by those who appreciate the detail in his craftsmanship, a quality he has embraced from the outset, despite his initial lack of experience.



The spiral staircase connects the first and second floors of The Harville room box.

"I had no knowledge or interest in miniatures before I started creating them, and now find them extremely fascinating and fun to create. My brain is not wired to build small or simple structures; I love realism in miniature, and I especially like how others enjoy looking at them." His obsession with realism means that he builds his structures simulating

the 'stick-built' methods used in actual, real-life buildings.

The future of miniatures somewhat concerns him, especially when viewed with the loss of many retail sources of miniatures and their related products. "The overall interest in miniatures is still very much alive."

In addition to his talent as an architectural builder, Jimmy also

is the author of a newly-published pictorial book encompassing all of his works, and he has a second work in progress.

Jimmy is planning more creations for the future. "I have several room boxes planned for the next miniature show, and I believe I still have a major 60"-wide Tudor structure in me that needs to come out!"

# Silver Linings in Surreal Times

Rik and Erik Pierce are now a father and son team for Frogmorton Miniatures. Rik is a superhero in our community and now these two are a dynamic duo!

BY ROBIN PIERCE

**F**ew experiences in life are more rewarding than a father and son working together on a shared passion. A son continuing his father's legacy and modernizing it for the future. For Rik and Erik Pierce, this crazy worldwide lock down time has created the perfect opportunity for both of them.

“Reality is a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there!”

Since Erik's business creating one-of-a-kind sets and photo-ops for events is closed for the foreseeable future they have been sharing their days collaborating on new projects filled with years of experience. For those of you who have been around the miniature world for the last few decades, you know Rik and his legacy. He has a passion for miniatures. In fact a favorite saying of his is “Reality is a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there!”

Erik has always worked with Rik

**Erik is adding some final details on a miniature cottage.**



behind the scenes, helping him to teach classes and make castings, tools and kits. Their collaborations have been life long beginning in the 1970's when they made scratch built models together.

Rik was severely injured in a car accident in 2014 and his output was severely impaired by physical limitations. Now Erik's hands are there to help create whatever Rik's ever creative mind conjures.

Look forward to seeing their joint creations at shows once they begin again. For now, their original work can be found on their Etsy shop at FrogmortonStudios. Take a look around and enjoy!



### artist details

**Frogmorton Studios**

Vancouver WA

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**Web:** <https://www.frogmorton.com>

**Email:** [erik@frogmorton.com](mailto:erik@frogmorton.com)



The dynamic duo hard at work in the studio.



# Miniature Painting in 3D and 2D

Betsey Bradley's love of miniatures inspires multiple art forms, including exquisite miniature paintings and beautifully made 1:12 scale art dolls.

BY JOAN MCKENZIE

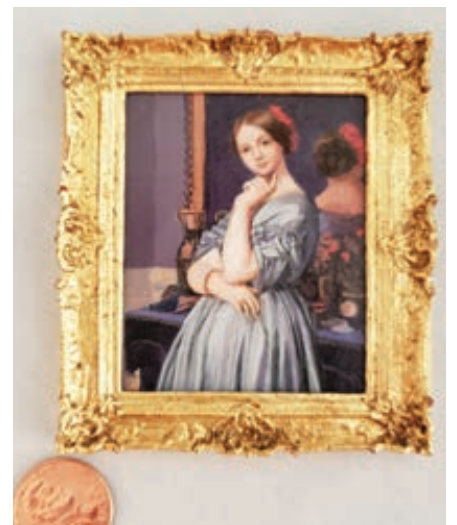
**B**etsey Bradley is an exquisitely talented artist who paints miniature reproductions of masterpieces as well as commission portraits. For quite some time now she successfully turned her talent for painting into a small business as she has added doll making to her repertoire.

Ten years ago, when one of Betsey's granddaughters was approaching age four, she remembered that she still had a dollhouse in her basement from when her own children were young.

That old dollhouse was carefully transported upstairs to determine if restoration would be worthwhile. It was during that process when Betsey recalled how compelling her love of making little things had always been. Not long after that day

she was at "Norm's Dollhouse" in Denver, Colorado where she found some dressed beds that had been transformed into elegant works of art by Bobbie Johnson. Much had changed in the miniature world since the original 1971 dollhouse from the basement had its' heyday. Once Betsey realized all of the beautiful things that could be reproduced in miniature, she was determined and excited to delve back into her artistry with ardent delight.

Many parents wrestle with pulling their children away from smartphones and video games these days. In Betsey's home, she and two of her granddaughters have developed an artist's room of make believe, combining family life with all of the spoils of life today including extended families living in harmony. It's easy to



One-inch scale painting in frame.

get lost in this microcosm of utopian existence. Educators have long since encouraged parents to provide children a make-believe place to work



Opposite page: Two of Betsy's beautiful 1:12 scale dolls and a miniature painting on easel.

- 1 Three handmade character dolls.
- 2 This doll has tiny glasses.

store, movie screening room with a tablet behind black curtains showing Netflix videos, all electronically functioning. There are many recognizable miniature works of art, hand-painted by Betsey on every wall of her dollhouses.

The girls have also assembled an orphanage and a pet shop. They happily enjoy creating scenes from books that they have read. Each girl has their own dollhouse at Betsey's home. She has many free-standing room boxes that the girls are allowed to use as extra rooms for additional family members or to make a schoolhouse, or church or anything else that comes to mind.

"Grandma's place has always been a special treat to go to and it still is, especially THIS room that we built together," says Quincy, who described her make-believe family as "A neurosurgeon with 2 kids". Granddaughter Josie currently has six miniature children with an expectant mom in her special house, which also includes a daughter who has an extensive collection of artisan animals. Betsey allows her gentle girls to play with most of her treasures as she feels there is no point in just looking at miniatures if they cannot be thoroughly enjoyed with enthusiastic but gentle play.

There is always lengthy detailed chatter about what is going on in their dollhouse 'family's' lives. The girls enjoy arranging their Caco brand dolls into positions doing what their story dictates. Now that Betsey has learned to make beautiful dolls, I can imagine a time in the not too

through their feelings. The success of "Mister Rogers Neighborhood" was because his 'land of make believe' was written in conjunction with child psychologists. This program entered our stream of consciousness at the exact time when Betsey had begun her own family.

Betsey was originally inspired by her own grandmother's miniature collection. Today, her artistry has evolved to such a degree that she has taken it past the master level. She and her two young granddaughters collaborated to create an extended play area where they all bonded in continuation of what her grandmother had begun all those years ago.

Betsey has three precious granddaughters, but one lives in Washington State. The child from Washington was given her own dollhouse by Betsey with all she would need to get her imagination going when she came of age. Her two cousins who live nearby, have enjoyed every aspect of their room-box creations since uncovering Betsey's old house in the cellar.

Upon entering Betsey's home, one light up the stairs to the right, sits



one truly magical room. On the walls hang three life size portraits of three beautiful young children proudly dressed up in an assortment of clothing, flapper styled, clearly enjoying playing dress up. These portraits are Betsey's own rendition of her own three daughters born in the early 70's. One single bed in the room converts to a couch. From the floor up – three feet high lining the walls are multiple varying dollhouses – an array of miniature rooms, bedrooms, dining rooms, a schoolhouse, ice cream parlor, movie theater, general



1



2

- 1** The room boxes and dollhouse that Betsy's grandchildren enjoy playing with. **2** An amazingly detailed 1:12 scale painting. **3** A character doll in progress. **4** A beautifully made doll.

distant future when these Caco dolls may be replaced with residents who have truly special meaning for her beloved granddaughters to keep forever as treasured memories.

Betsey has been a painter of fine art since she was a very young girl. She still paints occasional life size portraits.

Recently she began creating polymer clay dolls. This has become a new variation on her portrait work. She finds herself captivated by all of the tiny details in miniature work. Her life size work is meticulous, but she loves capturing as much detail as possible in her miniature artistry even more.

Betsey feels that it's actually easier to create a specific ambiance in miniature than in life size. Miniatures offer her so many possibilities for creative expression.



3

She also enjoys reproducing fine art in miniature form from the master's because she can study what these artists created, and in the process, she finds that she always learns new skills.

Betsey is self-taught as a painter. She received many tips as she began her own process. The miniatures she creates are in acrylic on acid free boards. Most miniature painting artists use oil paints, and a few use watercolors. Betsey became so comfortable with acrylic over years of making life size portraits that she stayed using that medium.

She has taken four doll making classes taught by IGMA artisan Jeanne Rullie. She truly loves making



4

dolls in the classroom setting where you get to spend an entire week with other like-minded adults who also love miniatures. "We keep finding we have so very much in common! There are so many techniques to master that humbles us yet encourages us at the same time."

Jeanne Rullie has personally told me that she is very pleased and proud for Betsey's success. I was in two of those classes with Betsey and the big take away I have from that experience is these were two of the best weeks of my life. To watch things



Three miniature paintings by Betsy. Below is a lovely hand-sculpted 1:12 scale couple.

come to life when starting with lumps of clay is such an exciting process, and with a teacher like Jeanne Rullie we were guaranteed to love every moment of the entire week!

Betsey advised us that her most important tool needed for micro work is good magnification with professional eyeglasses and inexpensive magnifiers. She also insists on buying the best possible paint brushes on the market. She loves fine liner brushes that hold more paint than other brushes.

When she is not making miniatures or taking care of her grandchildren, Betsey has been working at a 'level one' trauma center for the last 37 years as a CNA on a very busy surgical floor, one day each week. She loves the fast pace, helping and caring for patients who need her, working with smart and completely dedicated nurses, and learning all that is rapidly changing in the medical field. Because the job is only one day a week it stays fresh and exciting, providing the perfect balance for the rest of her days filled with friends, family, children and painting. There is a reason why Betsey always



greets you with a wide-open smile. She is one happy woman in the

prime of her life doing exactly what she was meant to be doing.

# Welcome to Talitha's House

Join us here at *Dollhouse Miniatures* through next year for a series of articles showcasing eight stunning dollhouses made by Aaron B. Friedman.

BY JERE FRIEDMAN

Some projects just seem to take on a life of their own. That certainly can be said about the hobby that occupied a significant portion of the last 20 years of Aaron B. Friedman's life (1915-1997). What began as a suggestion from his daughter-in-law to "build a dollhouse for Rachel", his oldest granddaughter, evolved into eight magnificent miniature houses now located at the History Museum of Mobile (Alabama).

Through this process, Aaron Friedman learned to say "I love you" to his family. By leaving this legacy with the Museum, he continued to touch the lives of

people who knew him, as well as the thousands of others from around the world who were able to marvel at these individually designed and masterfully crafted miniature houses.

Friedman chose Spanish-style architecture for his fifth miniature house, which he built for his granddaughter Talitha. Before starting the project, Friedman and his wife, Sarah, traveled to Santa Fe and other cities to look at Spanish-style homes that he could replicate.

Eventually, Talitha's father and the Friedman's youngest son, Jere, suggested that they look at a house in Opelika, Alabama, where Talitha



and her family were living. Indeed, that house appealed to Aaron and he took photographs he then used to design "Casa Talitha". Friedman completed the dollhouse in 1986 and estimated that he spent about 1,000 hours working on it over the course of a year.

The exterior is finished in a white stucco made from plaster spackling compound, with arches outlined in faux terracotta. An arcade stretches from the port-cochere at one corner past the front door and on to the other end of the house. Bronze lions stand guard on either side





**A overall view of the great room.**

of the brick steps that lead up to the front porch, which is furnished with wicker chairs, tables and a bench. More than 5,400 oven-fired red clay tiles, weighing 62 pounds, make up the roof, glued down one at a time in two overlapping layers, one layer facing up and one facing down, in order to achieve an authentic look.

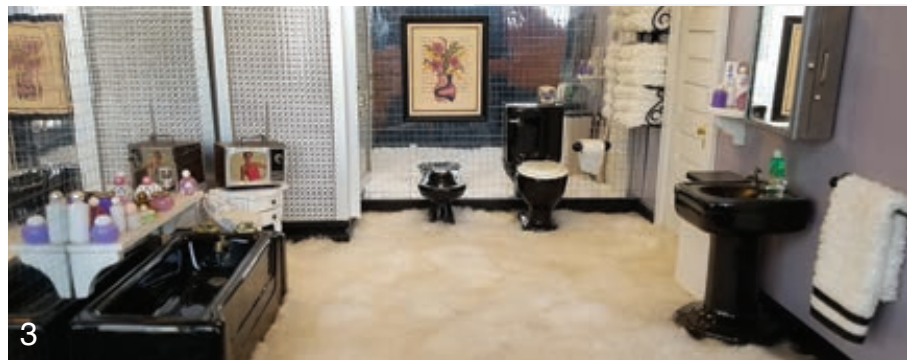
Upon entering Talitha's House through the large paneled front door, one steps onto the floor of the entryway made of real Italian marble. Friedman painstakingly cut each tiny tile one by one. From the entry, a staircase leads up to the second floor and four steps lead down to the great room. The staircase and great room feature an abundance of black wrought iron banisters, railings, candle stands, wall accessories, and other furnishings that recreate a Mediterranean look. The "wrought iron" pieces are actually made of solid brass spray painted black. Soldering the balusters on the stair railings was one of the biggest



## FEATURE



**1** The kitchen with an open dishwasher. **2** A look inside the entertainment room. **3** This bathroom is adjacent to the second bedroom. **4** A closer look of the living area in the great room.





The upstairs hallway.

light sand paint on walls and ceiling.

The dining area is richly furnished with a table, chairs and a matching mirrored buffet atop an Oriental rug. A china place setting reflects the light from a graceful chandelier. On the other side of the great room, a grand piano and bench creates a music area. Beyond the music area, an arched doorway leads into the cozy entertainment room where a built-in walnut bookcase holds a television, stereo system, and books. Friedman made the television by cutting a photograph from a magazine and gluing it to a wooden backing.

At the opposite end of the great room, four steps lead from the dining area up to the kitchen.

It took Friedman almost a month to build the walnut kitchen cabinets. They are fully stocked with canned and packaged foods, and the

challenges in construction.

Friedman used a number of imaginative architectural design elements, such as the split-level treatment and angled steps of the entry and staircase to break up what otherwise would have been a boring, "straight-on" view of the great room. The use of wrought iron railings, steps and area rugs help suggest the boundaries of the music, living, and dining areas within the great room.

The great room flooring is comprised of 1/2" wide walnut strips. Dark walnut ceiling beams repeat the Mediterranean theme. The fireplace, set into a recessed nook, is surrounded by a mantelpiece made of green Italian marble. Etched glass windows bring in additional light into the room. The upholstery and drapes in the living area blend nicely with the

**The master bathroom has a step bath.**





In the master bedroom there are framed mini photos of Talitha and her brother, Jonah atop the dresser. Below is the second bedroom.

lower cabinet houses a lazy Susan that rotates. A turkey is ready to come out of the oven, and copper cookware gleams on the stove top and above the wall cabinets. Four café chairs and breakfast table sit upon the kitchen floor made of yellow and gray vinyl tiles. The broom closet holds cleaning supplies, and the dishwasher door is open, full of dirty dishes and silverware.

The upstairs layout consists of two bedrooms with adjoining baths, separated by a hallway. Floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors in each bedroom open onto a balcony and allow the viewer to see into these rooms. The furniture in the master bedroom includes a carved poster bed and rocking chair, a mirrored armoire and dresser. The room features plush pink carpeting, cream floral wallpaper and sheer blue curtains.

The carpeting and wallpaper continues on into the master bathroom. The sunken tub is surrounded by steps made of mirrored gold tile and carpet. A scalloped marble sink stands atop a pedestal. Shelves beside the sink

and bathtub hold an assortment of toiletries, including a box of tissues. Sarah Friedman made the fluffy pink towels and cut and rolled real pink tissue for the toilet paper holder.

In contrast to the master bedroom, the second bedroom reflects a more contemporary look, furnished with a four-poster bed, armoire, and built-in bookcase and entertainment center. The room features blue carpet and pale green wallpaper. Unlike the Mediterranean motif found throughout most of the house, the

bathroom adjacent to the second bedroom received an ultra-modern treatment, where a white rug sets off the black porcelain fixtures. The shower stall is enclosed with brushed aluminum. A television set placed in a corner next to the bathtub encourages long, leisurely soaks. On the opposite wall, Sarah made the fluffy white towels with black trim.

It is the small touches that create a homey atmosphere, like eyeglasses left casually atop a book, actual family portraits, stuffed toys strewn on the nursery floor, potted plants and flower arrangements, bedroom slippers at the foot of the bed and monogrammed towels. Finally, Friedman attached a "mezuzah" to the front door post of each house. This is a decorative case containing Biblical verses, written in Hebrew, that traditionally is attached to a Jewish house.



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# This Mini Family is Hittin' the Dusty Road

Connie Sauve had a love for miniature vehicles and finally found a way to make them into one-of-a-kind pieces that each tell an interesting story.

BY CONNIE SAUVE

**M**y journey with miniature vehicles began in 2012, after seeing some miniature trucks in the display room at the IGMA Guild School in Castine, ME. The theme that year was "On the Road Again", and the vehicles on display were made by Carol Block.

My interest in miniature vehicles actually started a few years before that, as I had collected quite a few 1/18" diecast metal vehicles, but never did anything with them. I like to put figures with my miniature scenes because they help tell a story, and the 1/18" vehicles were just not the right scale to go with my 1/12" scale figures. So the vehicles are displayed on my shelves, as is.

For several years while I was out shopping, I kept finding metal vehicles like trucks, antique cars, airplanes, taxis, fire engines, buses, etc., that are used for decorative purposes. The quality of the vehicles was not highly detailed or accurate, but they had a certain charm to them, and best of all, they were close to 1/12" scale, at least the cars and trucks were (an airplane would be huge in 1/12" scale). I was tempted so many times to buy one wherever I saw them, as they were fairly cheap at around \$25. But every time I saw

one I really liked, I talked myself out of it, because I just couldn't figure out what to do with a truck or car and I really didn't need more things added to my ever-growing stash of containers and unfinished kits.

Then I saw the vehicles on display at Castine and was totally captivated by them. They were finished in all different themes, and were stand-alone vehicles that could be put on a table or shelf. No elaborate landscaping, base or cover needed, which kept the project small and the same size as the vehicle.

It was one of those light bulb moments we all have. I tend to get those kinds of ideas a LOT, which is why I have so many projects waiting in the wings to be finished. I don't think I'll ever live long enough, have enough money, or have enough space to display them all, even if I did manage to finish everything!

Upon returning home from Castine in June of 2012, I immediately went shopping. The trouble was....I hadn't remembered seeing any vehicles in the stores lately. I figured I had waited too long after seeing them in the stores for the last few years and I wasn't going to find any now. Another



problem with me is, I tend to have a picture in my mind of exactly what I want and the chance of finding the exact trucks in the right colors wasn't going to be easy. I was looking for two trucks in particular, as I already had ideas for two vehicles.

While at HomeGoods one day, I was searching the store for interesting containers and happened upon a truck sitting forlornly on the shelf, all by itself. I picked it up and carried it around the store hoping to find more, but didn't. So, I decided I would at least buy this one. At the checkout, the cashier mentioned she thought the truck was cute. Then I happened to mention I was actually looking for another one. She said "I think we have another one sitting behind the counter here". I was hoping it wasn't the same truck, as I didn't want two of the same vehicle. It wasn't! It was just what I was looking for! Now I had two trucks that would work perfect for the two projects I had in mind. So started my obsession with vehicles.

I decided to work on both trucks I bought at HomeGoods at the same time. The imperfections of the trucks, actually helped me in achieving the look I was after of an old, rusty, farm-fresh type of



**This miniature family has packed up and are moving west!**

vehicle. I didn't want the trucks to be perfect and in great shape, as I like things aged, weathered, rusty and dented. I also wanted the trucks to be a back drop and let the miniatures that I added to them, be the main focus.

This first truck was going to be set in a 1930's Dust Bowl era scene, think "Grapes of Wrath". One of the trucks I had seen at Castine had a whole bunch of furniture piled on top of it like somebody was moving. I wanted to put my own spin on the idea of a moving truck,

so I decided to take my truck a few steps further. Another thought that kept popping into my head while working on the project was "The Beverly Hillbillies" truck when they "moved to Beverly". I knew I was going to be adding figures to my truck, so a fun idea quickly formed.

My first job was to age the trucks even more. They already looked old, so all I needed to do was add the rust. For making rust, I like to use Sophisticated Finishes paint that used to be found at the craft store. You can now find it online, but it isn't cheap. I started by painting the spots that I wanted rusty with

the Sophisticated Finishes paint called Iron. I then added the Rust solution on top of that, repeating this step several times. The paint has metal in it, so when the rust solution is added, it actually rusts. It gives the metal a nice bumpy texture too, just like real rust. I also added a wash of Burnt Sienna paint to give it an even more rusty color.

The stakes in the bed of this truck were wood and painted red, but a little too bulky for the size of the truck, so I replaced them with finer stained and weathered wood stakes. This helped give the truck a more realistic look and would also



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**1** The truck that Connie found at the HomeGoods store. **2** Beautifully detailed barbed wire fence. **3** The base for the truck was finished first. **5** Father ties the haul down securely with rope. **6** Father and son work hard while grandma relaxes in her rocking chair.



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items in very muted aged colors to help convey the feeling of that depressed era. There is even a caged chicken on the back of the truck, and a hound dog with her new puppies laying comfortably in the cab.

For the figures, I decided that there would be a dad and his small son helping tie down the load. Then for the fun surprise. Stubborn grandma refused to leave her rocking chair, so they loaded her up in the back for the long journey. She is quite content to sit in her rocking chair in the back of the truck holding onto her jug and watching over the chicken, while she watches the world pass by on the long journey. I costumed all three of the figures and it was especially fun adding Grandma in her rocking chair, which is safely tied down. I didn't want Grandma taking a

**Connie added many delicate details in this piece to make it extra special.**

allow people to see inside the back of the truck better. I also added a license plate from the era, and glass headlights, made from those glass globes you can buy at the craft stores. The last thing I did was add plastic windows. This really helped put the finishing touch on the truck.

While I was working on the trucks, I started gathering all the fun stuff to put in the back bed of the truck. I wanted to use everything from my stash and not to have to buy anything, which I pretty much did. Good thing I have a big stash! Adding all the furniture and accessories to the truck went fairly quickly. I ended up making the mattress from fabric I already had. I wanted a lot of things hanging off the sides of the truck and everything tied down with ropes. I purposefully kept all the





**A view of the piece from the other side with the boy and his dog preparing for a long drive.**

header off the back of the truck!

I added a painted wood sign on the tailgate that shows the name of the project, and it also tells everybody they are "Hittin' the Dusty Road" and heading West.

My final step was taking the truck out to my garden and add dirt and dust to the truck. I just sprinkled it on the hood and runners of the truck and blew off any excess. I wanted it to look dusty from driving on all of the dirt roads.

A year or so later, after finishing my third truck called "Stoneybrook Farms" (more about that one in another article), I decided to make a very simple landscaped base to help set the scene more. The landscaped base of my Stoneybrook Farms veggie truck, added so much to the look and feel of the project, that I decided to add

landscaped bases to all my trucks. Oh well! There goes my original idea of keeping these trucks small and simple!

A friend of mine makes wonderful wood bases using old, aged wood. I had given him a bunch of redwood fencing that was old and weathered, so he makes most of my bases for me. The old wood worked perfect for the dry, aged look I wanted for the base.

Since the scene is set in the Dust Bowl era, I kept the landscaping to a minimum. I wanted it to be dry and bleak, with a well-traveled country dirt road and nothing green growing, just some clumps of dead grass. Since the truck has stopped on the side of the road to secure the load, I decided to add a barbed wire fence as a simple

backdrop. I made the barbed wire fence from scratch, assembling the whole thing with wire and twisting it with my drill. I then aged and rusted the wire, and it's actually very sharp. The barbed wire helped add to the feeling of that bleak, desolate and defeated time in American history. The aged wood posts I purposely leaned to make the fence look wind-blown and worn out.

All in all, this first truck project was fun and quick, and I hope conveys the feeling of that desperate time in American history.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at cmsauve2@gmail.com. You can also call me at 209-329-8978. Each upcoming issue I will be sharing one of my past pieces with you. I hope you will enjoy them all.

# Enjoying Sunny Days on the Backyard Deck

Bill and Gina Theesfield work as a miniature-building team. Together they made the absolutely perfect one-inch scale backyard deck.

BY PAM NORTH

**B**ill and Gina Theesfield bought their first dollhouse together 30 years ago, spending countless hours assembling and painting it. Then, life got in the way. "We never decorated the inside, and no minis were ever moved into it," Bill explained. "It sat in attic spaces for over 25 years until just recently, when we finally brought it down. We are thinking of turning it into a miniature haunted house; it certainly has all the run-down characteristics of a ghoulish abode. Alternatively, maybe we will turn it into the shining dwelling it was meant to be."

Around 1994, the Illinois-based couple began making miniatures. Their work encompasses polymer clay food, furniture, small building constructions, handmade miniatures, and whimsical treasures, all in 1:12 scale. They own and operate an auction house in Wisconsin, managing to combine that endeavor with miniature-making.

"Now that the kids are grown, there definitely is more time for miniatures. While our business takes priority, that's only so we can make money to support our miniature life!" Bill remarked in jest. "We carve out time in the day to focus on any mini projects



**Miniaturists Bill and Gina Theesfield.**

we might have going on. It's an incredible source of joy. We are able to spend quality time with each other, and make wonderful things that bring joy to others. It's a win-win proposition!"

They find an endless amount of inspiration in the everyday world. "We see so many fabulous things coming through our auction house that we would love to turn into miniature. We also get design inspiration from magazines and Pinterest."

Bill has a small workshop area in their warehouse. "It's like a machine shop and wood shop, shrunk down to size, and it's clean and organized. Gina works primarily on our large



office desk with whatever project she is currently working on, and her area is a chaotic mess. That is the juxtaposition between an artist and an engineer, but it works for us!"

They sell their products through their Etsy store, (Calicogarden) at prices ranging from \$4 to \$350, averaging about \$20. They also hope to participate in future miniature shows in Chicago.

Some pieces they can't bear to part with, however. "We have some items we've created that we simply adore, but perhaps these items are meant to go to someone else to bring them joy," Bill reasoned. "We can always make another."

They are primarily self-taught in mini-making skills, although Bill has a background in engineering, drafting, and machining of life-



**A picture perfect backyard getaway with lush greenery and lots of seating options for entertaining and relaxing.**

sized items which he translates into his miniature work. "With an engineering scale, X-ACTO knife, and a needle tool, we can rule the mini world!" he claims. He does own up to one disadvantage, however: "Our failing eyesight! Getting old is not easy."

Bill always has been a model builder, whether it was model cars, airplanes, or Lego sets. His very first project was a general store he made when he was seven. He is excited to be able to share his love of model building with others.

Gina is an artist in many mediums and art forms, from dancer to potter to miniaturist and

more. She is happiest when she is creating. Her art studio is packed, and her motto is, "She who dies with the most art supplies wins!" Their mutual love of miniatures is a strong bond. Gina says "It is easier to collect 100 miniature things than 100 cats." "She probably would rather have 100 cats," Bill joked, but said, "The two things I love the most is model-making and spending time with my wife."

One of their recent pieces is an ultimate backyard summer party hangout: a cedarwood, three-level, entertaining deck in 1:12 scale. They had purchased several miniature vintage deck kits at an auction a year ago, and after the initial deck build, they decided they could improve on the overall idea and design. This resulted in

a better-than-ever second deck, created by using building code proportions for the heights of the deck, railing, and stairs, and for the spindle spacing.

They made the deck of their dreams, just smaller. It was nearly 100% handmade, the only purchased piece being the inner plastic of the jacuzzi. The entire deck design, patio furniture, fire pit, raised bed garden, and garden trug, were also totally their own. Other materials used were: basswood, glue, stain, cloth, paper, faux plants, and clay. The wicker look of the furniture was achieved by using woven scrapbook paper, coated with acrylic paint. Dried coffee grounds replicated the dirt in the garden beds, and the coal in the fire pit was simulated with



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2

**1-2** Every garden should include a little oasis for our little bird friends. **3** A backyard garden trug was modeled after their very own. Gardening without having to bend down is perfect! **4** Garden boxes are a perfect way to highlight seasonal greenery and decorations. **5** Various plants on the deck.



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Built in garden benches and a fire pit provided a place for mini friends to sit and enjoy each other's company.

chopped-up plastic bits.

Bill said the hardest part about making the miniature was deciding when enough was enough. "This piece easily could have turned into the Taj Mahal of decks if we hadn't forced ourselves to stop. This build took a total of 40+ hours, and when we were done, it was exactly what we hoped and more. It was so much fun to create!"

The couple has favorite parts about the piece. Bill's are its 3-tiered deck and the patio furniture, while Gina's is the working jacuzzi that actually holds water and uses an air filter pump to make bubbles. She also loves that the flowers in the garden boxes that

can be removed and changed with the seasons.

They both found it fun to design the initial plans for an amazing deck, and then to build it. At present, they aren't ready to sell it. They built the deck as an excellent staging area for any outdoor items they will make in the future, but even more importantly, the deck was for Olivia, Gina's miniature doll with her own persona and a back story on Instagram ([calico\\_garden](#)).

The Theesfields have produced a tutorial for the garden boxes that could be used by other miniaturists to create their own dream deck. Their tutorial was in *American Miniaturist* magazine 207/208. They

also are considering running some miniature workshops in the future. "We would love to do that, as we love sharing our knowledge and art with others," they said.

The future of miniatures seems optimistic to them. "We love the way that miniatures have evolved. There are more modern pieces available, and the quality of things has gotten better as people share their knowledge of the art with others. We can only imagine how even more amazing all the little things will be in the future. We also hope that more of the younger generation will continue to engage in the art form."

They always are looking ahead



A hot tub is another way to relax on summer nights, and below Olivia enjoys her summer on the grand deck.

for new projects, to keep creating and stretching their imaginations, As Bill explained, "We are hoping to acquire more mini tools for the workshop, and maybe to work on more outdoor entertaining pieces, such as an outdoor kitchen, pergola, and gazebo when time permits. We have a very cool She Shed in the works that is nearly finished. We also are planning on replicating our actual 1911 American Foursquare home with a dance studio in the back."



#### artist details

**Calico Garden**

**Etsy:** <https://www.etsy.com/shop/Calicogarden>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/calicogarden/>

**Instagram:** [calico\\_garden](https://www.instagram.com/calico_garden)



# big buzz

CONTESTS, PRODUCTS, NEWS, & VIEWS FOR MINIATURISTS

## Highlights contest

We would love to know what your favorite highlights were in this issue of *DHM*. You could win this 1/4" scale kissing booth made by Kim Carlson and Ann McNeil from MiniCousins on Etsy!

All it takes is a small paragraph for our random drawing! Send your entry to **DHM71/78 Highlights contest**, PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944. You may also send your entries via email to [auralea@ashdown.co.uk](mailto:auralea@ashdown.co.uk). Please be sure to include *DHM* issue, your name and address as well.

The deadline for this contest is **Thursday, Nov 19, 2020**.



## Recent winners

### Highlights contest

Joyce from Kettering, OH

### Frame giveaway

Joyce from Kettering, OH

*Only one entry so Joyce wins 2x!*

### Star Letter

Kathleen from Loudon, TN

**A little reminder. Please remember to add ALL of the required info in your contest entries so you can be considered for the drawings!**

## Tree giveaway

We are donating this 1:12 scale Christmas tree to give away. Send your entry to **Tree giveaway DHM71/78**, PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944. You may also send your entries via email to [auralea@ashdown.co.uk](mailto:auralea@ashdown.co.uk). Please be sure to include *DHM* issue, your name and address. The deadline for this contest is **Thursday, Nov 19, 2020**.



## Mini magazine kit giveaway

We are donating this 1:12 mini magazine kit to give away. Send your entry to **Magazine kit giveaway DHM71/78**, PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944. You may also send your entries via email to [auralea@ashdown.co.uk](mailto:auralea@ashdown.co.uk). Please be sure to include *DHM* issue, your name and address. The deadline for this contest is **Thursday, Nov 19, 2020**.



## Study set giveaway

We are donating this 1:12 study set to give away. Send your entry to **Study set giveaway DHM71/78**, PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944. You may also send your entries via email to [auralea@ashdown.co.uk](mailto:auralea@ashdown.co.uk). Please be sure to include *DHM* issue, your name and address. The deadline for this contest is **Thursday, Nov 19, 2020**.



## Giveaway contributions

If you would like to be considered to have your products featured for our giveaways please email the editor at [auralea@ashdown.co.uk](mailto:auralea@ashdown.co.uk). Your item and business link will be shown in contest listing.



**Be sure to like and follow Dollhouse Miniatures magazine on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!**

# The Heart of Christmas

Discover a world of festive sparkle and elegant design with Julia Stewart's magical miniatures.

BY SADIE BROWN

**A** talented designer, Julia Stewart perfectly describes her miniature style as glam/chic, something which often sees her taking quality kits and transforming them into a range of high end aspirational furniture and accessories, all glittering with the air of historical elegance which is at the heart of her now signature style. "My love of miniatures came from when I was a child. My grandmother had this wonderful glass doll house with beautiful items in it, and we were not allowed to touch. I wanted to play minis so badly with them."

However, it was through accompanying her sister, Laura Montgomery to shows which led Julia to really discover the potential of small scale and her own artistic talent. "Between her, Bridget McCarty and Laura Crain, they sucked me right into the miniature world and I have never emerged," says Julia. "When I decided to start selling miniatures, I looked for a void in the market place and decided to go from there. I find inspiration for my work anywhere. Anything from a paper napkin, to thrift stores, antique stores, art, or items that happen to be lying next to each other in my messy art room."

From glittering Christmas trees



This little scene is filled with the colors of Christmas and special presents are waiting to be opened.

**An overflowing festive candy selection made just for the holidays!**



the scene. The second dresser has a tartan led twist, but what makes this piece really special are two of the miniatures sitting on top, collaborations between Julia and her brother, Kirk, aided by a sprinkling of modern technology. The marvels of 3D printing are being increasingly adopted by the miniaturist, enthusiastic to discover new and exciting ways to create, so it was a delight to discover that Kirk had printed both the vase and the candlestick found on the dresser. Julia then worked some miniature magic, decorating the candlestick and bringing the vase to life with a beautiful bouquet of white flowers.

Julia's canopied daybeds, the base for which brings together two kits, a daybed and a mirror, also offers an especially fine example of her talent for magical, inventive design. With an air of genuine vintage owing to the handkerchiefs which form their distinctive canopies, the beds are always covered in a beautiful selection of cushions, the overall

to a hall table featuring an ombre paint effect and a stunning settee with cushions encased in hand dyed rich raspberry velvet, Julia's portfolio is crammed with glamorous designs. "I love taking affordable miniatures and making them look very expensive," she says, believing that the only boundary to creative potential is your own imagination. "If you use very nice fabrics and patterns, this can go a long way to making something feel expensive." That sense of imagination can be seen in play with two dressers, demonstrating the art of creating an entirely different look for two identical or very similar pieces of furniture.

Papered with a floral design, one dresser's lavender theme follows through to the items which accessorize it. Here you'll find one of Julia's hats, their fun designs inspired by the Mad Hatters Tea Party. The old book and the

birdhouse were made from kits, and whilst sadly Julia can't recall the origins of the bird cage with the tiny bird sitting inside, it makes a thoroughly stunning addition to



**Julia's 1:12 scale Christmas shadow boxes are perfect for display in a dollhouse or room box and could even be a wonderful holiday gift.**



**1** Stored in this mini trunk are festive family heirlooms that are ready to rediscover year after year. **2** This tray of holiday treats have a festive sparkle.

finish achieving the height of small scale luxury.

Meanwhile, ranging from around 3 ½ to 5 inches in length, Julia's mini time pieces illustrate just how easily glamour can meet functionality to produce magnificent statement pieces. "My miniature wall clocks were inspired by some vintage watch faces I had collected. I started mixing them with old jewelry and they were a match made in heaven." Instantly eye catching, Julia has also used the same technique to create an ornate mirror. Made with sparkling rhinestones and alive with color, any of these unique designs would look impressive set against the backdrop of a plain white or cream wall. Julia's royal blue and pink clocks are amongst her most exceptional, but you don't move far in the miniatures world without finding yourself immersed in some of our favorite times of the year and she cites one delightful clock, featuring amber rhinestones with an owl, seemingly ready to hoot on the hour, perched above as ideal for Halloween.

After Halloween comes Christmas and some of Julia's most intriguing ideas have centered around the Holiday Season. An old trunk is filled with festive memories and decorations and is just one piece evocative of Christmas past and present. Her seasonal collection also includes wonderful gift trays laden with candy and added sparkle, but special mention must go to a Christmas tree which repurposes mini ice cubes to help create a magical winter wonderland, proving that you never know where the very best miniature ideas are going to come from.

A love of miniatures has also



This sleigh is bursting with seasonal magic.

that isn't going to stop an inventive artisan from adding yet another dimension to her work, having decided to begin the exciting prospect of designing her own scratch-built furniture. The spoils of this new venture will see her reach new heights of expertise and ingenuity, but for Julia seeing her creations connect with others is by far the most important aspect in her work. "The thing I find most satisfying about selling miniatures is seeing the smile on people's faces when they find just the right item, or they look at something I have created, and it makes them smile. Miniatures should be a happy place for everyone."

enabled Julia to indulge one of her other passions, the world of ballet. In her self-described 'tutu factory' Julia creates what she admits are some of her most complex creations, but also adds that these wonderful pieces are amongst the most satisfying, and it's easy to see why they've danced their way to becoming a firm favorite. A finely pleated skirt crafted from silk is topped with shimmering silver lace, forming a red tutu which also manages to incorporate a wonderful neck piece from Sun Lemmens. Although 1/12th scale and made for the doll house, Julia's tutus are each very much a work of art in their own right, and one which you could also equally imagine as a valued piece of individual home décor.

Whether it's the thrill of finding the pieces of a brand new kit on the worktable or the joy found in being able to reinvigorate something old and cast aside, Julia already has plenty to keep her thriving art room busy. However,



# Making a Mini Christmas Bedroom

Follow along and make a bed quilt that is festive and fun. Dress your entire miniature bedroom for Christmas to bring holiday joy to your dollhouse.

BY DAWN MONK

**T**was the night before Christmas and all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse." Perhaps not. If these children are anything like mine, it's about 2 o'clock in the morning and they've just found out that Father Christmas has already been.

I started this project with a mood board. It's well worth the time and effort in putting one together. Play with all your fabrics, colors, textures etc, until you are happy with the effect. I've gone for traditional checks, tiny heart prints and complimentary plain colors, all in

lightweight cottons.

The wallpapers are a combination of store samples and playing around on my own computer scanner, as I wanted some of the wallpaper to echo the heart fabric. The flooring is my favorite strip wood, cut at varying lengths, stuck to the floor to give the appearance of floorboards and then color washed over with emulsion.

If you paint too much on then you can wipe away the excess with a damp cloth. This effect lets the grain of the wood show through, as it would if it were a full size version.



## You will need

- Assorted fabrics
- Wadding
- Matching thread
- Scissors
- Ruler inch/cm
- Dowel or wood skewer
- Ribbon

## Patchwork squares

Cut out 56 pieces of assorted fabrics to the size of the template shown overleaf. This may seem quite big, but I have allowed a generous seam allowance for ease of handling.

## Border

To form the border of the front, cut out four strips of your main fabric, the same width as your fabric pieces 32cm x 21cm. Cut from your main fabric a piece 18cm x 20cm and the same from your wadding.

## Quilt

**Step 1:** Lay out your cut patchwork squares. I haven't arranged mine in anything other than a random pattern. Just try not to have any matching fabrics next to each other. You are laying out seven squares for the width by eight squares for the length. Play with the overall





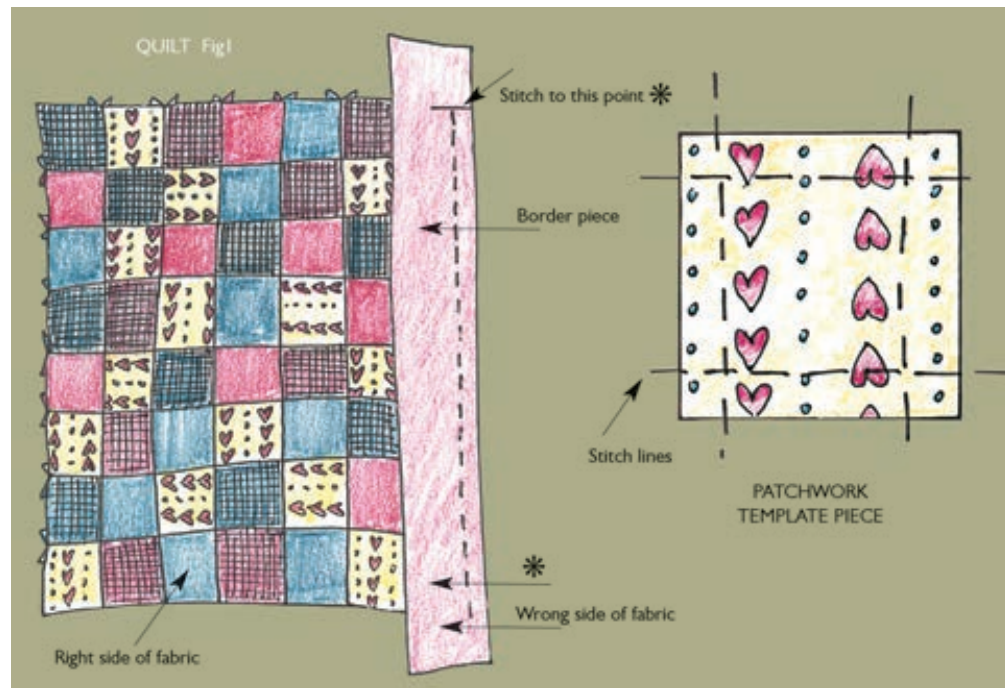


look until you are happy with it. Then taking one row at a time, start stitching your pieces together. I've allowed 3/4cm as a seam allowance. Lay them back down in order as you go.

**Step 2:** Once you have your eight widths ready you can then start stitching these together. If you find that the hems need trimming then do so now and if necessary iron them flat too.

**Step 3:** Once the whole piece is stitched up with right sides facing, join your borders as shown in figure 1, allowing extra at each end of the border to overlap the patchwork. This then forms into the outside corners when finished.

**Step 4:** Stitch only to the edge of the patchwork pieces. With right side up, tuck the corner edges in to appear mitered. Slip stitch these corners into place.



**Step 5:** Now place your front and back pieces together, with right sides facing and lay over your wadding. Pin to hold while stitching and using the same seam allowance, stitch together, leaving an 8cm (approx) gap at one end to enable you to turn it the right way round.

**Step 6:** Snip your corners and turn the right way round.

**Step 7:** Slip stitch your opening. Stitch around the inside border edge to keep the wadding in place, but it is not essential. You now have a traditional looking patchwork quilt

that would grace any bed in the house, but I do think that it lends itself best in a child's room.

### Curtains

**Step 1:** Cut two rectangles, 6" x 5" from your main fabric and turn in 1/4". Hem the two sides and lower edges of each piece. Turn 1/2" across the top of each piece and with a running stitch (or machine) finish this edge.

**Step 2:** These two pieces can now be threaded onto a 3" length of dowel and secured at each end with a little glue.

**Step 3:** From the other fabrics, cut one rectangle, or two for a double pelmet, 7 1/2" x 2". As before, hem the two outsides and lower edge first and then the upper edge with a running stitch again. If you make a double pelmet, then turn both top edges together.

**Step 4:** Thread this onto your second piece of wood dowel and secure in the same way.

**Step 5:** Gather the pair of curtains gently with needle and thread to keep the pleats in place and decorate with a small bow with your ribbon.

**Step 6:** Add another bow to the middle of your pelmet. You can stitch or glue this into place. With the glue or some double sided sticking tape, firstly secure the curtains to the window. Once in position you can do the same with the pelmet, positioning slightly above the curtains for full effect.

### Pillowcases

When I was growing up my sister and I didn't have stockings – we



had pillowcases at the bottom of our beds and any presents not fitting were scattered around the bottom of the beds, as if left in a hurry by Mr. Christmas himself. So, to complete the look on the bed I've made a couple of white pillowcases.

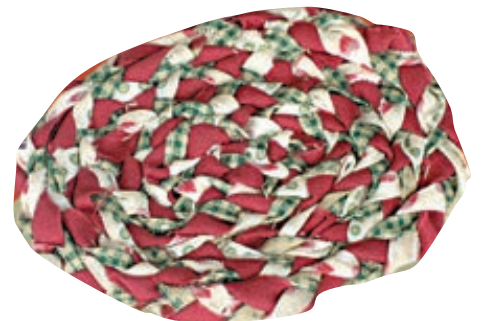
**Step 1:** Cut a rectangle from your fabric measuring 2" x 7". Turn in a 1/4" at each end and hem. Then at one end fold in 1/4", this forms the envelope part of your pillowcase.

**Step 2:** With right sides facing, bring the two ends together and stitch the two sides up, snip the two bottom corners and turn the pillowcase right the way round.

**Step 3:** Fill with pressies, wrapped

or unwrapped, depending on whether the children have already got there.

**Step 4:** With a bare floor in this room we obviously need some kind of rug. One of my favorites is the plaited rag rug and is especially good for leftover fabrics. And if you start to run out of the length as you are stitching together then it's easy enough to add more bits in.





# back issues

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- Charming Book Store
- Make a Garden Deck
- Regency Library



## Issue 75, May/Jun '20

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- Carl Larsson's Cottage



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- Strombecker Furniture
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- French Feves



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In this issue:

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# Lovingly Hand-Crafted Vintage Toys

Take a walk down memory lane to view toys that you may recall from long ago perfectly handmade by miniature artisan Lynn Jowers.

BY JOAN MCKENZIE

Full disclosure, Lynn Jowers and I are friends. While I have never met Lynn in person, I do think of her as one of my dearest friends on Earth. Our friendship started soon after she sent me the first miniature treasure that I purchased from her Etsy shop in July of 2015.

My first request was for a cradle, which had been crafted with raised relief sculptured teddy bears using her signature cherry wood, stained to perfection with her steady hands and employing beeswax to bring out the gorgeous wood grain shades. These delicately crafted miniatures beg you to touch them, and to feel the unexpected silky softness of cherrywood - almost made pliant. The rich finishing patina lights up any room as your eyes go immediately to whatever Lynn has created. I find that my friends and neighbors want to touch her work, and I happily allow them to experience this distinct pleasure.

When I initially found Lynn's Etsy shop, I desperately wanted to purchase her miniature children's school desk. It was more than a year before I indulged myself with this perfect little desk, however, once it arrived, I realized that I had found an artisan who was more than extraordinary. A dream had come true for me, and it was as if this dream had fallen from the sky for me - at my tender age of 65. Elation followed. And it stayed.

My own youth had been cut short after losing my Dad to a drunk driver in December of 1956. The following 64-year obsession with miniatures and the self-indulgence I allowed myself as an adult has been an attempt to heal from that truncated childhood. Growing up I had been taught that material things cannot bring you happiness. I am here to tell you that when it comes to the perfect miniature treasure, for me, that thinking is not only mistak-

en, but downright nonsense!

Once my mortgage was finally paid off, I planned to order a few items from Lynn twice each year. Every delivery has always been even more exciting than the last. When I finally held that little school desk, I was amazed at all of the detail, the patina of the wood, the silky finishing. I opened the desktop and saw that it opened and closed exactly like the full-size models. I have so much admiration for this piece, and every other piece that has arrived since that day.

It has even become somewhat of a tradition that when my friends come here, I share my latest masterpieces from Lynn. Even among those who are not familiar with the miniature world, I have found that their admiration is authentic, and they now seem to understand that my bottomless obsession is substantial enough to be categorized as nourishment for my soul.



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1



2

**1** A tiny dollhouse full of teddies.  
**2** A little boy trying to figure out the Abacus. **3** A 1:48 scale tiny dog with a kennel. **4** This little pull-a-long duck actually has moving wheels. **5** A collection of tiny tools. **6** Lots of holiday goodies are ready for Santa to enjoy.



3



4



5



6



Stocking are hung by the chimney with care! A Santa doll is going for a ride in a Lynn Jowers' wagon.

Lynn was born in the United Kingdom where she and her husband Dennis ran a successful electronics company with help from their son Colin. Dennis had lived in South Africa as a child for many years before he met Lynn. Lynn had experience making quite a few pieces of full-sized furniture with her husband, so she knew all about dovetailing and mitered joints. Dennis taught her how to make fixtures and jigs to hold the pieces of wood in place. They are a great team.

As a child Lynn grew up in a joy filled home in England. She has only happy memories of days spent with her siblings and loving parents. She is the youngest of nine children. There were five girls and four boys! She now has only three sisters and one brother left, which is the saddest part of being the youngest in any family.

Lynn typically gets many of her ideas for new miniatures as she is

drifting off to sleep at night. She does not typically daydream about what might appeal to her beloved repeat customers, it's always about what would be a dream come true for her own dollhouse that she has been allocating small bits of time to

**‘She has a serious admiration for quality tools, so her workshop contains plenty of these.’**

finishing sporadically, when the muse inspires her, over the last many years. This is the same dollhouse that she bought in wooden plank form back in the UK for a project, several decades ago. A small glimpse into that dollhouse shows a little girl climbing the stairs in a modestly sized but exceptionally elegant cottage with

all sorts of nooks and crannies. It is the most unusual little cottage I have ever seen.

Lynn owns quite a bit of wood-working machinery, some small and some quite large. Each piece of miniature furniture starts with a plank of wood that must be cut and thinned down to the correct 1:12 scale thickness. She has a serious admiration for quality tools, so her workshop contains plenty of these.

Some tools she uses every day, others are seldom used but they are all essential in their own way. She has been asked many times about her methods of turning out such beautiful work. She maintains that she uses a mixture of techniques, the old, where she uses the mortise and tenon joints, mitered corners, and the more modern techniques to help produce the relief carvings. All of these techniques work very well together to produce beautiful modern and vintage style miniatures.



Lynn chooses wood with an exceptionally fine grain and finishes each piece with bee's wax polish.

Small detailed furniture is difficult to make. For instance, 1:12 scale offers its own level of complexity, but moving down to 1:24 scale has even more increased challenges, which is why these toys that she has perfected have made me so enthused. Lynn often spends more than an entire week making one single piece. With each piece she makes, she pretends that it is for her own collection. Then she feels certain that when it is completed, her admirers will be as pleased as she is with the end offering.

As all miniaturists know, the 1:24 scale usually sells for less money than the 1:12 scale model despite the extra time required, even though the smaller the piece, the more difficult it is to complete. When it comes to miniatures, without the benefit of having elves in the workshop it all falls to one person. Lynn has a home to manage and a loving husband

who is retired so making time for all of her responsibilities and ensuring quality family time can be challenging. However, Lynn feels as though she was put on this earth to make miniature furniture. Lucky for us!

**“To begin, there are some toy wagons similar to one her own father made for her as a child.”**

Once you hold a miniature masterpiece created by Lynn in your own hands you should understand immediately that this has been very carefully measured and joined together, and that these treasures could never be mass produced with the same results. Corners would be cut, and the end product would be vastly different in too many ways than was originally intended. This is why there have been times where I

**The fireplace mantel holds a Lynn Jowers dog kennel and a 1:48 scale rolling horse.**

have waited more than 6 months for what I have requested. However, it is always arguably my most cherished package that arrives here twice each year.

This feature's photographs are meant to be samples showcasing some of the vintage toys that Lynn has recently created in 1:12 miniature scale and what her inspiration was for these tiny masterpieces. To begin, there are some toy wagons similar to one her own father made for her as a child.

After the wagon was completed, I found that she had made a tiny open bed dump truck, approximately 1 1/2" long. I was immediately over the moon for this perfect little toy. I wanted to buy one for every miniature loving friend that I have.

Next, I became infatuated with the tiny doll carriage that is only a bit over 1" long. I have several little bears and bunnies that fit into this carriage perfectly. It is the mirror image of a toy pram that I had as a small child, before the age of 6.

Many of the pictures from this article belong to my own personal collection. As I might have mentioned, Lynn's work is something completely unique and immediately identifiable. I cherish each piece that I own and have purchased over the years. In my opinion, Lynn Jowers should be recognized as an International Treasure.



#### artist details

**Lynn Jowers**

**Email:** [oneforaim@aol.com](mailto:oneforaim@aol.com)

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**Etsy:** [https://www.etsy.com/shop/LynnJowers?ref=shop\\_sugg](https://www.etsy.com/shop/LynnJowers?ref=shop_sugg)

# calendar listings

## **September 11-12**

### **Nashville TN**

The Nashville Dollhouse and Miniature Show will be held at the Franklin Marriott, located at 700 Cool Springs, Franklin TN. We will be having raffles, classes, and more. Strollers welcome. Show will be held Friday from 4 - 8 pm and on Sat 9 am - 3pm. Classes will be on Friday. For more information please visit [www.miniatureshows.com](http://www.miniatureshows.com) or Facebook "Miniature shows". You can also email Teresa at: [tdminiatures@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tdminiatures@sbcglobal.net) or call 314-277-2601.

## **September 12-13**

### **Greenwood Village, CO**

Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys 40th Annual Fall Show and Sale on September 12-13, 2020 at the Bretnere Hotel by the Denver Tech Center, 101 E Orchard Road, Greenwood Village, CO. 80111. Show runs from Saturday 10am - 5pm and Sunday 11am - 4pm. Pre-registered workshops held Wed, Sept 9 through Fri, Sept 11. Contact Marjorie Smelt: [marjorie.smelt@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.smelt@gmail.com), (720) 206-5545.

## **October 2-3**

### **Bridgeton, MO**

St Louis Dollhouse and Miniature Show will be held at Machinist Hall located at 12365 St Charles Rock Rd, Bridgeton, MO. Classes, Raffles and Exhibits. For more information

visit [www.miniatureshows.com](http://www.miniatureshows.com) or email Teresa at [tdminiatures@gmail.com](mailto:tdminiatures@gmail.com) or call Teresa at 314-277-2601.

## **November 13-14**

### **Elk Grove, IL**

Chicago Fall Miniature show (formerly Wee Cee), Holiday Inn, 1000 Busse Rd, Elk Grove IL.

Starts Fri 4 pm - 8 pm, Sat 9 am - 3 pm. Classes on Friday. Raffles, Classes and Exhibits. For more information [miniatureshows.com](http://miniatureshows.com) Facebook "Miniature shows" Email: [tdminiatures@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tdminiatures@sbcglobal.net) or call 314-277-2601.

## **2021**

### **February 6 & 7**

### **San Diego, CA**

47th Annual San Diego Miniatures Show & Sale will be held February 6 & 7, 2021 on Saturday from 10am-5pm and Sunday 11am-4pm. The show will be held at San Diego Marriott Del Mar, 11966 El Camino Real, San Diego CA 92130. For more information, please visit [www.sdminiatureshow.com](http://www.sdminiatureshow.com) plus be sure to check updates and new details that will be posted on our social media pages! <https://www.facebook.com/sdminiatures/> and <https://www.instagram.com/sd.minishow/> Updates and new details will be posted on our social media pages!

## **COVID-19**

Due to the current pandemic, please double check with the show providers' websites to be sure the show you wish to attend is not cancelled.

## **March 27-28**

### **Phoenix, AZ**

Phoenix Arizona Miniature Show & Sale by Small World Miniature Club - NAME C-143 will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2021 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday, March 28, 2021 11 AM to 4 PM. Admission Adults \$8, Children under 12 \$2. Show will be held at the Arizona State University - West Campus, 4701 West Thunderbird, Phoenix, Arizona 85306. For more information: [www.phoenixminiatures.com](http://www.phoenixminiatures.com) or call 480-466-9691, or email [phxminishow@gmail.com](mailto:phxminishow@gmail.com) We are featuring: Sales room, exhibits, raffles, Door Prizes and a free "Make-and-take project for children age 4 and older.

## **LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR SHOW.**

For a nominal fee you can secure your listing on our calendar page. [adsales@ashdownmagazines.com](mailto:adsales@ashdownmagazines.com) or (507) 993-8416 Dollhouse Miniatures, PO Box 219 Kasson, MN 55944

# Furniture Painted To Perfection

Miniature artist Aurea Segura shares her one-inch scale nursery and child's room furniture collection in this issue of *DHM*.

BY PAM NORTH

**A**urea Segura has had a long career in art, and has exhibited her paintings in Barcelona and San Francisco. She has painted large murals for international conferences, and also has combined her art career with work in interior design. She has studied restoration techniques in Rome, learning how to imitate marble and other materials. Now she is working with Aurearte Miniatures, has a shop in Mercantic, a collectors market in Barcelona, Spain, and her specialty is unique upholstered and hand-painted miniature furniture pieces.

Miniatures wasn't an area she had focused on until she helped her mother with her dollhouse. "We painted the house, covered the walls, selected the flooring, and then worked together on the decoration," Aurea explained. "She's really good at interior design, but couldn't find the pieces of furniture to match her scenes. That's when I suggested working on her existing pieces of furniture to make them unique and a match for her taste. I started upholstering and hand-painting her pieces of furniture, and then went on to buying my first dollhouse and doing the same thing. My friends and family

always said how beautiful and unique those pieces were, and I decided I wanted to share that with the world. So I started my miniatures business and began going to international dollhouse and miniature shows, and started selling on Etsy." She also has a shop in Mercantic, a collectors market of vintage and antique items in Barcelona. She sells nearly all her products, keeping only one special creation. "One thing I can't bear to part with is the first miniature painting I made. It's a portrait of my dog, Goldy, a beautiful Shih Tzu with shiny patches of blond hair."

**“Her family has always supported her, encouraging her to travel to miniaturists’ shows.”**

Her family has always supported her, encouraging her to travel to miniaturists' shows. Her daughters helped her set up her online shop on Etsy and social media platforms. She occasionally makes special consignment items,



**A gorgeous child's room set in 1:12 scale. All hand-painted with care.**

such as a baby crib for a museum in Carmel, California, and also a canopy bed for a museum in Mexico. "Those two pieces of furniture were very elaborate; the use of special silks and the shades of different colors made them unique."

Combining home and miniature life has been relatively easy for her. "Being an artist, I always have worked in my studio at home, giving me more flexibility, allowing me to be there whenever I feel the inspiration. My workplace is a cozy space that I've created in the attic where I have lots of natural sunlight all day. Natural light is always the best when





1



2

1 A chair that is pretty in pink with a floral and bird design sits next to an elegant side table.

2 A hand-painted cupboard, perfect for displaying toys.

3 This pink cupboard is hand-painted in a fairy theme. 4 A chaise lounge and matching side table is a peaceful place to sit and read.



3



4



**This fabulous pink bedroom set would be a dream for so many little miniature girls!**

one is trying to get the perfect color combinations and craft the smallest details, and so I tend to work in the early morning to take advantage of it. My studio is my special safe place; when I go there it's like entering another world. It's a space for inspiration, and whenever I'm there, my creativity runs wild. The key to unleashing that is having all the materials needed in one space. Once one has the tools, one's creativity can run free! I've always found inspiration in the 18th century and Louis XVI's France, and in Jane Austen's novels. However, now I'm finding inspiration in nature. Looking out my window and seeing the blooming flowers and the birds flocking in the spring really inspires me!"

Miniatures have become Aurea's passion. "What I really love about making miniatures is the magic of creating pieces that will light up someone's dream house. I put a lot of love and care into every detail when working

**“My studio is my special safe place; when I go there it's like entering another world.”**

on my pieces because I would like them to transmit that love. My thin paint brushes are the number one tool with which I work on the fine details of my miniatures., and

if you look closely at my pieces you will understand why I cherish them. The biggest challenge involved in working in miniature is working at such a small scale. One must take great care of detail and be very precise and meticulous. Working on small surfaces such as the outside of a drawer of a night stand or the armrest of a chair can be very challenging. However, it's very gratifying to see the end results.

The future of miniatures seems bright to her. "There always will be miniaturists and miniature collectors. Miniatures bring back memories of a past time, often shared with loved ones, and they awaken the innocence within people. They also are the reflection of a dream, and we all



A intricately hand-painted wardrobe shown closed and open.

need dreams in life.

I also have had support from a lot of people who have said great things about my work, and that's what really makes it worth it for me. I am very grateful that I can be part of the dream houses of many of my clients. "

Looking forward to new creations, Aurea is working on more collections inspired by nature, and also on children's scenes. "I really enjoy creating children's scenes as they remind me of the innocence of childhood and the happiness they reflect."



#### artist details

##### **Aurearte Miniatures**

Aurearte shop, Av. de Rius i Taulet  
120, 08173 Sant Cugat del Vallès, Barcelona

**Email:** aureart23@gmail.com

**Etsy:** <https://www.etsy.com/es/shop/aurearte>

**Instagram:** @aurearteminiature

**Facebook:** Aurearte-Miniatures

**Web:** [www.aurearte.com](http://www.aurearte.com)



# Bring Me Some Mini Figgy Pudding

Bake a beautiful looking British pudding that will impress your mini guests using polymer clay along with seeds and beads and one special ingredient.

BY MAGS CASSIDY

**F**irst of all, wash your hands – you will be surprised at how much dirt transfers onto the clay from seemingly clean hands. Your clay should be soft and pliable, not crumbly and with no air bubbles in it. If you overwork the clay, don't worry, just place it on some silver foil in the refrigerator for a while and allow to cool. Another alternative is to use a little talcum powder on your hands.

## Making your pudding

**Step 1:** Take the white and transparent clay and work them together until the color is even, rolling and folding until the mix is soft and pliable. Roll it into a small ball and put it to one side.

**Step 2:** Take the chocolate brown clay and work it until ready for use. Roll it into a ball and put it to one side.

**Step 3:** Mix together the poppy and sesame seeds and put them by in a container. I find the tops of aerosol cans useful for this task.

**Step 4:** Roll out the brown clay and sprinkle some of the seed mix onto the clay. Fold over and roll again. Fold and roll several times.

**Step 5:** Repeat, this time with some seed mix and the ballentine (small, no-hole glass beads). At this point I add my secret ingredient – ssshhh, don't tell anyone – budgerigar sand. This gives the pudding a really gritty texture. Roll the Fimo mix back into a ball and put it to one side.

**Step 6:** Wash your hands again and take the white/transparent ball mix and roll out. Cut it into a circle. It doesn't need to be precise as you want your brandy butter to appear to run down the pudding.

**Step 7:** Gently shape the circle by pulling small pieces out, then place it on top of the pudding, pressing down from the top to remove any air bubbles. Place your pudding to one side and work a little red and green



clay separately. Roll out the green piece and make a ball with the red.

**Step 8:** Cut out two little holly leaf shapes from the green clay and roll a little of the red into tiny balls for the berries.

**Step 9:** Place the decoration on the top and now you are ready to bake your pudding in the oven according to the instructions on the packet.

**Step 10:** When the pudding is cold, brush the sauce with Fimo varnish for a glossy, welcoming finish.

## You will need

- Fimo Soft in: Chocolate (1/4 block), White (1/8 block), Transparent (1/16 block), Indian Red (tiny piece)
- Fimo Classic in: Leaf Green (tiny pieces)
- Sesame seeds . tsp
- Poppy seeds . tsp
- Red and green ballentine (no hole beads)
- Craft knife
- Sugarcraft rolling pin
- Ceramic tile
- Foil lined baking tray



# The Magic Is In The Fine Details

Sandra Harding finds inspiration in a set of National Trust figures and adds more details to them in a simple and creative way. Follow along and make your won.

BY SANDRA HARDING

**T**his was an idea I had after buying a beautifully colored painted figure. I just wondered what it would look like in bronze and started experimenting.

**Step 1:** Paint your miniature bird or animal in bronze paint and let it dry. Add another coat if needed and let it dry

**Step 2:** Paint the bits of leaves, twigs, moss in bronze paint and let them dry.

## You will need

- Twelfth scale or tiny plastic or metal birds, flowers, animals or figures with a flat base (I used sets of figures from National Trust shops)
- Bits of plastic greenery/ twigs/ dried moss or similar
- Bronze paint (I used Tamila color acrylic paint bronze X-33)
- Paint brush
- Glue
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Fimo if needed
- Flat round/oval marble effect 'slabs' (Hobby Craft or similar, or make from Fimo)



**Step 3:** Add large dab of glue to where you want bird or animal to be and glue it onto wooden slab. Let it dry.

**Step 4:** Add glue around the base of the bird or animal, and add the tiny bronze leaves and bits of moss to the display. Put taller twig behind bird or animal to create a pleasing shape. Glue on and let it all dry.



**Step 5:** Drip bronze paint down from the top of the twig and over the leaves, moss or twigs onto the base. This will add strength to the display and make the whole feature one color bronze. Finally paint any of the slab left showing, and let it all dry.

Adding the greens and twigs and painting them makes the tiny stature look as if it has finer details than it does and adds to the illusion of a finely sculpted bronze figurine in your dollhouse. Or even in the outside grounds of your dollhouse!



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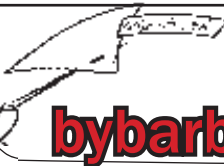
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# Make Something Special From a Thimble Holder

Sandra Harding makes her own owl to add into a dome. This is a quick and easy project. You can also use something non-animal as the center piece.



BY SANDRA HARDING

**T**he Polymer clay owls were made using a picture of an owl for guidance. After drying, I painted them with acrylic paint. Now let's put it in a dome!

**Step 1:** Glue the owl in the center top of the base, or to one side if you are adding a twig. While the owl is drying, arrange the twig alongside



it, to ensure that you don't go over the edge of the base and checking that the twig fits well underneath the dome.

**Step 2:** Glue the twig on, and let the owl and the twig dry.



**Step 3:** Check that the dome fits over it. Don't leave the dome on at this stage. Start gluing on little bits and pieces of your bark, fungus etc around the base of the owl, making sure that you stay within the edge of the base.

**Step 4:** Keep checking the fit as you go. If you want to add a little height, then do so early on, maybe placing taller grass behind the owls back, and then adding grass, moss etc to hide edges. I added the little red berries to add a touch of color and more interest. Let it dry. It may be better to pause to let some dry before adding more.



**Step 5:** Vary the pieces to add interest and to make it look as natural as a wild wood scene. If you want to add highlights, or a brighter color, then add little dabs of glue with a cocktail stick in the areas that need it, and press a little green Flowersoft

## You will need

- Glass dome thimble holder
- China or Fimo owl, about 1" high, with flat base.
- Glue (I used Humbrol Poly Cement, which worked well)
- Tweezers
- Toothpicks
- Twigs, tree fungus, plastic or dried leaves, bark, moss, red berries or beads, or similar, Flowersoft if needed. (My red berries were from a bag of Christmas potpourri)

into the glue. I added some to the top of the twigs, although I prefer to keep the colors more natural. The choice is yours.



**Step 6:** Do not place the dome on until the creation is completely dry, as the glass will spoil.



Here is a view from the back.



## Gina's Instagram Favorites

Hello! I'm Gina Theesfield, a proud part of the Social Media team for *Dollhouse Miniatures* magazine. Like all of you, I am a miniature lover, so I'm thrilled to be highlighting some of the spectacular Instagram pages that catch my eye. You will be sure to be inspired by their miniature art.



### [Geniesminihouseshop](#)

A wonderful eye for crisp and clean farmhouse decor.



### [Juliecampbelldollartist](#)

Stunning artist made miniature dolls with incredible detail.



### [Miniature\\_food\\_artist](#)

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Visit Gina on Instagram at [calico\\_garden](#)

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## Castings • Tools • Tutorials

In following in Rik's footsteps at Frogmorton Studios, Erik has focused on remastering Rik's resin casting molds to make sure that each piece is a high quality reproduction for you to be proud to use in creating your own dollhouse! Each piece is made with care and detail, and Marcia is one tough QC person to assure that all pieces meet the standards you are accustomed to and that we value! Our customer's satisfaction is our top priority and very important to us. We deeply value your friendship and continued support.

The response to Erik offering "On-line Virtual Classes" for roomboxes and/or

dollhouses in Rik's creative style has been very positive and heart warming to all of us. He is in the processing of working on this aspect "To Make It Happen!" Erik is very experienced in working with photography and lighting and working with people, as in his previous business experience, he and his wife, Robin, created "Paparazzi Tonight" and teamed up to work with large groups as the event photographers, so he is very much looking forward to working with you on this new adventure!

Feel free to let him know your ideas for future On-Line Virtual Classes by writing him at [erik@frogmorton.com](mailto:erik@frogmorton.com)



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