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IN COUNTRY STYLE



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Contents

4

Celebrating country style

Mercedes Spencer's love for country comes through as she decorates her country style doll's house for Christmas

8

Toys galore

Filled to the brim with gifts, Nancy Petley's mini toy store is a treat for all to behold

12

Tiny toys fill Baby Boutique

Gabriele Layne's Bambino Baby Boutique is the place to go to find everything you will need for your baby

16

Let's get all dressed up

These little dress forms will add personality and style to your miniature room. Express your inner diva and make your own!

20

A wizard with the gift of giving

Join us for Christmas morning at Dragonwyck Castle. Decorations are hung and presents are ready to be opened!

26

London exhibition

Lauren Child's famous book illustrations have been inspired by her love of miniatures

30

Miniatura show report

Amazing kitchen appliances from Japanese makers provide just one of many highlights at one of world's leading shows

28

Quilling paper into pottery

Try your hand at making miniature pottery in a very different way. Kris Compas takes a thrilling quilling tutorial

40

Weather does not dampen spirits

The Carisbrooke Dolls House Group stage impressive exhibition, with an emphasis on the children

42

A miniature masterclass

Stunning museum in the French town of Lyon houses a wonderful collection of miniatures, and it is constantly being updated



editor's welcome



48 **A winter stroll in miniature**

How Carol Kira and her club members made a Christmas fantasy vignette inside a giant imitation Christmas ball ornament

50 **Doll's house donated for raffle**

How one talented couple built and furnished this wonderful doll's house to raise funds for a worthwhile charity

56 **From out of the skip**

Lis rekindles love of Lundby after father rescues her abandoned childhood house

60 **Visit Santa's little Toy Shop**

Meet the real-life elf who brings the holidays to life in the KSB Miniatures Collection

64 **Generous spirit at busy fair**

Sandra meets friends old and new at the popular Lyndhurst fair in Hampshire and spots a kind gesture

66 **The greatest mini gift of all**

When Patty Ross couldn't afford to buy gifts or give to charity, she used her set of miniatures to bring joy to those in need

70 **Cooking history**

A unique collection of cookbooks reveals a fascinating glimpse into the culinary history of the last five centuries

72 **An armoire for your boudoir**

Follow along with Julie and create a custom made mini wardrobe with drawers to hold your little family's clothes

77 **Cut outs**

79 **Mini fun pages**

82 **Fair dates**



House Hunt

FIND THE little house hidden
somewhere in this issue. Last issue page 25

WE BROUGHT you holiday projects in good time last issue, so this month it's all about sitting back and admiring other people's Christmas houses and ideas.

It's also about bringing a smile to your face with stories that sparkle with seasonal good cheer. You might call it our answer to the John Lewis advert, with the tagline 'miniatures bring out the best in people'.

Be amazed, and not a little bit envious, over the two miniaturists on different sides of the world who have invented their own special advent calendar - they each make 25 mini gifts for the other one to open during the month.

I also love the story about the father who rescued his daughter's house from the skip, secretly renovated it, and gave it to her as a Christmas present. Then there's the stand-holder who gave a free little pram to a young collector.

And how about the miniaturist who tours hospitals and retirement homes with her doll's house? She told us: "I love my hobby and find that it soothes my mind and soul to relax and create a tiny world filled with love and joy. It makes me smile from the inside."

There can be no better tribute to our wonderful hobby as we head into Christmas and the New Year. So from all of us at DHW, may your tiny world (and your big one too) be filled with love and joy.



Richard

Richard Jennings - Editor. richard@ashdown.co.uk



Celebrating country style

Mercedes Spencer's love for country comes through as she decorates her country style doll's house for Christmas

By Mercedes Spencer

I love decorating for Christmas in my real house so I guess it is only natural that I gave the same attention to Christmas to my doll's house—any excuse to decorate! And as the country house was finished, decorating for Christmas was a good excuse to get back and play with it. I've always loved country style décor especially at Christmas.

I went on a search for the perfect tree and was totally shocked at the price of realistic looking doll's house Christmas

trees. There aren't many places here in New Zealand to look for miniatures, but I found a model shop that had trees for miniature railways and there was a tree just the size and look I was after. The pot that I put the tree in came from an op shop.

I imagined a country Christmas tree would be trimmed with dried fruit and handmade-looking decorations. A friend who makes mini food sent me the orange and lemon slices and I stuck them to a string of vintage looking tiny glass



BELOW LEFT: Books on many topics give insight to who the residents are.

BELOW: Small touches like the pink roses and mini Santa sitting on top of a craft book make this little house feel like home.





ABOVE: Lemon and lime slices, and musical stars adorn this sweet little tree. A small rusty star with a country feel makes the perfect tree topper.

LEFT AND BELOW: Presents and decorations lay strewn across the floor as the house is prepared for the holidays.

beads to wind around the tree. Nothing says "country style" more than an old birdhouse in my book, so I made a tiny church-shaped birdhouse to adorn the tree then painted a rusty star for the top.





ABOVE AND LEFT: The details that Mercedes has added makes all the difference. Note the small nicks on the table, the rustic fireplace with delicate patterned tiles, the trim on the arm chair, and the distressed finishes on the furniture.

Vintage sheet music stars completed the simple tree décor.

I always look for real-size Christmas decorations that can be used in the doll's house. Sometimes you can find tiny decorations that are easily adaptable. The angel by the front door was a small real decoration, as was the little tree shape by the "joy" sign inside. I just painted the tree shape to look rusty. There can never be too much rust in a country house!

I was lucky enough to do an advent calendar swap with Susanna Tunturi-Anttila who lives in Finland. We made each other twenty-five mini gifts, one package to be opened each day in



ABOVE AND RIGHT: This sunny porch has a happy and festive spirit!

December until Christmas. Susanna made all the little boxed and bagged decorations under the tree and the fabulous wreath on the table.

Years ago I used to make and sell real size country Christmas decorations at craft fairs. While my own décor is no longer country style, I still love the look. Decorating the doll's house in that style means I can still have a little bit of country in my life! [DHW](#)



Toys galore

Filled to the brim with gifts, Nancy Petley's mini toy store is a treat for all to behold

By Nancy Petley



There's no way you'll fit all that in there," my mum (contributor Pamela J) said of my mini toy collection while nodding toward the small room box I had just finished building.

"Wanna bet?"

It all started with a vial of glass marbles I found on Ebay. I was furnishing my first doll's house, a Pierce (yes, I went big right off the bat...no small project for me to ease into the hobby). I had been collecting furnishings room by room and was working on two different

children's bedrooms. I wanted the kids' rooms to look like ours growing up—littered with toys. I found cars, trucks, dolls, and Play-Doh. I discovered that many buttons and beads, along with earrings and charms, made great miniature toys. Z-scale (1:220; the smallest model railroad scale) animals and people were a great fit also. I was searching one day for miniature teddy bears and came across the marbles. The vial contained about 300, all hand-blown glass, each one different. I put some in mini jars, and others I fastened a teeny mesh drawstring pouch for.

I don't know why I was so fascinated with those marbles. I barely made a dent in the vial and thought to myself that it would be fun to build a toy store someday and include a display with packages of those marbles.

Building a miniature toy store remained at the back of my mind for a while.

Addicted to toys

I have been hooked on miniatures for about five or six years now. Every show I have gone to, I have specific items I shop for, depending on my project at the time.



ABOVE: A young girl waits outside the store for her friends.

LEFT: The crowded store.



I always got sidetracked, though, by the teeny doll's dolls or packages of balls and jacks. I come home with more miniature toys sometimes than I do my other mini treasures.

The first time I made it to a doll's house show I found some tiny wooden houses from a Swedish maker. I purchased them for my daughter. She, like so many little girls, loves horses. She has a vast collection of them in her room,

so I thought it would be fun to give her some for her doll's house. But somehow between there and home I had changed my mind and they became my own.

I took it a little easy on my purse during that show and can say that I was pleased with myself for doing so (especially if you knew what my mum spent). On the trip home we stopped at a doll's house shop. It was there that I lost my grip on all my self-control. If you saw the

ABOVE: Nancy created each individual package hanging on the pegboard on the wall.

BELOW: The little girl sitting outside reminds Nancy of her daughter.





great selection of unique and one-of-a-kind miniatures, you would understand why. I take back what I said about my mum's "splurging". I think I matched that. After I had returned home and placed all my minis in various doll's houses, I realised I had so many more mini toys than I had space for in the youth rooms of my houses. That is when I designated a cache for the extra toys. At first it only contained the marbles and the horses my daughter never knew she almost had. I added to it the wonderful little "magic pad" (I wonder if you can find it in the pictures of the toy store), tinker toys, and a vast array of other items I found at the shop.

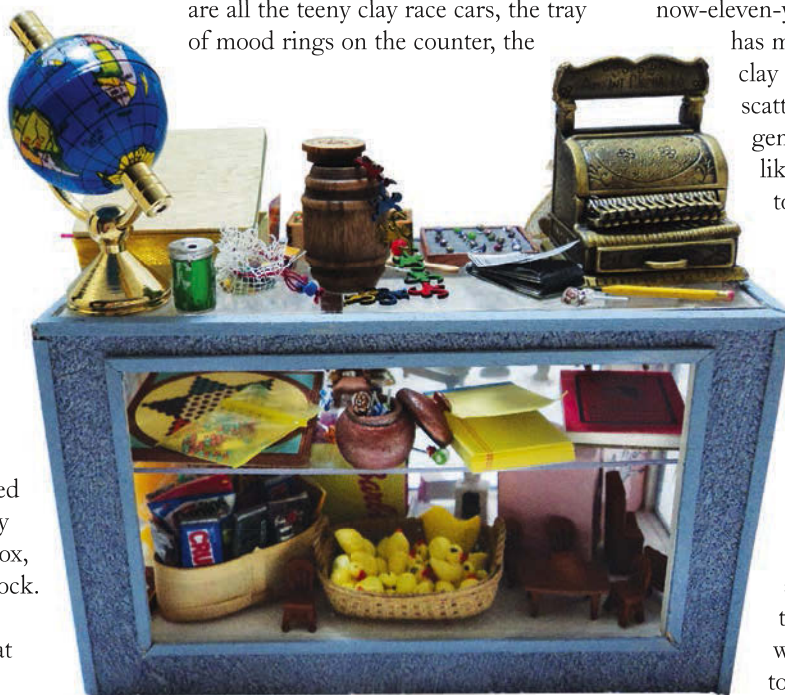
For several Christmases and birthdays in a row, my mom and sister gave me Angel Children dolls by Ethel Hicks. I enjoyed making little "doll boxes" to pack them in, knowing one day they would be in a store display.

One day, I finally decided I had enough to begin a toy shop, so I built the room box, complete with shelves to stock. I decided to leave the roof open so one could peer in at everything from the top.

When I finally pulled out the box I had been stuffing my mini toy collection into for the past few years, I realised that I had underestimated just how expansive the assortment had gotten. I do love a stuffed room box, though!

Handmade items

As I was stocking shelves, I would think of different items that I just had to have in the store. I would drop everything and began creating that particular item. Among these handcrafted items are all the teeny clay race cars, the tray of mood rings on the counter, the



ABOVE LEFT: The tiny trinkets on the desk.

ABOVE: A young patron of the store parks his or her bike on the street.

BELOW LEFT: The desk below the cash register holds even more toys.

paper chain, a few dolls here and there, little pom-pom teddy bears (which are surprisingly easy to make) and the pegboard full of toys in packages hanging on the wall. I spent a whole Saturday afternoon on that pegboard display. My now-eleven-year-old daughter, Pamela,

has made many of the really tiny clay dolls and figurines that are scattered around. She's a little genius with polymer clay (just like her grandma). She loved to surprise me by leaving her little creations in my desk for me to find while she was at school. That cute little doll on the front step was made by Karen Ferrier. I bought her because she looks just like my daughter.

My mum was wrong. In the end, I somehow figured out a way to fit every single toy in the shop. Now that it's complete, maybe I will stop hoarding every tiny toy I see...but that's not likely. **DHW**

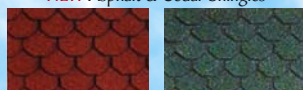
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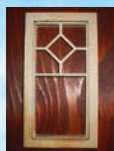
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Tiny toys fill Baby Boutique

Gabriele Layne's Bambino Baby Boutique is the place to go to find everything you will need for your twelfth scale baby

By Gabriele Layne



Being born in Germany and growing up there, I was exposed to the traditional environment of many different handicrafts. In the late 80s I started collecting miniatures because everything small fascinated me, especially doll's house

furnishings and accessories.

For years I would read the miniature magazines that were available overseas. I enjoyed attending shows in Germany and I also visited the Birmingham Miniatura show.

When I see my items that were purchased there so many years ago they remind me of all the talented artisans and how excited I was to see every single display.

Since 1992 my love for making tiny objects has grown. For some reason, making shops and stores are the most intriguing for me. I guess it is because so many things can be placed inside them.

With a bachelor's degree in cartography (mapmaking) I enjoy the detail of everything

being reduced in size.

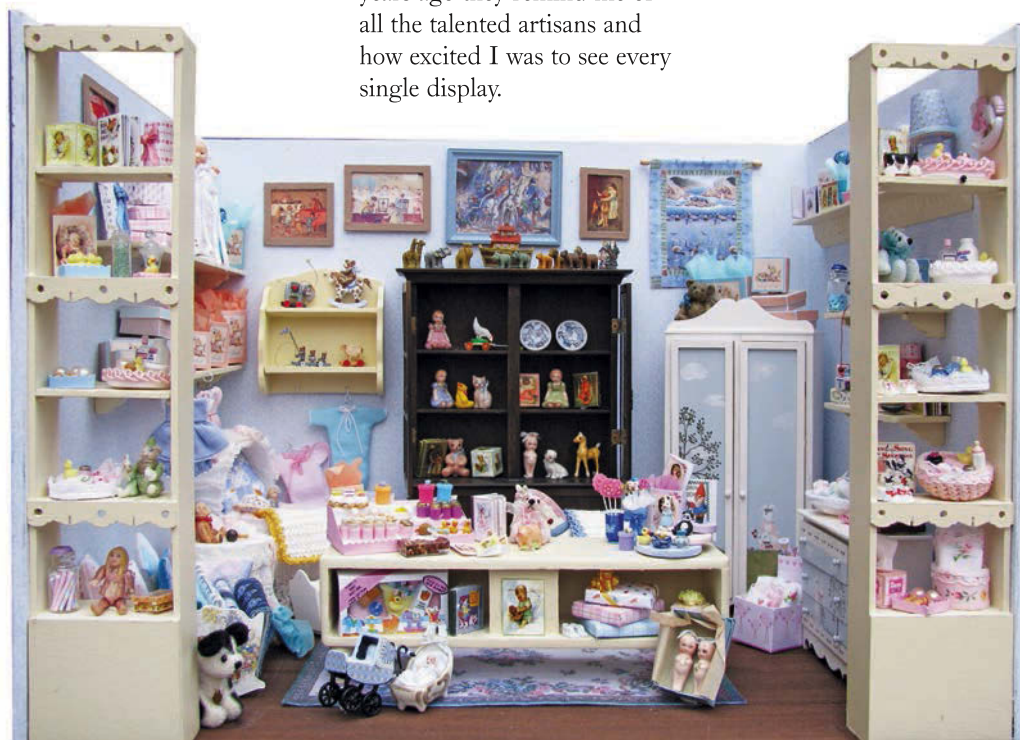
I resided in Frankfurt am Main, Germany until 1997 and now my husband and I live in Texas. Who would have thought that all of those miniatures would travel all the way to the USA packed in with our household goods and not get damaged or lost!

For nearly two years, my collection of miniatures and room boxes were tucked away in moving boxes before they were finally unpacked.

Meeting other miniature collectors and artisans here, I have discovered that the love for miniatures is contagious. I was so happy to find such enthusiasm for this hobby that is enjoyed by so many?

The following years were spent working in a corporate environment on a computer all day, which left very little time for my hobby.

By 2010 I was fortunate enough to be able to retire



LEFT: Gabriele's passion for miniatures absolutely shows in this wonderfully crafted baby boutique.



and finally enjoy my passion for creating miniatures more often.

Having joined the miniature club of San Antonio "Inching Along", I attend their monthly meetings and activities. I joined NAME and the Society of American Miniaturists (SAM) here in Texas. This has opened up a whole new world for making and collecting miniatures as well as travelling to shows where I can meet other enthusiasts.

Recently I travelled to Germany to visit my family and friends this resulted with me participating in a show called "Schoene kleine Welt", which I had last attended in 1996.

While there, I met many fellow artisans from the past and was able to see miniatures made by many other talented artisans. I have many plans for upcoming projects and I look forward to every free moment, which I can devote to this pastime.

Welcome to the Bambino Baby Boutique. It is a place to shop for baby gifts with a special touch. The soft butter cream colour of the furnishings and the light blue colour of the wallpaper harmonise

with the pastel coloured baby items. The dark brown cabinet is from an estate sale and the beautiful hand-painted cabinet and dresser were found tucked away in a cabinet at an antique store.

Some of the items for welcoming a newborn into the world were created, others were purchased. From large items such as a bassinet, cradle, a round table with accessories, blankets, quilts, and pillows to smaller items such as tiny shoes, and baby clothing, a little bit of everything is available, even baby care products.

There are jars of cream, baby bottles, plates, and baskets of baby toiletries, as well



as rubber ducks, and soaps for bath time. Not to be forgotten, of course, are also toys such as bears, dolls, a doll carriage and cradle, alphabet blocks, rattles, and a piggy bank.

A Noah's ark set complete with all the animals as well as pull toys made of metal or

ABOVE LEFT: The little bunnies that were hand-painted on this tiny dresser add a touch of whimsy.

ABOVE: Everything a new mother would need can be found at the Bambino Baby Boutique!

BELOW LEFT AND BELOW: The counter on the boutique is filled with miniature goodies like powder, rattles, cards, plush, figurines, lollipops, a pink plush bear, and a piggy bank!



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ABOVE: Such a great collection of miniature figurines; dollies, kitty cats, horses, and to top it all off a remarkably tiny Noah's ark set.

ABOVE RIGHT: A pull-along moo-cow toy made from a miniature train display is such a creative addition to all of the fun items in this baby shop.

BELOW RIGHT: A bath set with everything needed for babies first bath! Neatly wrapped gift boxes in a dinosaur pattern with a pretty yellow bow!

wood are for sale here. The beautifully hand-painted pull toys were made by Karen Markland.

Some of the fancy boxes were found in magazines or were printouts. Gift-wrap paper and cards made it easy to complete a present for a baby shower. The gift shop is well stocked and inviting for all customers including grandparents or mothers-to-be to come in and browse.

To make the counter, I used an odd piece of furniture that previously had doors and then I added wood-turnings for the legs, which raised it up. The three-tier display on the top of the counter, to

the right, is made from three round wooden discs that were painted in different colours. This is where I put the small gnome.

The jars are beads and some are covers from erasers that I took off of mechanical pencils. They were so colourful and had a little edge on the top making them look like the perfect jar.

A small flower from nail art, a tiny bow, gold metal findings, and some teddy bear polymer cane slices complete the tops of these crème containers. The little baby rattles were made using a wax bead and a small piece of a wood-turning.

Different wood shapes were wrapped with gift-wrap and placed under the counter along with purchased metal baby shoes and a display gift box. In the brown cabinet I



took two porcelain plates and glued on a punched-out print and then brushed on a glaze.

Nada Christensen made the porcelain painted dolls wearing colourful dresses, the teddy bear, the jointed doll, the bunny in a jester's suit, the doll in the cradle, and the kewpie dolls. She is a wonderful artisan that I have known for several years.

The quilts, pillows, and the wall décor, which I draped over a toothpick with two wood beads on the ends, are all computer printouts on fabric with the edges tucked under then the backings were sewn or glued on. The pillows are stuffed with cotton balls.

A German artist friend of mine, Wolfgang Michel, made several of the books and they open and are readable. These are mini copies of original vintage English and

German full size books.

The black and white cow is from a train display that I placed on a strip of wood and then added polymer clay wheels to it and a piece of string with a bead.

The baby baskets are embroidery cloth soaked in liquid starch, which was then draped over lotion lids to give them their shape. When they were dry I cut off the edges and glued on fancy lace trim, then filled them with baby items.

The large boxes by the dresser are made from scrap-book paper that I cut, scored, and folded. Then they were filled with rolls of gift-wrap, baby blankets, and gift boxes.

Framed playful prints are on the wall and a small black and white dog is peeking around the corner of the front shelf. **DHW**



let's get all DRESSED UP

These little dress forms will add personality and style to your fashion forward miniature room. Express your inner diva and make your own!

By Marianne Colijn



Don't you just love the beautiful altered dress forms that are so popular these days? I have wanted to purchase one for months, but I simply have no room. Then last week when I was going through my stash of minis I found a set of plastic dress forms and I had an "aha" moment. Why not make my own mini versions instead!

I started making them right away and had so much fun playing that I had to share the project with DHW readers.

My dress forms are a Chrysnbon kit, but you can use any dress form that you prefer. I found that my dress forms came in two halves, so I used those as moulds to make some extra forms to play with before I started on the original ones.

I just sprinkled some talcum powder into each half, filled them with air-drying clay and left them to dry for 24 hours. I then removed the clay shapes and glued the back and front together with Tacky Glue. I had to sand the seams a little bit, but I was pretty pleased with the results.

You can decorate your dress forms with many different things. I used a variety of things like vintage lace, tissue paper, and perfume label cut-outs. Then I applied Mod Podge over the paper based ones.

Step 1: If your dress form needs to be painted then do this first.

Step 2: While the paint is drying, start

cutting out your pictures and put them in a small container so they will stay in one place.

Step 3: Apply Mod Podge to the dress form. I started at the bottom and worked my way up to the top. Cover the Mod Podge with the small cut-outs.

Step 4: Do not worry if your cut-outs have to overlap a little to follow the shape of your dress form. I had to cut a few into triangle

YOU'LL need

- Dress form
- White paint and paint brush
- Mod Podge in gloss or matte
- Tiny pictures
- Scissors
- Fine sandpaper
- Narrow lace, silk roses and leaves - optional



shapes for a nice fit around the bust area.

Step 5: When all of your pictures are in place, paint the entire dress form with a paint brush using Mod Podge. Let dry.

Step 6: Lightly sand your dress form, and then apply another coat of Mod Podge.

Step 7: Keep repeating Step 6 until you are happy with the look of your dress form.

Step 8: I added a some lace ruffle, using narrow lace that I gathered and tied around the neck to make it look pretty, but this is optional. I also added a few tiny silk roses.



I think this will look really nice in a place with a shabby chic décor or in a shop that sells perfumes or even antiques.

Dress form in vintage lace

YOU'LL need

- Dress form painted in a neutral colour
- Your choice of lace
- Fabric stiffener
- Small sharp scissors
- Tacky Glue
- Fabric or paper rose
- Door knob for the neck piece

I found a tiny scrap of vintage lace that had tiny sequins and a raised design on it. I was worried about it fraying, so I painted it with fabric stiffener before I used it. Making the dress is a piece of cake. Just fold it around the dress form until you like the shape; style and then glue it in place.



Step 1: Take your lace and try it on the dress form to check the size. Then decide which part of the lace you will be using to dress your form.

Step 2: Paint your lace with fabric stiffener and when it's dry, cut out the shape you want to use. I also cut out an extra leaf to glue on the bottom right and some tiny leaves to drape over the shoulder.



Step 3: Try your lace shape on the dress form again and when you are happy with it then glue it in place using Tacky Glue. Drape and fold a little bit if needed, but try and let it shape itself around the dress form.



Step 4: Now we will add the details. I put a big leaf on the bottom right of the dress form and then small leaves on the shoulders. Leave it to dry.

Step 5: Check if everything is glued well. You may have to add a little extra glue in some places.

Step 6: Add a paper rose at the hip.

Step 7: Add the small door knob to the neck for the final touch.

Dress stands

For the life of me I could not find the stands that came with the actual dress form kit, so I had to improvise. I discovered that it is rather easy to make a custom stand for a dress form. For the vintage lace dress form I used a banister that I had left over from a staircase and I used it upside down. I also used wood turnings and dowels. For the actual stand you can use wooden beads, or even buttons.



Dress form in black and cream

YOU'LL need

- Dress form with a stand
- Two colours of tissue paper
- Tiny scrap of black net or tulle
- Chenille thread or a chenille stem
- Mod Podge
- Paint brush
- Tacky Glue
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Small beads - optional

Step 1: Cut a piece of floral tissue paper that is big enough to drape round your dress form, from the bust to the bottom.



Step 2: Paint the dress form with Mod Podge and gently drape the tissue paper around the dress form to make the bodice. Try to avoid having too many wrinkles. Leave it to dry.

Step 3: Paint the entire bodice with Mod Podge and leave it to dry.

TIP: It will be much easier to work on this dress form if it is mounted on the stand you are using first.

Step 4: Cut a length of 2" wide strip from your black tissue paper that's long enough to go around the hips of your dress twice. Now fold ½" of the strip over lengthwise to create an overlay.

Step 5: Gather the tissue paper strip with



your fingers and glue it around the dress form's hips using Tacky Glue. Check with the photo above for placement.

Step 6: Cut off the excess paper at the back and overlap the ends of the skirt to create a back seam. Glue the seam closed with Tacky Glue.

Step 7: Paint the skirt with Mod Podge.

Step 8: Using left over tissue paper, cut a long strip about 1" wide and long enough to fit around the waist of the dress form over the skirt. Fold the strip in half twice and drape around the top of the skirt to hide the gathered top of the skirt. Spot glue the strip into place using Tacky Glue.



Step 9: Using scraps of tissue paper, cut strips to make streamers and loops to decorate the back of the dress. I made one black loop and two streamers that I glued

to the skirt first and then topped them with a floral loop and streamer.

Step 10: Paint the streamers, bows, and the drape around the top of the skirt with Mod Podge to stiffen.

Step 11: Cover the shoulders of your dress form with black net. This is optional, but I felt it added a nice detail to the dress form. Just cut two small pieces and glue them in place.

Step 12: Cut a small piece of chenille and glue it around the neck of your dress form. Cut two smaller pieces and glue them to the tops of the shoulder.

Step 13: I added a few gold beads for a finishing touch.

And there is your finished dress! All ready to take pride of place in your doll's house or miniature scene! **DHW**



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A wizard with the gift of giving

Come and join us for Christmas morning at Dragonwyck Castle. The decorations are hung and the presents are ready to be opened!

By Deb Weissler

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIA MARTIN

Christmas morning dawns clear and cold in the remote French countryside, the castle already filled with sounds of merriment. The cook is outdoing herself, hard at work preparing the Christmas feast inspired by her gift last year of a personally autographed copy of Escoffier's "Le Guide Culinaire" published in 1903. Soon the halls will ring with welcome as Dragonwyck's owner, a powerful 14th century wizard, throws his doors open to friends and visitors alike.

Amiable and beneficent, our wizard is well known for his hospitality. Witches, wizards, and non-magical folk travel for miles anticipating the gastronomic delights prepared by the country's only female chef, to raise a cup or two of libation, consult the books in the wizard's extensive library, and sit by the fire listening to his travelogues, including the latest exploits of Hercule Poirot, a strange and wonderful Belgian they one day hope to meet.

For you see, our wiz-



ard is a time traveller with a penchant for astronomy, fine cuisine, 20th century mystery writers, and espresso. So much so that he frequently travels forward in time to pick up books written by his favourite authors, including a first edition of "A Christmas Carol" signed by Dickens himself. Dragonwyck is positively delightful year round, but especially so at Christmas.

Because he is a time traveller, our wizard delights in incorporating all the wonderful traditions that have sprung up around Christmas over the centuries—Christmas trees, greenery, wreaths and garlands, wrapped presents, extravagant pastries, and—something new this year—ice cream!

The wizard's guests are a convivial lot and have treasured Christmas morning each

LEFT: The wizard's castle is fully decorated for the holiday season.



ABOVE AND RIGHT: The tree is titled, "Dragon Fire" because of the golden dragon tree topper. The wizard's niece has opened her present with excitement.

year since the wizard began celebrating it here at Dragonwyck more than a century ago. The spirit of Christmas is so exuberant that even Santa Claus pauses for a much-needed rest on 12th Night as he recovers from his journey around the globe. But before we step inside, let's travel forward in time to learn how Dragonwyck came to be.

Long time miniaturist Barbara Meade dreamed of owning a magnificent castle the first time she spotted Rik Pierce's "East of the Moon" on display.

"I was absolutely transfixed," Barbara recalls.

"I stood in front of it for a long time, along with everyone else. I had never seen such a combination of enchanted fantasy and perfect craftsmanship. Then and there I made up my mind that if someday I could afford a miniature



house, Rik Pierce would build it."

When the time came, and with no preconceived notion as to how the castle should look, Barbara left the design in

Rik's capable hands. Knowing his client's penchant for 14th century French castles, Rik kept that in mind as he fashioned soaring towers, crenellations, gothic



Mike Barbour, Michael Mortimer, Keith Bougourd, Jackie Dunn, Kiva Atkinson, Linda Cummings, Penny Thomson, Kerri Pajutee, Barbara Moore, Tony Knott, Gil Mena, Pat Benedict, and more.

Dragonwyck is furnished year round with Barbara's exquisite treasures, but at Halloween and Christmas she goes all out, decorating the castle with the sights and scents of her two favourite holidays. So let's step inside and enjoy Christmas morning at Dragonwyck!

As we cross the drawbridge, notice the wreaths mounted on the battlements, the garland under the library window (Itzy Bitzy), and topiaries framing the window on the tallest tower. Most noticeable is Santa Claus (Maria's Kid), waving good-bye from the rooftop. One of the wizard's oldest friends, Santa makes Dragonwyck his last stop before heading home.

Two guests, a mountain elf (Kathi Kuti) and a lowland troll (Todd

ABOVE: The wizard is in his favourite room in the castle, his observatory. He has just said good-bye to Santa and is now back to making last-minute astronomical notes before joining his guests.

TOP RIGHT: This tapestry took over a year to design and was hand-stitched by Barbara. The tapestry is titled "Santa, the Dragon-Sleigher".

RIGHT: Two little pugs have decided to unwrap some presents early.



arches, commodious fireplaces, massive ceiling beams, stained glass windows, a conservatory, and waterside dock, complete with submarine.

Rik worked on Dragonwyck off and on for two years to complete its nine rooms. Built in three sections, it measures four feet long, two and a half feet wide, and stands six feet tall. As Rik worked, Barbara collected furnishings for the castle, amassing an impressive collection from such well known artists as





ABOVE AND RIGHT: A collection of nut crackers are displayed across the beautifully ornate trunk. Both the trunk and bed were custom made for Dragonwyck.

Krueger), dressed in their Christmas finery and bearing gifts, arrive at a front door bedecked with garlands by Jo Bevilacqua and greeted by Marlowe, the wizard's beloved Siberian husky.

Upstairs in the Gathering Room, site of the Christmas feast, a hobbit (Liam Ferrier) is enjoying the delicious array of fruits and sweets the cook has set out to tide hungry revellers over until dinner. The front of the room has been taken over by two boisterous pugs, a mum and her pup (Kerri Pajutee) that have dragged a wrapped gift out from under the tree, and are busy demolishing the ribbon.

The tapestry in the Great Hall, which took just over a year to design and make, was hand-stitched by Barbara. The tapestry is called "Santa, the Dragon-Sleigher" and depicts Santa in his sleigh, riding on the back of a wonderful dragon. The tapestry commemorates the time, many years before, when Santa's reindeer succumbed to reindeer flu. Fortunately for the world's children, the wizard heard of their plight and called upon one of his oldest friends, the very first dragon at Dragonwyck, to help Santa make his Christmas rounds.

In the Great Hall Letty, the wizard's nine-year-old niece, has just opened her gift from the wizard and is positively





ABOVE: Little Hetty tries to get control over her new broomstick. All of those pillows should break her fall.

BELOW RIGHT: This mermaid combs her hair as she admires her Christmas tree made of sea shells.

delighted—a baby dragon! (Pat Benedict). They sit under a magnificent Christmas tree especially made for Dragonwyck by Jo Bevilacqua she calls “Dragon Fire” complete with a golden dragon tree topper. The wizard’s gift to his sister, Eldora, a pair of Invisibility Shoes (Thicket People), which allows the wearer to be both unseen and unheard, sits under the tree.

The topmost room in the tower is the wizard’s bedroom. The bed and chest were custom-made for the room by Barbara Moore of Pear Tree Miniatures, which Barbara dressed. On the chest sits the wizard’s collection of nutcrackers, which he brought back from 19thc. Germany.

Above the Great Hall is the library, a very busy scene indeed. The wizard’s other niece, Hetty, is trying out her Christmas gift—her first broomstick. It’s not easy, as new broomsticks tend to

buck. Her mother, Eldora, has pushed all the library furniture against the wall and commandeered nearly every pillow in the castle, now strewn around the floor.



Eldora is holding the broomstick steady as Hetty, her pigtailed flying, grips her new broom. A helpful ghost has flown in to assist and, between them, Hetty is





TOP LEFT: Potted poinsettias line the window sills.

TOP RIGHT: An elf and a troll have arrived to celebrate Christmas with the wizard. They are greeted by Marlowe, the wizard's beloved Siberian husky.

ABOVE: Santa sits atop the castle tower.

RIGHT: A hatched egg is all that remains in this once used dragon nest.

soon airborne! (Patty Benedict)

Behind the castle, we find a lovely mermaid (Todd Krueger) who has just opened the wizard's gift—a beautiful silver comb, brush, and mirror set (Pete Acquisto) brought back to her from 18thc. Paris. She has her very own Christmas tree, made entirely of seashells.

Soon a bevy of witches, wizards, elves, trolls, fairies, and local townsfolk and farmers will make their way to Dragonwyck to celebrate this special day in a special way. It seems the wizard possesses a special gift—the gift of giving. His gifts always match the deepest desires of the recipients, a memory they will treasure forever.

So from Dragonwyck—Merry Christmas! Joyeux Noël! Feliz Navidad! Frohe Weihnachten! Buon Natale! **DHW**

House shows creative power of miniatures

London exhibition features illustrator's doll's house and shows how miniatures have helped inspire her designs over the years

By Katie French

A top-selling children's author and illustrator is putting her doll's house on display to show how her passion for miniatures has influenced her work.

Lauren Child's Dolls' House is now open at the House of Illustration in London and runs until February 7, 2016. The exhibition features the doll's house which Lauren has been working on for the past 30 years.

The house is on show alongside origi-

nal sets made for her acclaimed book *The Princess and the Pea*, which is illustrated with three-dimensional miniature scenes.

The exhibition will also include original artwork from the *Charlie and Lola* series and other picture books that have been informed by her lifelong fascination with miniatures.

Child cites this passion for miniature worlds as a continuing influence in her work today. As a child, she learned miniature construction techniques from Pat

Cutforth, the mother of a school friend. DHW readers will know Pat as an expert miniaturist - a long-time DHW contributor, workshop tutor, and fund-raiser for Cancer Research.

"I would spend days with Pat making things," says Child. "She taught me how to use woodworking tools and create furniture from my own designs. She also taught me that fabric makes very good miniature wallpaper."

"I would buy a quarter metre of fabric from Laura Ashley with my pocket money to use for wallpaper. In the 70s and early 80s they had wonderful graphic prints, usually one or two colour designs - these made a perfect backdrop for a room. This influenced my work later."

The exhibition will explore the way that the illustrator's inimitable collage techniques reference her experience of building and furnishing doll's houses.

"As an illustrator you are always observing, seeing what will make people believe in your story, in your picture. Arranging the doll's house taught me what works in a scene - what patterns and colours go together - it taught me how to show a story in pictures and create a design that was balanced, that wasn't too overwhelmed with objects."

"I brought this layering and three-dimensional quality learnt from creating the doll's house unconsciously into my





“It taught me how to show a story in pictures and create a design that was balanced, that wasn’t too overwhelmed with objects.”

work, and it wasn’t until later that I realised how linked they were.

“In dolls-housing you get to do a bit of everything. It’s like you’re creating a world as you design furniture and interiors and set scenes, creating atmosphere and sometimes drama. Illustration is exactly the same. I thought it would be limiting as a job – restricted as I often am to thirty-two pages, 26”x28” – but actually I have come to love the challenge of it. I enjoy designing furniture, buildings, clothes, objects, inventing characters and creating mood and atmosphere to pull readers into this 2-dimensional world.”

The decoration and furnishings in Child’s doll’s house present a variety of styles and sources: some are handmade pieces created by craftsmen, others are mass produced, many of them from the 1970s. The house contains many found objects which have been repurposed for it, such as old photo frames and embroidery; there is a large-scale doll’s tea plate which once belonged to Lauren’s grandmother, and a Buddhist icon brought back from Mongolia.

“That’s the lovely thing about a doll’s

house,” says Child. “It’s a place to display purpose-made things but also things you happen to have and can see another use for.

“The doll’s houses I love best are the ones where the objects are not all in perfect scale. I like to be reminded that I am looking at a scene which isn’t quite real.” **DHW**

● Admission to the exhibition is free. House of Illustration, 2 Granary Square, London N1C 4BH.

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houseofillustration.org.uk.

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Miniatura show full of amazing minis



Amazing kitchen appliances from Japanese makers provide just one of many highlights at one of the world's leading international shows

By Sandra Harding

It's not every day I get to walk on the red carpet, but on a sunny day in October there were many hundreds of us doing just that. Yes my friends, it was the autumn Miniatura two-day doll's house show at the NEC in Birmingham.

It doesn't matter how many shows I go to, whatever the size, I always get that little flutter of excitement as I go through the doors. After greeting organisers Muriel, Andy and Bob Hopwood, and picking up our catalogue, we really did have a planning meeting this time

before treading the red-carpeted hall, as I wanted to be sure I spoke to all the newcomers (hope I did).

Of all the newbies I think that Mr and Mrs Kawai, of TYA Kitchen, left the most lasting impression on me. This charming couple came from Japan especially for the show and the quality of their work is outstanding. Mr Kawai makes the most amazing kitchen appliances and his wife some of the most perfect food items.

Colin Watson, of Dolls House Paintings, had a range of miniatures of

familiar paintings, which were a delight to see while Mullybrook Miniatures had a wide array of food, plants and art clay silverware (I plan a feature on both of them in 2016). I have seen Art Deco Miniatures before, and I love their very different furniture. This time I was quite taken with their 'armchair uniform chairs' which were even decorated around the back.

Returning after a break was Stephen Randall whose silver was really sparkling, and Dolls House Delights who can supply almost anything for your kitchen,



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Paul Briggs.



Susan and Glorious Twelfth.

Polymer Clay by Angela.





including delicious looking cakes. Blue Riband Fabrics and Pat Kay toys and dolls also made a welcome return.

There were of course many, many other exhibitors, but I am unable to mention them all – sorry, but I do want to single out Pat Cutforth and her charity table for Cancer Research. You might recall that this lady and her helpers have raised well over a quarter of a million pounds for this charity, and this time the

grand total for the weekend was £6,200 – yet another record.

Something quite different was being offered by Miniature Scene UK this year – a copy of your favourite photograph reprinted and framed in twelfth scale, which could be either in colour or monochrome. Another ‘something different’ was offered by Paul Briggs – ships in bottles, so I surely had to have one, didn’t I?



All pictures from The Rugby Miniaturists.





Other exhibitors I chatted to included the amazing John Hodgson, the man responsible for the wonderful display at Hever Castle - one of my favourite exhibitions, and well worth a visit. The Glorious Twelfth, as always, made us all dream of owning a Tudor house and there were enough tiny bears, dolls, silver, jewellery, clocks, ceramics, flowers, books, furniture, fabrics, food, needlework, toys and just so much more, enough to fill all of our doll's houses.

As usual, there were very busy workshops throughout the weekend from: The British Poymer Clay Guild, The Miniature Needlework Society, The Rugby Miniaturists, The Craft Pack Company, Waddhams, Amanda Campbell, Dovedale Models and Kit of Queen Elizabeth Dolls Houses. I just didn't have time to attend them all, but I did have a go at painting a bargeware



Jamie ages 6.



plate, although it did not turn out very well! I was told practice makes perfect.

Rugby Miniaturists really did themselves proud with their quite amazing 12 feet long Santa's Workshop. I have only room to show you a picture or two as a taster, but have no fear as next year we will be doing a feature just on their display. It's far too good to let it get away. I did try to get a photograph of all the members present, but it was rather like herding cats. Waddhams club also put on



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their lovely work for us to see, and Doug Somerfield was there with his Tudor farm, raising money for Sense Charity. The farm featured in the last issue of DHW.

There were visitors from all over the country: Sally and Cherry from Devon, Lyn and others from Reading, Julia (who was on a spending spree) and others from Rainham Dolls House Club, Sally from Oxfordshire, Barbara and others from Cardiff, Stella from Weston Super Mare, Lillian from Somerset, and too many more to mention - with one exception. There was a party of twenty from a Danish doll's house club, and I am hoping they contact me so I can feature



Stephen J Randall.



Ottervale China.



Emma Jane Miniatures.

to know what you think. Are you or your club already there, or heading the 48th way?

In my opinion this was a lovely show, and it reminded me of the old days, when there was a long queue waiting for the doors to open. If you missed this show, the next one for your diary is April 2-3, 2016. More info at www.miniatura.co.uk.



them for you. I am told the club has 110 members – wow!

A conversation with Malcolm's Miniatures has left me wondering once again about scales. Malcolm has made an interesting observation in that he is selling more 1/48th scale than any other, and he believes this is the way we are going. Now I have had that said to me before but from doll's house people who have in the main simply ran out of room. I also wonder if Petite Properties has something to do with it? Their range of 1/48th scale houses and furniture continues to grow and attract us. Is this a case of did the chicken or the egg come first? I for one am intrigued and I would love



Karen Fitzhenry.

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quilling paper INTO POTTERY



Try your hand at making miniature pottery in a very different way. Kris Compas will guide you in this thrilling quilling tutorial



By Kris Compas

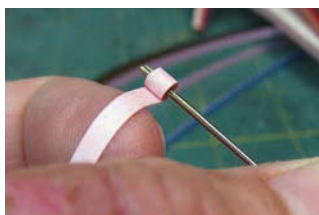
I like to make my paper pottery using quilling paper. For some shapes I combine card stock with it, such as the “moonshine” jug shape. Keep in mind that the colour of the quilling paper doesn’t matter if you are going to cover it with gesso.

I made my tool to spin the paper using a large needle that I fastened into a dowel rod. I snipped off the top of the needle’s eye to finish the tool.



YOU’LL need

- 1/8" wide quilling paper
- Elmer’s Glue
- Homemade tool
- Tacky Glue
- Scissors
- Sandpaper 120-grit
- 1/8" dowel rod
- Craft paint
- Dremel - optional



Step 1: To start, slip the end of the quilling paper into the eye of the needle and start winding. I glued 3 pieces together to make a tight circle of about 3/4" diameter when I was finished winding. Remember the pot is only as big as the tight circle. If you want a large diameter pot you have to wind more paper.

Step 2: Use Tacky Glue to glue the end when you are done winding. Carefully slip the tight circle off the needle tool.



Step 3: For the pot I’m making 2 tight circles. They can both be the same size or the second

one can be just slightly smaller. This will be the top portion of the pot. This is so one can fit into to other when we glue them together.



Step 4: The next step is pushing the centres out. Some people use beads as forms. I just manipulate the circle with my thumbs and fingers. Don’t push too much or it will all come loose.

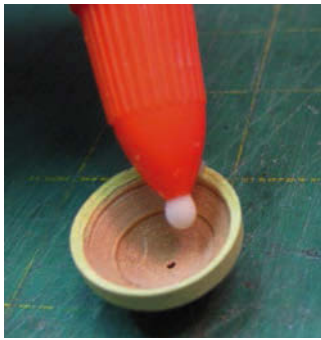
Step 5: The circle can be flattened if you don’t like the shape and you can try again. This takes a little practice. You’ll learn that just a slight nudge can change the character of a shape. Play with the tight circles first so you can get the feel of pushing out the centres.

Step 6: To make the hole in the top, carefully push out the very centre with tweezers. Grab



the paper and pull it out until you have an opening the size that you want then cut off the excess paper.

Step 7: I use Elmer’s Glue to glue the inside of the bowls I have made. Elmer’s dries hard, while Tacky Glue always stays flexible. We don’t want the



pots to be flexible. Smear glue on a couple of times. Let the glue dry, it's important, if you don't you can squish your bowl shapes doing the next step.

TIP: I can't emphasise enough the importance of using Elmer's Glue to make the pots good and hard. I smear the inside and the outside of the bowls with several coats of Elmer's and let them dry overnight.

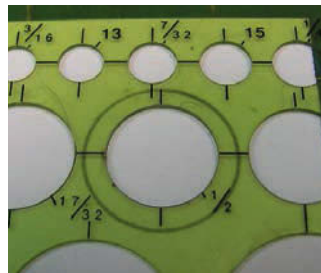
Step 8: Sometimes I want a smooth finish on the surface of the pottery. I sand the paper with 120-grit sandpaper. You don't have to sand all the rings off; the gesso will cover up a little bit. Sometimes you want the rings to show, like the potter left the rings in for surface decoration.

TIP: I have started using my Dremel with the small diameter drum sander on to sand the bowls. It is so much easier and quicker.



Step 9: Glue the two bowls together. They can be glued edge to edge, or if you made one of the tight circles a little smaller, one bowl will fit into the other.

Step 10: I like to drop a little Elmer's glue inside and roll the pot around to distribute the glue properly. You will have to roll the pot around a few times before the glue dries.



Step 11: To make a flared lip, I used card stock and trace a $\frac{3}{4}$ " circle, then trace another $\frac{1}{2}$ " circle inside of that. Cut the circle out and gently bend the paper over a dowel rod or pencil to get it to curve without creasing.



Step 12: Mix dots of Tacky Glue and Elmer's Glue together. Overlap the lip to match the size of the opening in the top of your pot and glue the lip together with the mixed glue.

Step 13: Glue the lip onto the pot using the mixed glue.



Step 14: I trimmed the quilling paper a little narrower. You can buy narrower quilling paper, but I just trimmed it. This narrow size will be for the handles on the pot.



Step 15: Wrap the narrow paper around a $\frac{1}{8}$ " dowel rod. Secure it with the mixed glue, paper to paper to begin with, but don't glue the paper to the dowel. Roll around the dowel twice.

Step 16: Cut the paper and glue the end. Slip the handle off the dowel and make another.

Step 17: I used gesso to fill in and smooth the surface of the pot a little more than just sanding. Apply a couple of coats, let dry, sand, and apply more coats. Sand in between coats until you get the surface you like.



I also stipple using gesso and glue mixed together or paint and glue mixed together. You can use any craft texture



product to add surface texture to your pot.

Remember, this is pottery, not china. It's supposed to look handmade, not perfect.

At this point you can add all sorts of surface decorations. I used flower and leaf paper punches to make an apply decorations.



Wire can also be used as handles. You can use thread for ribs, the top edges or as a foot. Fingernail accessories can be used as well. Imagination is the name of the game here.

Sometimes I will put a coat of glass stain over the acrylic craft paint. Glass stain can be very useful for different pottery glaze effects. I generally top it all off with a very shiny, hard varnish. I like Delta PermEnamel Clear Glaze or DecoArt Triple Thick Gloss Glaze.

Have fun, expand on it and make it better... just keep making minis! [DHW](#)



Weather does not dampen spirits

The Carisbrooke Dolls House Group stage impressive exhibition, with an emphasis on the children

By Sandra Harding

On a very wet and windy day the members of Carisbrooke Dolls House group held their group exhibition at Northwood Primary School on the Isle of Wight to raise funds for a local charity.

The members had put together over seventy exhibits, including houses, shops, room boxes, displays, gardens, a lighthouse and beach scenes. This busy club also found time to put on a grand raf-

fle with the first prize being a doll's house - of course. The winner was Mrs Lynn Wright, who couldn't believe her luck.

To encourage the younger generation in our hobby they had a competition to produce a miniature display in a shoe box, and 19 children from Northwood entered. There were two categories - up to 7 years and 7-11 years.

They also held a series of workshops throughout the day for the children but, it was

noticed, many adults enjoyed getting in on the act and had as much fun as the children, making dressed tables, teddy bears and mini houses, with guidance from Dawn, Val and Kathy.

Disregarding the weather, hundreds of the hardy folks of The Isle of Wight made their way to see the exhibition and there was steady flow of visi-





tors all day. The response the club received was very positive. Many expressed their surprise at the diversity of the exhibition and left feeling quite inspired.

The day was a great success thanks to the members and visitors alike. With the



raffle and the donated doll's house items the day raised the amazing sum of £778 for the Earl Mountbatten Hospice on the island.

All members in this busy group said that the whole experience was really enjoyable, made easier by the teamwork involved, with many partners being pressed into service too. Isn't that what they're there for?

The club is now going to have a break before deciding on their next exhibition, but if it's as good as this one, it will be worth the wait. **DHW**





A miniature masterclass

Stunning museum in the French town of Lyon houses a wonderful collection of miniatures, and it is constantly being updated

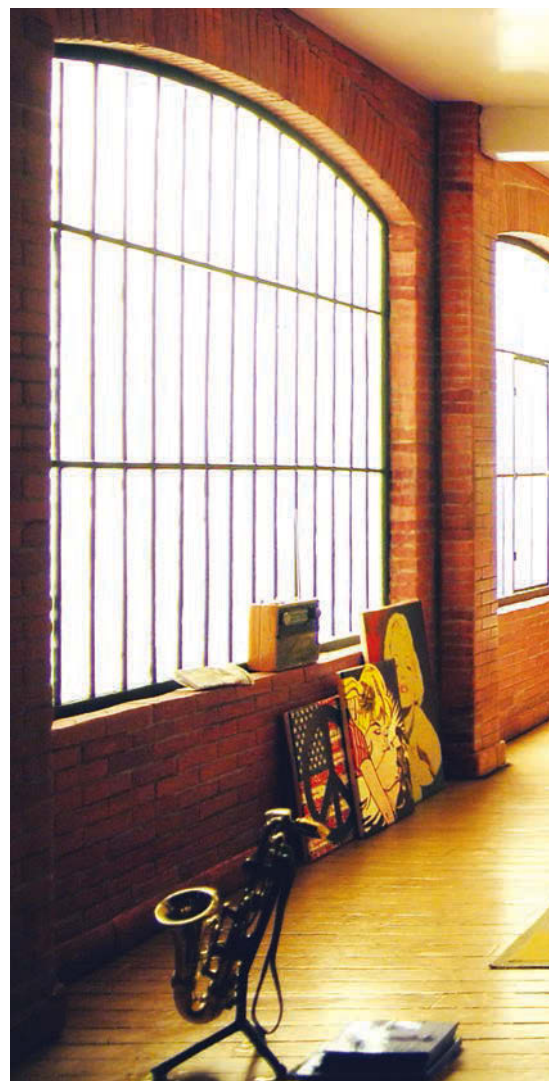
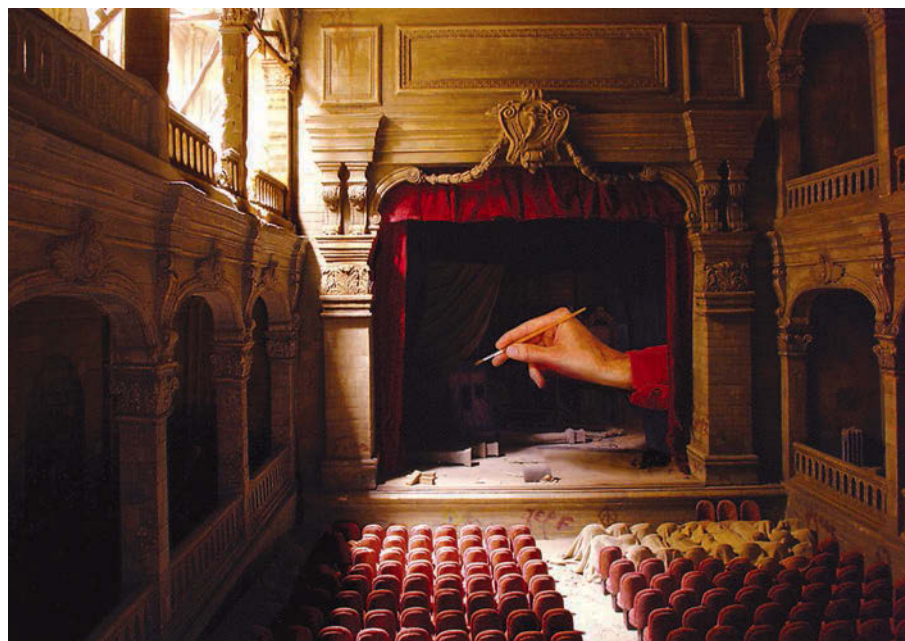
By Sandra Harding

I was glad I was sitting down when I first saw the photographs of Musée Miniature et Cinéma on Facebook, otherwise I would have surely staggered. Over the years that I have been looking at miniatures for you I have seen some wonderful houses and roomboxes, along with the work of some incredible makers, but this museum takes the biscuit, as they say.

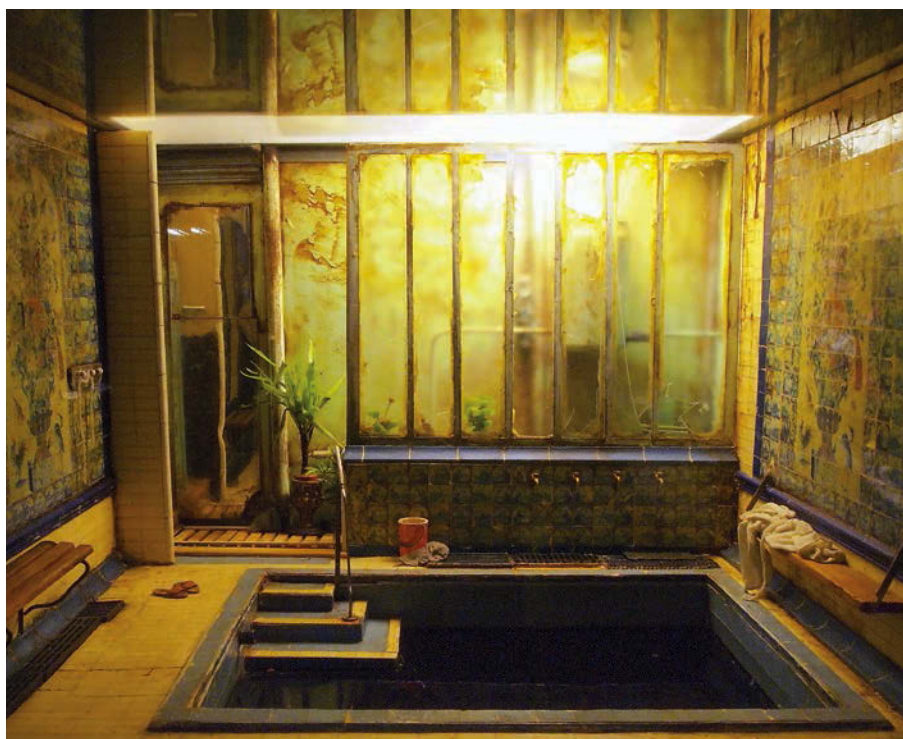
Created by one inspirational man, Dan Ohlmann, it all started in 1985 when he created a twelfth scale model of Chez

Maxim's restaurant in Paris. The model soon created much interest amongst the media and the general public alike and articles were published in many mainstream publications. Dan was even invited to appear on several television shows.

As a result of this acclaim, he became the co-founder of the first Festival International de la Miniature, which attracted over 25,000 visitors in just five days. He then launched a travelling exhibition called The Miniatures of Dan Ohlmann, as by now he was creating







more and more mini masterpieces. The exhibition toured France and Europe, and he exhibited in Japan several times.

In 1989, by now a sought after miniaturist, he staged a 15 day exhibition in Lyons, France. He fell in love with the city and decided to settle there for good. Within a short space of time he had opened his very own museum which he called the Palais de la Miniature (The Miniature Palace) in the old historical town, and he continued to make new miniatures to enrich the collection. Between 1990 and 2003 he was displaying more than 1000 mini masterpieces from all over the world, and by now had added his own "Art of Film" collection.

It attracted many thousands of visitors, and in 2003 a world-renowned Swiss collector offered to sponsor a new and bigger museum. As a result the collection moved to a sixteenth century building, Maison des Avocats (Lawyers'



House) a UNESCO world heritage site. In February 2005 the museum opened and Dan's entire miniature collection, plus dozens of creations from around the world, found a new home. It includes a permanent department devoted to the arts and techniques of film, including special effects.

There are over 100 miniature scenes which show incredibly realistic daily life settings, and over 400 props and artefacts in their film exhibition, the only one in Europe focussing on special effects techniques. Apart from the sheer beauty of these displays, they are considered to be an educational aid in discovering the magic behind the greatest film studios.

There are five floors to explore, covering 2000 sq. metres of exhibition space. Behind the scenes, staff artists continue to create new and exciting scale minia-



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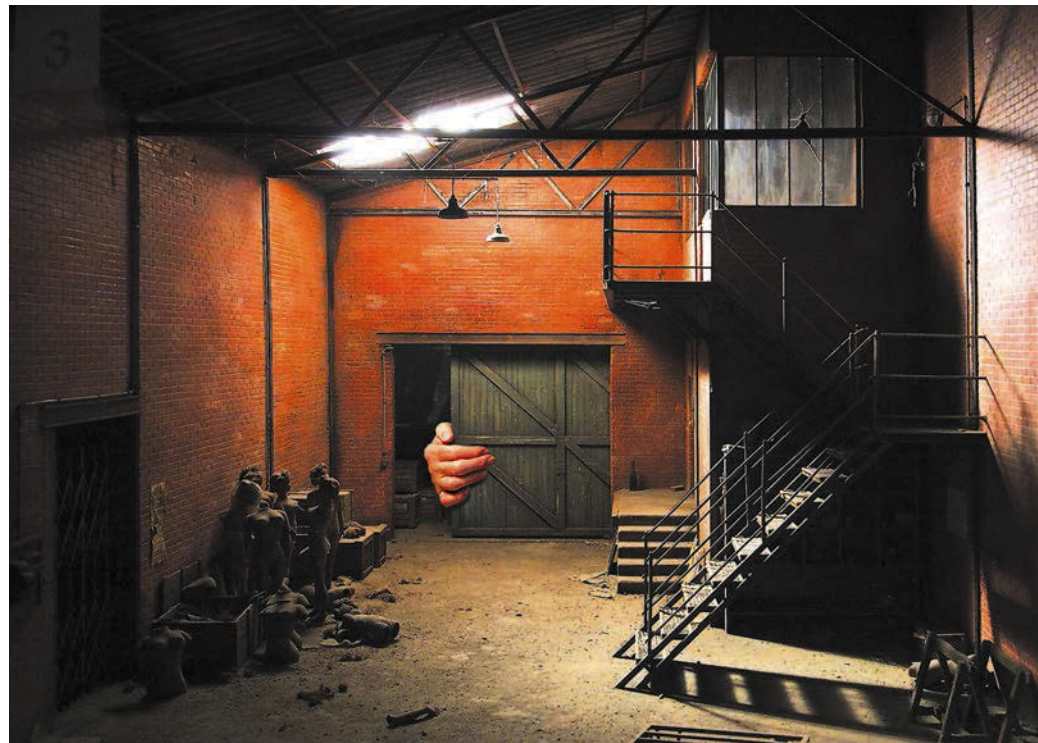
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tures and restore genuine film props in their workshops. There is always something new to see and discover.

I am not going to try to describe the photographs as they clearly speak for themselves. Needless to say, I want to visit to see this wonderful creation for myself. I notice they are open for eight hours a day, but I expect they will still have to throw me out at closing time. [DHW](#)

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A winter stroll in miniature

How Carol Kira and her club members made a Christmas fantasy vignette inside a giant imitation Christmas ball ornament

By Jan Stuart

Wouldn't you love to know the story of this splendid vignette of a pretty Victorian lady walking her little dog at twilight's last blush, on a winter's day when the sky has a pinkish glow, around Christmas time?

Sweetly done in lace and soft, pastel colours, it's just one of the many

vignettes which can be created inside a giant imitation Christmas ball ornament, large enough to contain a twelfth scale scene.

Can you guess what the Lakeland (Florida) Miniatures Guild members used for their Christmas balls in this wonderful winter project? The answer is to be found in the fascinating construc-



tion basics, as recalled for you by that guild's talented Show Chairman, artist Carol Kira: "I call this my 'Fantasy Ornament Scene'. At the time I constructed it, there wasn't a paper mache craft project ball available for me or anyone else, which would imitate a huge Christmas ornament in the size we needed.

So, when Sylvia Supinski and I worked on getting supplies, we ended up going to a commercial lighting store and ordering enough outdoor plastic lamp post globes for everyone who was participating in the project.

Ron Mummert designed three scenes for the globes."

"I chose the one with a bridge. My son, Steve, who was handy with a Dremel tool, cut the opening in my ornament ball. The outside was then spray-painted with a paint intended for plastic. Each of the ornaments was to be completed upside down, with the original lamp post 'collar' at the top, so as to lend the appearance of a big ornament cap.

Inside each cap, we added a night light bulb, with a wire running behind the landscaping and out a hole cut in the back of the globe. We even finished each ball with a non-working Christmas tree 'hanger ring' at the top. For the balls to sit on, every one of them was given a flat bottom 'cup' made from poster board."

“A lovely winter day for a stroll.”

“We then constructed false floors from foam board, using techniques common to other projects. For the individual scenes to be completed inside the balls, our project members were to choose a large picture, which could be ‘dimensionalised’ inside a sphere.

To get that dimension, three copies were made of each scene, and then the copies were cut into pieces, each one shaped appropriately to form part of a separate background, mid-ground, and foreground at the back of the sphere.

In the case of my own bridge scene, a creek was built inside by forming the creek bed and bank first, then pouring in two-part resin for the creek’s ‘water’. I then built a bridge over my creek, with wintery landscaping and a roadway filled in afterward.

After teaching that resin method to other guild members, all that was left to do was to set my lady doll in place, and my scene would be complete.”

“Since I found my scenic background on a calendar, done in pastel colours, that had set my colour choices for the rest of the project. So, when Project Chairman Sylvia Supinski taught us to dress our dolls in velvet capes and hoods, I chose to make one in lavender.”

“The most difficult part of working with our hands inside the big ornament ball, was getting some of the scene’s elements in, through the openings. And, not only was it a challenge to work in a round interior space, but, finding the right glues and paints to adhere to plastic was a learning experience. Luckily, there are many products on the market which will make this task easier for others who want to try to create their own Christmas ornament fantasy scenes.”

“Our projects were a huge success when displayed together at our Lakeland Miniatures Guild show. I hope you enjoy seeing this one and learning the story of it’s completion, as much as I enjoyed creating it.” **DHW**



Matching mini fireplace stitching

These sweet little mahogany pole screens and metal firescreen designs have been designed by Janet Granger for those of you who love stitching on 32 count silk gauze. Suitable for beginners as well as those with some stitching experience, these kits contain all the stitching materials and detailed instructions you need, as well as the relevant components to make the pole screens and firescreens, too.

The pole screen kits are £19.95, and the firescreen kits £20.95 each. P&P is £1.75 per order if placed by post (cheques to Janet Granger); p&p is free online from www.janetgranger.co.uk if your order is over £45, otherwise it is £1.75 UK / £3.95 overseas.

● Contact: Janet Granger Designs, Rose Cottage, Leek Road, Waterhouses, Staffordshire ST10 3JS. Tel: 01538 308860. Email: mail@janetgranger.co.uk



Doll's house donated for JDRF research

How one talented couple built and furnished this wonderful doll's house to raise funds for a worthwhile charity

By Lauren Nielsen

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CINDA AND LARRY KROUK

Doll's houses often portray beautiful aspects of our world on a smaller scale. Just as detailed and realistic as life-size houses, they contain rooms that are filled with furniture and families, pets and precious possessions.

While doll's houses show these elements of life, they cannot always portray the more serious issues we encounter in the world, such as illness. They can, however, help to solve these serious issues in our real world.

That is exactly what this beautiful doll's house is doing. Avid miniature collectors Cinda and Larry

RIGHT: The doll's house is also furnished with this beautiful china cabinet.



Krouk created and donated this doll's house to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

The house was raffled in order to raise funds for type 1 diabetes. All of the proceeds from the raffle went to benefit the charity.

This is a one-of-a-kind Hofco Victorian Classic doll's house. It has 12 rooms completely finished, furnished, and electrified in twelfth scale.





ABOVE AND RIGHT: The dining room is the perfect setting for an evening meal or having guests over for dessert.

BELOW: A hallway cabinet with a mirror and detailed paintings.



About the JDRF

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation is the leading global organisation funding type 1 diabetes (T1D) research. JDRF strives to progressively remove the impact of T1D from people's lives until they achieve a world without T1D.

This foundation is the only organisation with the scientific resources, regulatory influence, and a working plan to better treat, prevent, and eventually cure T1D. They fund millions of dollars in T1D research each year and their current research projects span 17 countries.

JDRF was created and continues to be led by people with personal connections to type 1 diabetes. JDRF keeps its promise of "less until none" meaning, they promise to progressively remove the impact of type 1 diabetes from the lives of those living with the disease until it is no longer a threat to them or their families.

This doll's house raffle is only one example of the many events and fundraising projects that JDRF chapters take part in each year.

JDRF information provided by JDRF chapter of Western Pennsylvania



LEFT: The main hallway of the doll's house.

ABOVE: The kitchen is fully stocked and ready for inhabitants to make a meal.

BELOW: A colourful room with murals painted on the walls and fun toys for the children to play with.

Within the doll's house, you will discover seven beautiful Swarovski crystal chandeliers hanging from the ceilings. The walls are adorned with hand-painted artwork, and the floors with custom-made rugs. The doors and windows are fully functional, able to be opened and





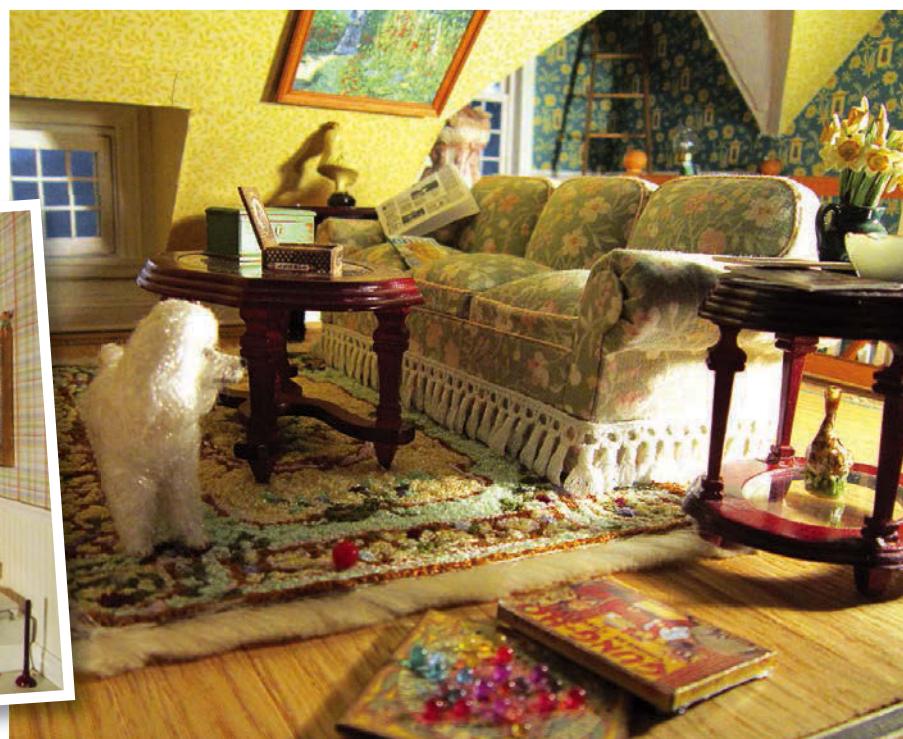
closed as you move from room to room.

This beautiful doll's house is helping the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation work towards a beautiful goal: finding a cure for type 1 diabetes. **DHW**

ABOVE: A sitting room complete with writing desk and fireplace. One of the house's seven crystal chandeliers is hanging from the ceiling.

BELOW: The bathroom suite.

RIGHT: A cosy living room area.



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Christmas surprise from out of the skip

Lis rekindles love of Lundby after father rescues her abandoned childhood house

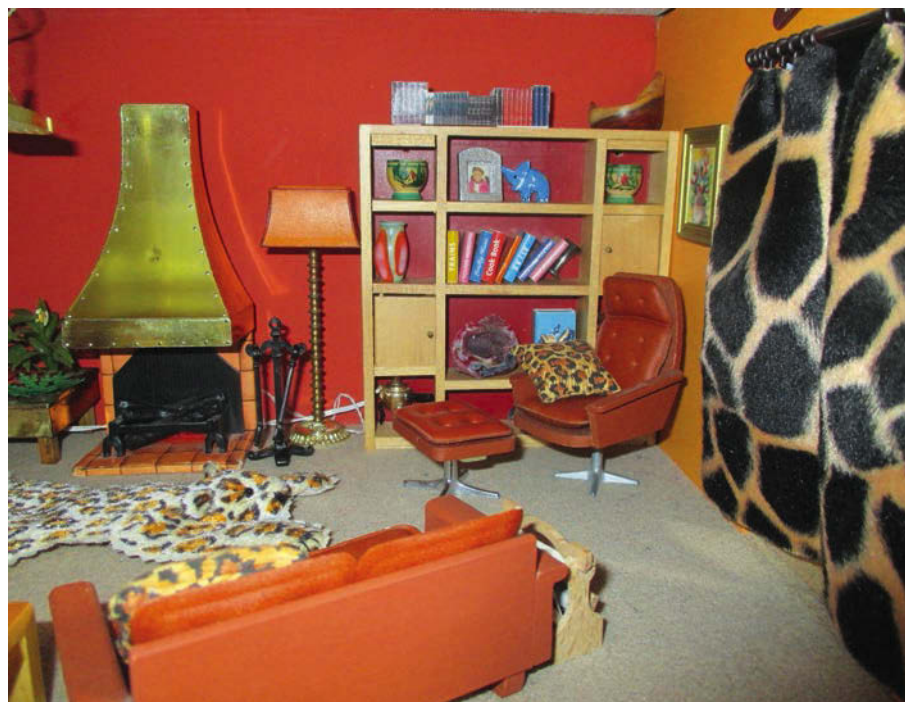
By Sandra Harding

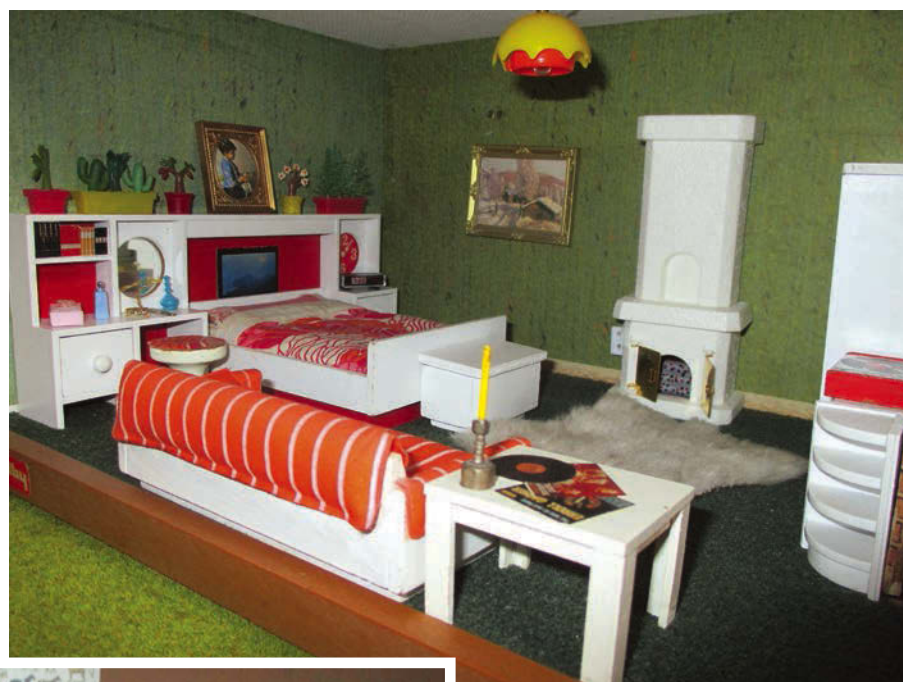
This is the tale of how a rescued Lundby just grew and grew and grew into a collection.

It all started when Lis Butchart's parents gave her a Lundby Gothenburg for her seventh birthday, many years ago, followed by an extension for her eighth birthday, and a garage extension for her ninth. After playing with it for some years it was given to a friend's daughter who regrettably almost

ruined it, and so it was banished to the basement. Fast forward a few years, a husband and four children later. Space had become an issue so the old house had to go.

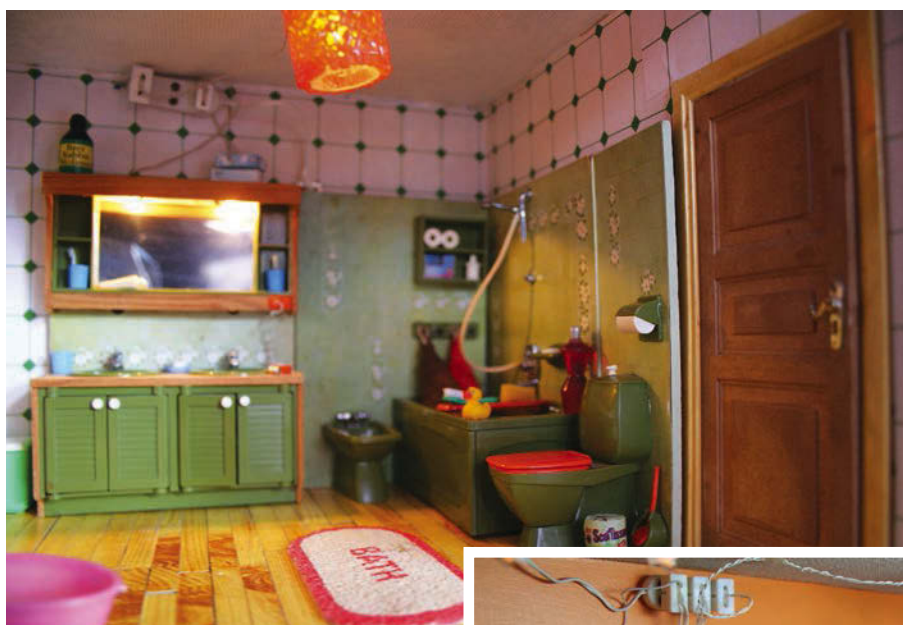
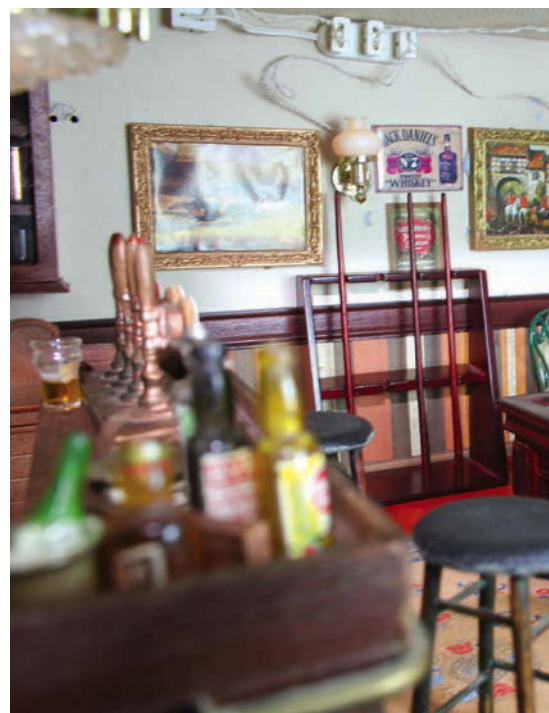
Unknown to Lis, her caring father luckily saw the house in the skip, rescued it and began secretly renovating it (I like this man already). At their very first Christmas in their new home her father re-presented it to her, which caused much





emotion and happiness. Lis's love of Lundby was rekindled.

Secretly, it is likely that Lis never lost her love of the doll's house as she had kept many of the original furnishings and items from her childhood collection. In no time, she was once again adding



homemade 1940s red brick London town house. And don't forget all the extension units fitted to Lis's first Lundby which are all somehow interconnected, which makes it quite a stunner. I get the feeling this will not be the last of Lis's houses we show you.

I have tried to get a clear picture of this collection, but as it is constantly changing, that is almost impossible, so I have chosen a few pictures to show the development of the house and the rooms. There are sitting rooms for different family members, including granny,

to her collection, with makers such as Lundby, of course, plus Barton, Tomy and others. When Lis couldn't find things she wanted she just customised or made them fit. The table this house sits on is custom made and the house has to sit in a corner as it is otherwise unstable. The top also served as a garden.

I think another fast forward is needed here, as I should explain that from that one rescued house all those years ago, Lis is now the owner of 15 houses, all in 1/16th scale. They include a Barton, a Gee Bee shop, a Black Cat Tudor and a





bedrooms for different people including children, plus bathrooms in many little alcoves, and there is even a study for the



man of the house. There are garden areas with lawns and even a motorbike in the garage.

I know that this will not be the end of this house for Lis, as she has even more plans for more floors and furniture. [DHW](#)





moment's notice a maintenance technician, electrician, carpenter, set designer, housekeeper, and doctor to dolls and miniature animals. She is a trusted confidante to the collection's namesake, Kaye Browning, and an interior designer extraordinaire in preparation for the holidays.

"Decorating for the holidays alongside Kaye is always so much fun," says Linda. "I travel to work at the museum four times a year, but fall is always my favourite time."

Kaye, too, is especially fond of the Christmas season and together they design and create new displays and

decorate permanent exhibits. Starting in November, they unpack boxes and boxes of holiday items. Like Russian nesting dolls, carefully packed packages become smaller and smaller, uncovering decorated trees, wreaths, reindeer, wrapped gifts, mufflers, mittens, and miles of tiny lights that set the stage for Christmas.

"Kaye and I are like two kids playing with our favourite toys," laughs Linda. "Even though Kaye and I know what is coming out of the boxes, it's still a thrill to see and handle these wonderful items. And just like kids, once a scene is set up we both step back, jump up and down, giggle, and clap our hands. It never

seems to get old."

Linda, who has had her IGMA Artisan status since 1991, is especially skilled in all things lighting. Her particular knowledge dates back to the 70s when she formed her own company to do electronic design and construction. She began working with Kaye's collection quite by chance in 2007 while she was delivering one of her glass conservatories to the newly founded Kathleen Savage Browning Miniatures Collection.

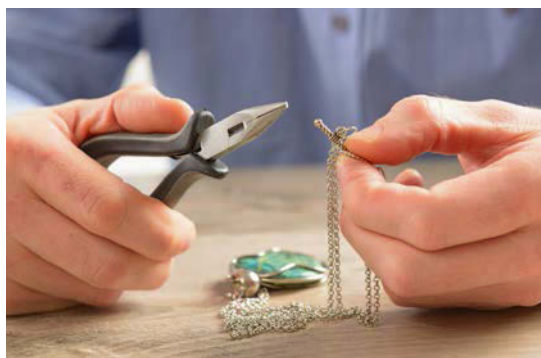
"The museum was scheduled for its grand opening and they were short-handed with a lot of work that needed to be done, so I became employed as one of the



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installers of exhibits being brought down from Kaye's home. Working side by side with Bill Robertson installing, rewiring, repairing, and lighting the houses and exhibits was the most fun I'd ever had," says Linda. "Once the opening was over, it became apparent that there was a need to have someone maintain and exchange exhibits to keep things fresh and interesting. That's when I was offered the assistant curator job."

Now almost seven years later, the Floridian artisan knows more about the collection and its inner workings than she ever imagined. She spends 10 to 14 days during each of her trips and also attends special installations and events held at the museum. When she leaves this time, the collection will be brilliantly lit for Christmas and shiny packages and other trimmings will be perfectly placed throughout the 3,300-square-foot gallery in the one hundred homes, room boxes, exhibits, and vignettes.

Santa's Toy Shop

Linda's specialty is the design and fabrication of twelfth scale conservatories and greenhouses, but when she stumbled upon a 1980's Hallmark Santa ornament in twelfth scale, she couldn't help but be inspired. She removed the hook from his head and immediately began to envision a scene in which he would be surrounded by works from artisans she had befriended and admired over the years.

The shop, like all her glass structures, was constructed using the Tiffany method of copper foil and solder. "I individually cut each piece of glass, wrap the edges with copper foil, then solder the pieces together," she explains. "The roof on this piece was extremely time consuming but it was also very rewarding



upon completion." The roof alone was comprised of approximately 250 separate glass pieces.

Linda also soldered in glass shelves along the front corners so the toys could be easily seen. She insightfully constructed the piece so that the entire side of the room can open on a hinge for easy access. For the flooring, she selected planked walnut. On top is a hand-sewn braided rug she created with DMC embroidery floss. All in all, the piece took a month to complete. And then came the fun part: selecting everything to fill the festive 14-inch by 18-inch toy shop.

"I'd found a wonderful tool box at a show (maker unknown) and then proceeded to shop for toys to stock my shelves," recalls Linda. "Sylvia Lyons' elves had the perfect character and Mary Bures made the most wonderful stuffed animals... Faith Rogers had all kinds of kids' toys and outdoor gear on her table and I loved Ginnie Neil's whimsical Fimo animals and Diane Burger's porcelain piggy banks. Some items I had accu-

ABOVE: The charismatic elves by Sylvia Lyons add a touch of mischief to the toy shop. The cross stitch samplers on the walls are by Janet Rosen.

BELOW LEFT: David Daws' riding horse on wheels is reminiscent of vintage carrouseles.

mulated over the years not paying attention to who made them, so it was also a lot of fun to look through all the drawers and boxes in my studio to find what else I could incorporate into the setting."

When Linda returns in January, her life will seem to take a reverse spin as she packs away many of the items she recently took out of storage. Christmas packages will be replaced with heart-shaped boxes and flowering bulbs will begin to bloom in miniature yards and terraces. It's a routine she knows well, but never tires of. "I am very proud to be a part of Kaye's museum as her assistant curator, and even more proud that she has chosen many of my works to have on display," says Linda. **DHW**

Generous spirit at busy fair

Sandra Harding meets friends old and new
at the popular Lyndhurst fair in Hampshire
and spots a kind gesture

Lovely Lyndhurst on a sunny day
in October is always tempting,
but the motivation this time was
to attend Wendy Hobday's doll's
house fair and, judging by the crowds
there, we were not the only ones tempted.

This is, I suppose, a local show for me
and it means that I get to meet and say
hello to lots of old friends, both behind
and in front of the stands. The ladies
from the Miniatures in the Barn club
were there... and busy buying. Valerie
bought lovely items by Simply Silver
from the Kenyons Miniatures stand,
Jackie had some serious tools and light-

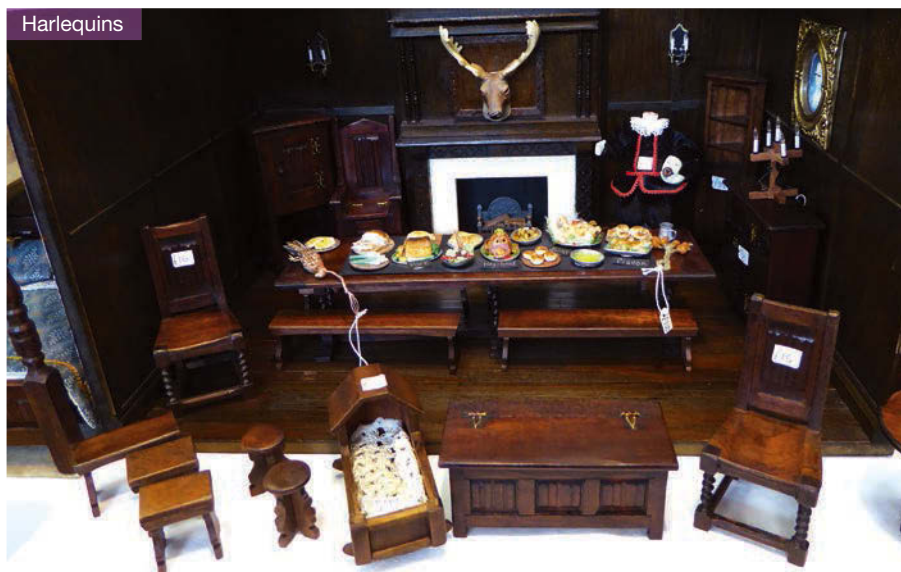
ing from Harlequins, and Yo had mats
and fabric from the brilliant Maria's
Fabrics as well as some tubes for hat
stands. Poppy, and a car load of family
and friends, was visiting from The Isle
Of Wight and a lady from Barton-on-Sea
had an impressively long list of things to
buy.

I bought a silver chalice from Simply
Silver for my Tudor house, plus a set of
shelves from Harlequins for a roombox
that I don't even have yet. I also bought
a plate of gingerbread men from Mini
Mixtures which I gave to an elderly lady
who was in a state of excitement as she



had just bought her first doll's house..
enough said! I also found four pieces of
old Lundby and Barton pieces for my
Lundby houses from Wendy Hobday.
None of these were on any list you
understand, but when did that ever mat-
ter to any of us!

One of the photographs shown is
Jessica holding a lovely pram from
Pandora's Box. Much to Jessica's delight
and surprise, they gave Jessica the pram
as a gift, a treasure to cherish indeed,
and a very kind act. They have also been
asked to attend and display at 'Pramtasia'
in Chatham, Kent, and we were very



Bluebell Miniatures



Jilly's Hats



World Of My Own

The Knitting Lady



Pandora's Box



K&S Miniatures



Little House at the Priory

amused when we spotted that one of their busts on sale looks exactly like Brian of Pandora's Box.

Other exhibitors included Victoria Fasken, with her delightful hand painted dinner and tea services, and Tony Hooper with all the fireplaces and brass door furniture one could ever need. Flowers galore from The Flower Lady, Pan Miniatures, In-Miniature, and K&S Miniatures, who also had minute knitted ducks. Look out for an article on them (and the ducks) next year.

Harlequins had a wide variety on sale, including lovely items made by Len White, who is now unable to attend the shows. They also had a Tudor room

box and furniture by Tom Burchmore. Chatting to CJ Miniatures, they believe that 48th scale is becoming more and more popular, and this is the second show in a row that this has been mentioned to me. I would love to know what you think about that.

Once again, this show was busy, with people leaving with bags full of stuff. I am glad to see so many people attending as the exhibitors and organisers at these shows really do go to an awful lot of trouble to bring us their lovely creations. Let's all continue to support them, wherever the event might be.

To see a full listing of Wendy's shows go to www.wendysworldfairs.co.uk **DHW**

The greatest mini gift of all

When Patty Ross couldn't afford to buy gifts or give to charity, she used her set of miniatures to bring joy to those in need

By Patty Ross



I was living in Malibu, California, in the midst of all the movie stars (they are mostly tiny people too!). I had been making films and producing shows, being a guest speaker on TV and radio, which all cost money and depleted my savings. I wanted to teach people how to take control of their lives and have anything they desire in life. Well, I ran out of money. I had thought that my income would be rolling in much more quickly than it did.

I was broken-hearted because it was Christmas and I couldn't afford to buy presents or help out charities as I was used to doing. I sat by the ocean and, with tear-filled eyes, asked God for help. I said I wanted to help; how could I be of service to others now?

From years past

The first thought that came to mind was that I had all these miniatures from a Christmas doll's house in storage. I had originally built a 3' x 3' house

(from a kit) that hung on my wall at Christmastime. I'd originally made it as a decoration and with the miniatures it had cost me about £1000. At one point, I'd kept the miniatures and given the doll's house to a little girl I knew and then packed up all the miniatures and my most prized possessions in a trailer and left my home in Florida.

My father was in the military and we moved every three years and I just love the adventure of moving around and meeting new people and learning about different cultures. Before I made it to Malibu, I was living in North Carolina, then decided it would be nice to move to Colorado for the winter and snow ski. I arrived in the beautiful and quaint town of Estes Park and walked through the town and enjoyed the snow. I stayed in a hotel and when I got up the next morning, I felt that I should keep driving. I was a little bit perplexed, but followed my intuition. I kept driving until I got to the California border, still wondering why I'd left Colorado. I called my sister to let her know that I was in California and she told me she had a friend who lived in Malibu. My sister's friend's place was between the ocean and the magnificent mountains so I really enjoyed living there. I didn't realise it was a community for writers, producers, and actors. Writing and creating plays is another one

LEFT: Patty packed this three-level house into her car and drove it around to various charities and organisations to bring cheer.



ABOVE: The kitchen, where Mrs. Claus is preparing a lovely feast.

RIGHT: A festive turkey dinner

FAR RIGHT: Mrs. Claus has left a bit of a mess in the sink from her baking

BELOW FAR RIGHT: The stockings are hung by the chimney with care

BOTTOM FAR RIGHT: A gingerbread doll takes a rest on the comfortable chair.

BELOW: Below the cuckoo clock, some skis and a sled hint at the Claus's love of the outdoors.



of my hobbies.

I was a real-estate broker at the time and assumed I would sell real estate, as I had done in the past to create an income wherever I'd lived. But that year, 1996, the housing market had hit an all-time low in California, which I only discovered after I arrived. So, I had to make a new decision about what I wanted to do professionally. I love being a guest speaker on radio and TV so I can help empower people, so that is how I got into the film and show "business." I created, produced, and "starred" in films to empower people.

So I didn't have the money to buy a doll's house kit or even wood. But I was determined to be of service, so I visited the lumberyard, the pharmacy, the business centre, the fabric store, a miniature shop, and a hobby shop and explained what I wanted to accomplish. Everyone was so kind. Malibu Lumbar Yard gave me paint as well as wood for the walls and the roof shingles. I used a light-col-





LEFT: The bench where all the toys are put together for girls and boys.

oured, textured paint for the outside of the house. I painted the shingles green. CVS Pharmacy donated the two cards, the angel and the snow scene. JoAnn's fabrics gave me the red furry fabric for carpet in the rooms and on the stairs.

I had one piece of wallpaper and The Postal Annex store let me make colour copies of it so I could wallpaper the whole house.

I was ecstatic! I had a purpose! I went to work and built the doll's house in one day; I made the walls, wallpapered, painted, put in the wiring for the lights, and carpeted the second day; and the third day I placed all of my miniatures in the house.

Doll's house details

I decided I wanted to make my own tree using real fern. I used a wire tree with straight branches as the core and used a glue gun to

glue on the fern and make it much more beautiful. At Christmastime, a pretty tree is very important!

I had to use newspaper to cut the patterns for inner walls to make it three-dimensional and to cut out the shingles.

They took a lot of time because I drew a pattern based on what I thought they should look like and then had to use a straight edge to cut them. A little tedious and not as much fun as placing all the miniatures in it, but I really wanted the outside of the house to be as presentable as the inside. I then added a layer of "snow" that I cut out of a furry white fabric.

I had to decide how I would hide the wiring for the lights on the side walls. I decided to make an inner wall that I wallpapered in order to completely hide the wiring by

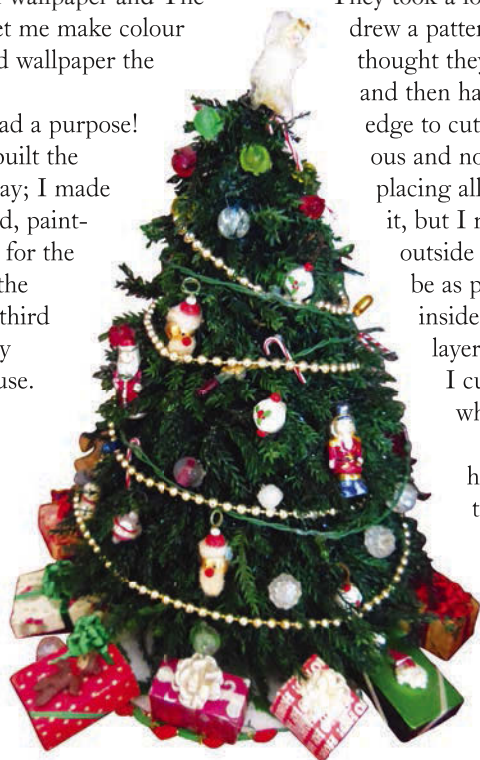
cutting tiny holes through the wallpaper and through a thin inner wall and pull the wiring through. Again I had to cut tiny holes for the lights on the back walls as well.

I had to borrow a drill to drill three holes in the back of the house to run the wiring to the plugs I had adhered to the back of the house. What I had not planned on was that someday the lights would stop working. So in the original house, there were many more candle-lights on the walls.

I think the wiring and deciding how to do it was my greatest success story. When I began putting the house together I realised the stairway on the first floor, the hallway on the second floor, and the angel on the third floor were too dark. I had to place plain light bulbs in order for the house to radiate the light I wanted. So I had to take the walls out and adhere the lighting and then begin again. I needed to decide how far away from the back wall I would place the wall I made, so I glued in some foam board so the walls would be the same distance from the back wall and glued in so they wouldn't fall over when I carried it.

The most important part about creating this house was that it needed to be easy for me to carry and fit into the back seat, and that is how the size was determined. It is approximately three feet high and two and half feet wide and eleven inches deep.

I had a beagle when I was a child that I loved more than life itself. I had to have





ABOVE: A beautiful painting above the mantle.

RIGHT: The head elf is hard at work in the attic with the toys.



the little beagle that is on the staircase in his honour. I also have a mug with my son, Marc's, name on it in the cupboard to honour him, because a mother's love for an infant is the strongest love there is and I am blessed to have had him.

I originally had a chimney on the roof and used "liquid smoke," which makes it look as though real smoke is coming out of it, so it would look authentic with the fireplace. Alas, it kept falling off when I got it in and out of the car, so I had to scrap that detail.

Bringing joy

I can't tell you how overjoyed I was that I was going to make a contribution. I called hospitals, schools, and a charity organisation for the underprivileged and set up dates and times to bring it to them. Even the nurses in the hospitals and the adults really liked it so well that I decided



to take it to retirement homes. Two cute little old men were really fascinated with how I built it so I told them all about it. I had no idea that it would be such a wonderful contribution until I saw the eyes of these little children and even the retirees light up as they peered inside!

One young man, about nine years old, in a classroom said, "I'm not going to look at that; it's for sissies." I wandered over to him and asked him if he liked to build things with tools. He said yes and I told him that there were tools in the house he may be interested in looking at. He moved quickly over to the house and his teacher finally had to ask him to move over and let others look at it because he really was mesmerised by all the miniatures!

There are so many stories, but these are the ones that pop into my head first. I have to tell you that since I travel around so much, I just gaze into this little doll's house and really feel at home. The flickering fire just makes it seem so inviting, warm, and cozy.

I was so grateful to the businesses for their donations that I called the local newspaper and told them about the charitable contributions I had received and asked if they would feature the house in the paper, so I could thank the people who helped me with building materials. I got copies of the article and presented each person with their own copy with a picture of the completed doll's house so they could see the results of their contri-



butions and feel satisfied, knowing they had contributed to its creation.

One man was so excited about the article that he was very vocal and shouted out loud in glee. I just had to laugh and join him in his excitement.

I believe everything in the world happens for a reason. If I hadn't been in that financial position, I wouldn't have asked what to do and never made the house. Maybe a child that really needed to be filled with joy wouldn't have had the opportunity to enjoy it. Or maybe a retiree, whom it brought joy to, wouldn't have been able to experience it. I have been travelling with it for a long time and am thinking of retiring it now.

I love my hobby and find that it soothes my mind and soul to relax and create a tiny world filled with love and joy. It makes me smile from the inside and it is easy. **DHW**

Five hundred years of cooking history

Anton Mosimann's unique collection of cookbooks and menu cards reveals a fascinating glimpse into the culinary history of the last five centuries

By Milly James

TOP chef Anton Mosimann is famous for his food - he has cooked for crowned heads, politicians, presidents and celebrities from all over the world.

But not many people know that he is the owner of a unique cookbook library, with more than 6,000 items that reveal a great deal about culinary history over the last five centuries. Now, part of the amazing collection is on show at the Toy Worlds Museum in Basel, Switzerland, in a special exhibition which runs until February 14.

Mosimann's collection includes two editions (1516 and 1530) of the first printed gastronomic text, which was written by Platina, the Vatican librarian; and a work on the preparation of jam by Nostradamus, an astrologist and personal physician.

But also in the collection are the first cookbook printed in German in

1516, the *Küchenmeisterei*, and Alessio Piemontese's 16th century work known as *The Book of Secrets*, which was translated into German by Hanns Jacob Wecker from Basle. His wife, Anna Wecker, was the first woman to publish a cookbook.

In addition to the 120 objects from Mosimann's collection, 25 children's cookbooks will also be exhibited. The first children's cookbook originated as a doll's cookbook in the 17th century. They were in fact intended more as decorative objects for adults.

It was not until the 18th century that doll kitchens were built for children too, originally as part of the beloved doll's house. Since the kitchen of the doll's house offered the most potential for play, it was soon produced as an separate toy. The tiny kitchens were functional, so girls were able to cook and bake.

The doll stoves, initially just part of the doll's kitchen, soon appeared as individual toys as well, which greatly reduced the cost of purchase and the space requirements. Doll stoves were most widespread between about 1870 and 1940. Doll kitchens and stoves were ideal toys, but also had an educational purpose: young girls from wealthier

backgrounds were being playfully prepared for their future roles as housewives in the kitchen.

There were special cookbooks for doll kitchens. The book *Haustöchterchens Kochschule* (Little Daughter's Cooking School) stated: "What is at present a cheerful game for you will later also be a fond activity." Lovica von Pröpper wrote in her *Kochbüchlein für die Puppen-Küche* (Little Cookbook for the Doll Kitchen) in 1880: "... to be able to already acquire in a playful way quite nice



TOP: Mary Jewry Warne's *Every-Day Cookery*, approx. 1875.

ABOVE: Nostradamus's work containing recipes on the preparation of jams, 1572.



LEFT: Alessio Piemontese's *Book of Secrets*.



ABOVE: Julie Bimbach's Kochbüchlein für die Puppenküche (Little Cookbook for the Doll Kitchen), 1895.

basic knowledge of the noble culinary art and perhaps also retain a love of it ...". In the course of the 19th century, work in the home was increasingly understood as a profession that required training or a particular upbringing.

What all doll cookbooks share is their focus on the playful element and the fact that, in view of the tiny stove, it was possible to cook entire dishes with small quantities of ingredients. Up until the 1960s, doll stoves were predominantly functional and could really be used to cook.

The children's cookbooks in the exhibition contain realistic recipes that can also be found in normal cookbooks, often only slightly adapted. The oldest children's cookbook in the exhibition is from the period around 1870.

In 1856, a successful cookbook for children entitled Puppenköchin Anna (Anna the Doll Cook) was published. The author, Henriette Davidis, had also written the Praktisches Kochbuch für die bürgerliche und feinere Küche. Like the Praktisches Kochbuch, the children's cookbook became an enormous success and was reprinted in nine editions until 1898. **DHW**

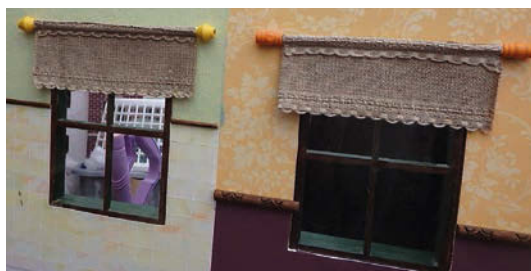
Spielzeug Welten Museum Basel,
Steinenvorstadt 1, CH-4051 Basel.
Tel: +41 (0)61 225 95 95s
www.swmb.museum
Opening hours: The museum, shop
and restaurant are open from 10.00
until 18.00 daily

Sandra's READERS' TIPS

THIS MONTH: *tips from Carole Whaley*

Easy blinds:

- Aida band, or similar ribbon, ideally with nice edge on either side.
- Barbeque sticks or similar
- Beads for ends ■ Glue ■ Scissors



Vary length by cutting a piece out and re-sticking the fancy edge down. Cut to the required width and seal edge with glue to stop it fraying.



You'll need:

- Pack of self-adhesive round and clear 7mm 'buffers' (the ones used for protecting surfaces)
- Tiny pictures from magazine, or coloured shiny paper

Quick & easy paperweights

To make an easy paperweight, just cut out your chosen picture or card to shape and stick onto a 'buffer'. Trim to shape. It's that simple.

Now add your paperweight to a pile of letters, magazines etc. To create a 'dimple' for realism, thread a piece of cotton through all letters in the centre and pull tight. Glue paperweight on top of the dimple.



an armoire for YOUR BOUDOIR

Follow along with Julie and create a custom made mini wardrobe with drawers to hold your little family's clothes and other personal effects

By Julie Warren

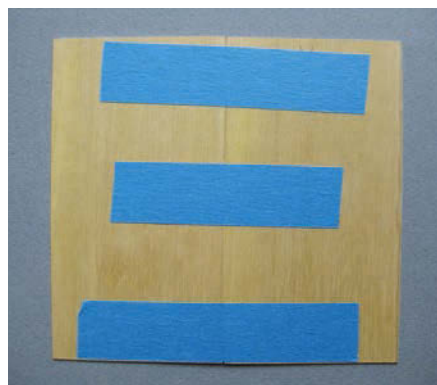
For this project I am using Jelutong wood. This is a soft wood, which makes it very easy to work with. It also is ideal because it takes paint and varnish well.

This tutorial is a great start for those of you new to making furniture.

YOU'LL need

- 0.7mm drill bit
- 1/8 drill bit
- Clothes pegs or mini clamps
- Compass
- Craft knife
- Desk vice
- Door/drawer knobs
- Flat-head screwdriver
- Kitchen towel
- Masking tape
- Mini drill
- Paint (the little sample pots of emulsion you can buy from your local DIY store are ideal)
- Paintbrush
- Pencil
- Pins
- PVA craft glue
- Sandpaper
- Steel rule
- Twist drill
- Varnish
- Wooden beads for feet

Step 1: Once all of your pieces are cut to size, sand all the edges using fine-grained sandpaper. It is also a good idea to write the name of each piece onto the wood in pencil.



Step 2: Begin by gluing together the long edges of the 2 panel pieces. Use masking tape to hold them together as the glue dries.

Step 3: Taking the sidepieces, draw a line 1" from the bottom of each piece, and then make a mark in the centre of each piece, 7/16" from the top.



Step 4: Drill a 1/8" hole in the centre of the internal divide, 1/2" from the top.

Step 5: Using a twist drill, drill a 0.7mm hole into the top and bottom of each door, 1/16" from the long edge. Drill down about 1/4", making sure you keep the drill perfectly upright, otherwise the wood will split. It



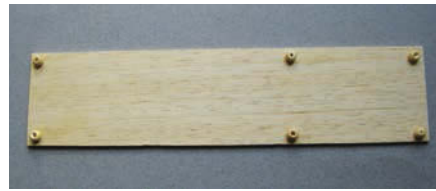
helps to secure the wood with a table vice as you drill. Wrap a sheet of paper towel around the base of the wood to prevent the vice from marking it.

Step 6: Chamfer one long edge and both short edges of the outer top and base pieces by holding the piece at 45-degree angle against a sheet of sandpaper and sweeping it gently towards you.



Step 7: On the flat edge of the outer base piece, with the flat edge nearest to you,

attach the feet 1/8" from each corner and 2 3/16" from the left hand edge.



Step 8: Varnish the outer top and base pieces. As the chamfered (beveled) sides will be attached to the wardrobe, there is no need to varnish the whole piece, just 1/4" around each edge. Apply two coats, allowing the first coat to dry fully.

Decorating the doors

The following steps show how to decorate the doors. Bear in mind when doing

this that you will need two doors hinged on the right hand side and one on the left. It may help to make a small pencil mark on the front of each door before you begin so as not to decorate the wrong side of the doors.



Step 1: On the front of each door, draw a line down the centre and then at 1/4" intervals from the centreline out to each side. Next, use a steel rule and a flat-head screwdriver to gently score grooves into the wood. Finish by sanding along the grooves, to remove any rough edges.



Step 2: To shape the top door moulding, draw lines 1/4" from each edge and 1/2" from the top.



Step 3: Using a compass, draw a semi-circle between the lines.



Cutting list

From 1/32" thick wood:

Cut 2: 5 7/16" x 2 15/16" – back panels

Cut 3: 1 15/16" x 1" – top door mouldings

Cut 6: 3 3/8" x 1/4" – vertical door mouldings

Cut 3: 1 7/16" x 1/4" – horizontal door mouldings

From 1/16" thick wood:

Cut 2: 5 7/16" x 1 7/16" – sides

Cut 1: 5 7/8" x 1 13/32" – inner top

Cut 1: 5 7/8" x 1 13/32" – inner base

Cut 1: 5 7/8" x 1 13/32" – shelf

Cut 1: 4 15/16" x 1 13/32" – internal divide

Cut 2: 1 13/32" x 7/8" – drawer divides

From 3/32" thick wood:

Cut 3: 4 3/8" x 1 15/16" – doors

Cut 1: 6 1/8" x 2 3/32" – outer top

Cut 1: 6 1/8" x 2 3/32" – outer base

From 1/8" thick dowel:

Cut 1: 5 7/8" – rail

For the drawers

From 1/32" thick wood:

Cut 6: 1 15/16" x 1/8" – horizontal mouldings

Cut 6: 5/8" x 1/8" – vertical mouldings

From 1/16" thick wood:

Cut 3: 1 15/16" x 7/8" – drawer fronts

Cut 6: 1 1/4" x 13/16" – drawer sides

Cut 3: 1 15/16" x 7/8" – drawer backs

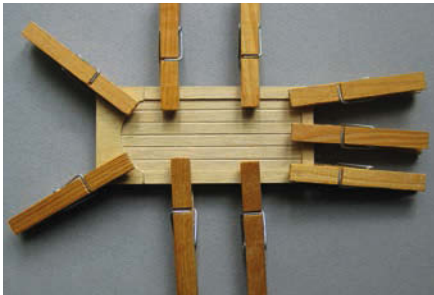
Cut 3: 1 15/16" x 1 1/4" – drawer bases

Step 4: Use a craft knife to score lines into the wood, up to the line of the semi-circle, and then carefully remove each section. Finish by sanding.



Step 5: Use this piece to use as a template to cut the other two pieces and repeat Step 4.

Step 6: Glue the top moulding to the top of the door, followed by a vertical moulding down the left hand side.



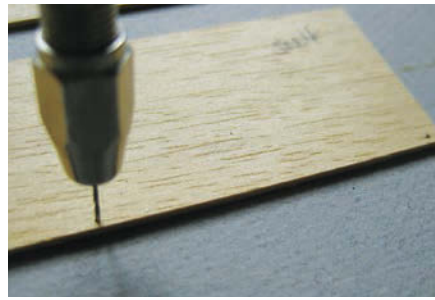
Step 7: Attach the horizontal moulding to the bottom of the door, followed by the remaining vertical moulding. Use mini-clamps or clothes pegs to secure the mouldings while the glue is drying, to prevent the wood from curling upwards.



Step 8: Once the glue is dry, sand around all edges to ensure a flush finish. Attach doorknobs in the centre of the vertical moulding at the opening edges. I am using small balls made from polymer clay, but you could use beads or any doorknobs you may already have.

Building the wardrobe

Step 1: Taking the inner top and shelf



pieces, drill 0.7mm holes $\frac{3}{64}$ " back from the front edge of each piece - $\frac{1}{16}$ " from the left hand edge and $2\frac{1}{8}$ " and $\frac{1}{16}$ " from the right hand edge.



Step 2: Glue a sidepiece to the back panel piece, ensuring that the pencil markings face inwards.



Step 3: Draw pencil lines 2" from the right hand edge of the back panel piece and the same distance from the right hand edge on the underside of the inner top piece.

Step 4: Glue the inner top piece to the inside of the construction, ensuring that the drilled holes are at the front edge.

Step 5: Glue the back support along the join of the two back panel pieces.

Step 6: Glue the internal divide into place, so that it sits just to the right of the pencil line and so that the drilled hole is at the top.



Step 7: Next, glue the shelf piece into place so that it sits just below the pencil line on the left hand sidepiece.



Step 8: Attach the inner base piece.

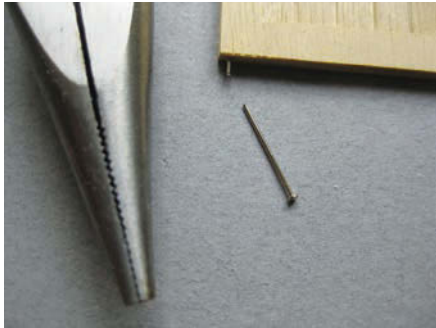


Step 9: Feed the rail through the hole in the internal divide and secure with a blob of glue onto the left hand sidepiece.



Step 10: Glue the remaining side in place.

Attaching the doors



Step 1: Push a pin into the drilled hole at the bottom of each door and trim to 1/8" using pliers.



Step 2: Attach the bottom of the door by pushing the pin through the hole in the shelf and then push a pin through the top of the wardrobe and into the hole drilled in the top of the door. Snip off the excess pin using pliers. Repeat for the remaining two doors.



Step 3: Glue a small square of wood 1/8" from the front edge to the top and bottom of the centre of the double doors and to the top and bottom at the opening edge of the single door.



Building the drawers

Step 1: Begin by gluing the drawer divides into place, one directly below the internal divide (use the line drawn earlier as a guide) and one below the central opening of the double doors.

Step 2: Make a mark in the centre of the





drawer front and begin by gluing the top horizontal moulding into place, followed by the vertical mouldings and finally the remaining horizontal moulding. Once the glue has dried, sand all edges to ensure that they are flush.



Step 3: Glue the back piece to the back of the base piece followed by the sidepieces, on the inside of the structure.

Step 4: Finally, attach the front piece and glue into position the drawer knob.



Finishing off

Step 1: Paint the wardrobe and drawers using dark cream. Apply two coats, allowing the first coat to dry fully in between. Gently sand before applying the second coat, to ensure a smooth finish.

Step 2: Finally, attach the outer top and base pieces, ensuring that the straight edges are flush with the back of the wardrobe and that you leave an even overhang on either side. Use clamps to hold into place while the glue is drying. Slide the

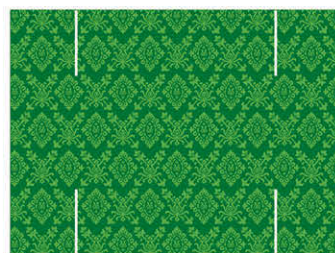
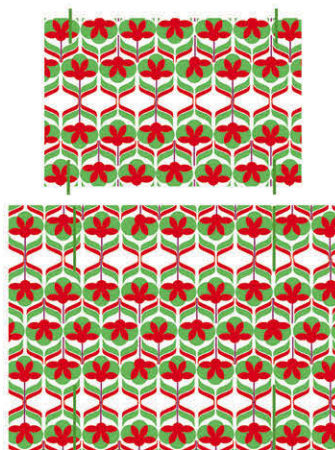
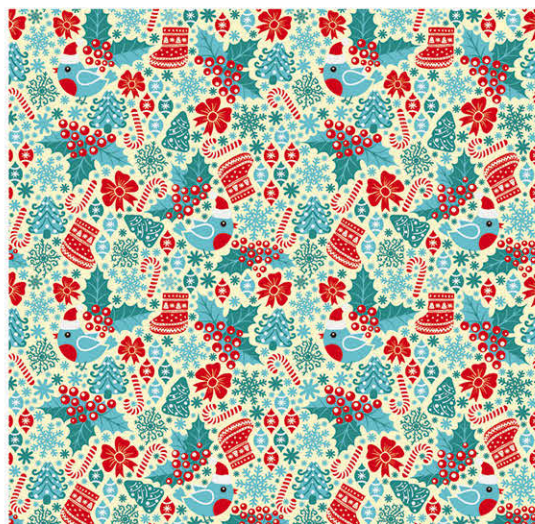
drawers into place. You may find that once you have applied paint to the drawers they no longer fit smoothly into the drawer spaces, if this is the case, gently sand them to achieve a perfect fit.

Step 3: For a more classical looking wardrobe, use a darker varnish over the entire piece and fit brass door and drawer handles.

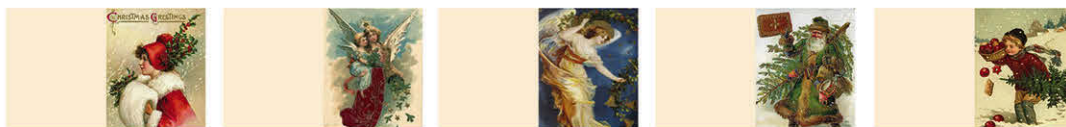
In the next issue of Dolls House World, Julie will be showing us how to build a chest of drawers to compliment this wonderful wardrobe! **DHW**



CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PAPER



TWELFTH SCALE VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS CARDS



TWELFTH SCALE MODERN CHRISTMAS CARDS



1/24TH SCALE VICTORIAN & MODERN CHRISTMAS CARDS



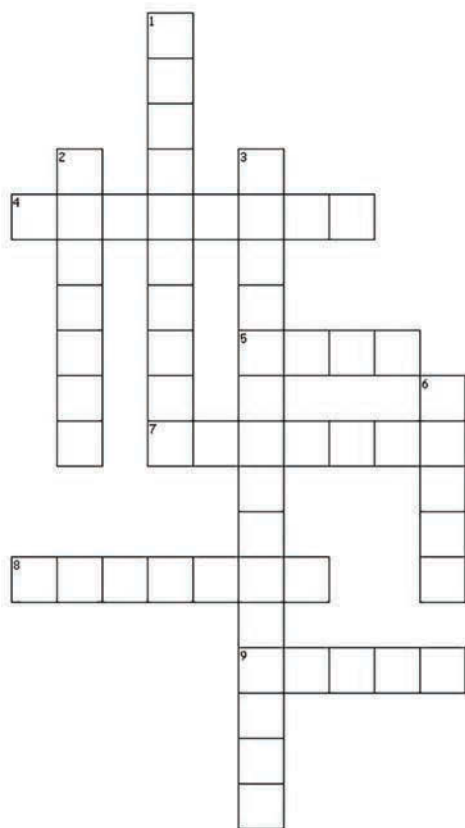
minifunPAGES

SPOT THE (SMALL) DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the difference in these two pictures?
There are six small differences between the pictures
for you to find. Answers next issue.

CRISS CROSS

It's all about the pantomime this month
(Oh no it isn't!) Oh yes it is!

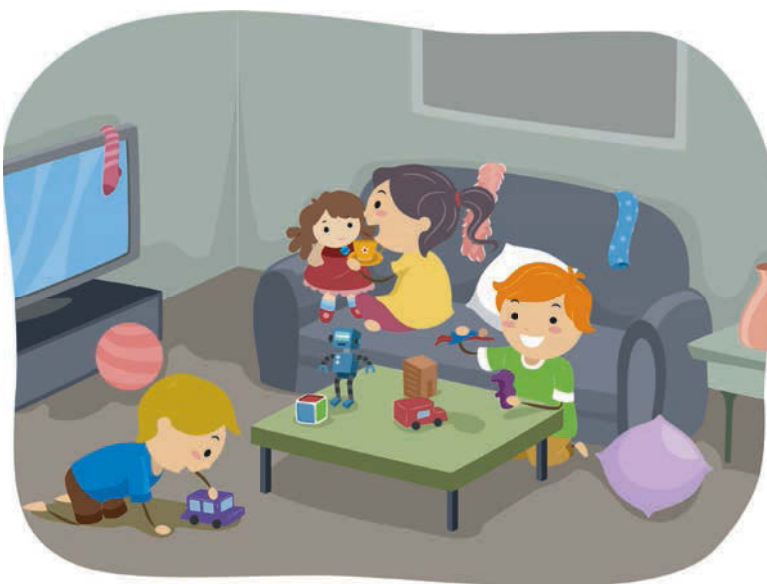


Across

4. Beauty Who was woken from a long sleep with a kiss from a prince?
5. Where were the babes? a) Forest b) Shopping c) Wood
7. Who got caught up with 40 thieves?
8. What was turned into Cinderella's coach?
9. What bird was Mother?

Down

1. Who had ugly sisters?
2. Who flew on a magic carpet?
3. Who turned again with his cat?
6. Who's missing? Grumpy, Dozy, Sleepy, Doc, Bashful, Dopey and ...?



LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS

Answers from
last month's
Spot the (Small)
Difference
below. The
missing word
from the mini
wordsearch was
CRACKER.



mini days out

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ESSEX

3 BIJOU DOLLS HOUSE SHOP

Unit 8, Blake House Craft Centre, Rayne, Braintree CM77 6SH. 01376 335111. www.minibijou.com

4 KIRBY MINIATURES

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12 DOLLS HOUSE COTTAGE WORKSHOP

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ADVERTISERS' INDEX

ALESSIO MINIATURES.....	11	MINIATURA.....	29
BARBARA'S MOULDINGS.....	19	MM FAIRS.....	28
C J MINIATURES.....	37	MUSEE MINIATURE ET CINEMA.....	84
CRISS CROSS MINIATURES.....	36	PMJ MINIATURES.....	28
CRUMPLED AND RUMPLED.....	36	SEASIDE MINIATURES.....	28
D & M FAIRS.....	36	STAMP INSURANCE SERVICES.....	28
DOLLY'S DAYDREAMS.....	19	SUSSEX CRAFTS.....	19
DOREEN JEFFRIES.....	37	SWAN HOUSE MINIATURES.....	29
HOBBY'S.....	37	THE CRAFT PACK COMPANY.....	36
JENNIFERS OF WALSALL.....	28	THE DOLLS HOUSE HAMPSHIRE.....	28
KENSINGTON DOLL'S HOUSE FESTIVAL THE).....	11	THE MODOLL HOUSE.....	11
LORRAINE MINIATURES.....	36	THE OLD BELL POTTERY.....	28
MAGIC MINIS.....	36	TUDOR ROSE MINIATURES.....	37
MATLOCK MINIATURES.....	37	VANESSA'S MINIATURE DOLLS.....	29
MICRO MINIATURES.....	36	WORLD OF MY OWN.....	36

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fairDATES

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DECEMBER

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

KENSINGTON DOLLS HOUSE FESTIVAL

Kensington Town Hall,
Hornton Street,
LONDON W8 7NX
Open: 11.00am - 6.00pm
Organiser: Kensington Dolls House Festival

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER

DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

Portsmouth Marriott Hotel,
Southampton Road,
PORTSMOUTH, Hampshire
PO6 4SH (M27/Junction 12)
Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

DOLLS HOUSE & MINIATURES FAIR

The Two Hall,
SUTTON COLDFIELD,
West Midlands B73 6AB
Open: 11.00am - 4.00pm
Organiser: MM Fairs

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER

DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

Felixstowe Leisure Centre,
The Seafrost,
FELIXSTOWE, Suffolk IP11 2AE
(next to pier)
Open: 10.30am - 3.00pm
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

JANUARY

SUNDAY 10TH JANUARY

STAFFORD DOLLS HOUSE FAIR

Members Pavilion,
County Showground,
Weston Road,
STAFFORD ST18 0BD
Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: Doreen Jeffries

SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY

DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

Cameo Hotel,
Old London Road,
COPDOCK, nr Ipswich,
Suffolk IP8 3JD (off A12)

Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

SATURDAY 23RD JANUARY

DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

Theydon Bois Village Hall,
The Green, Coppice Row,
THEYDON BOIS,
Essex CM16 7ER
(M25/Junction 26)
Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY

DOLLS HOUSE & MINIATURES FAIR

The Inn on the Lake Hotel,
DA12 3HB
Open: 10.00am - 3.00pm
Organiser: D&M Fairs

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

DOLLS HOUSE & MINIATURES FAIR

Southport Theatre & Convention
Centre, The Promenade,
SOUTHPORT PR9 0DZ
Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: MM Fairs

SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

The Rivenhall Hotel,
Rivenhall End,
nr WITHAM, Essex CM8 3HB
(on A12 westbound)
Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

ORGANISERS:

D&M Fairs: 01634 370420. E: peapa001@medway.org.uk

Dolly's Daydreams: 01945 870160. www.dollysdaydreams.com
E: dollysdaydreams@btinternet.com

Doreen Jeffries: 01274 616539.
www.doreenjeffriesdollshousefairs.co.uk

Kensington Dollshouse Festival: 020 7812 9892
E: kdf@dollshousefestival.com www.dollshousefestival.com

MGM Fairs: Tel: 01225 466533 Mob: 07818 462448
E: admin@mgmfairs.co.uk www.mgmfairs.co.uk

Miniatura: 0121 783 9922. www.miniatura.co.uk

MM Fairs: Tel: 01332 660428. www.dollshouse-fairs.co.uk

Show news:

Next year MGM Fairs will be incorporating a special 1/24th scale section within two new miniature shows.

Look out for the small scale section at Wootton Bassett on March 13 and Thornton Hough on October 9.

MARCH 13, 2016:

The Memorial Hall, Station Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 8EN

OCTOBER 9, 2016:

Thornton Hough Village Hall, Manor Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JB

SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

DOLLS HOUSE & MINIATURES FAIR

College Cymunedol Y
Dderwen, Heor-Yr-Ysgol,
BRIDGEND,
Wales CF32 9EL
Open: 10.30am - 3.00pm
Organiser: MGM Fairs

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

The Pride of Lincoln Hotel,
Runcorn Road, off Whisby
Road, LINCOLN, Lincolnshire
LN6 3QZ (on A46)
Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

DOLLS HOUSE & MINIATURES FAIR

Eastington Community Centre,

Snakey Lane, EASTINGTON,
nr Stonehouse,
Gloucestershire GL10 3AA
Open: 10.30am - 3.00pm
Organiser: MGM Fairs

SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

Holiday Inn Ashford - Central,
Canterbury Road (A28),
ASHFORD, Kent TN24 8QQ
(M20/Junction 9)
Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

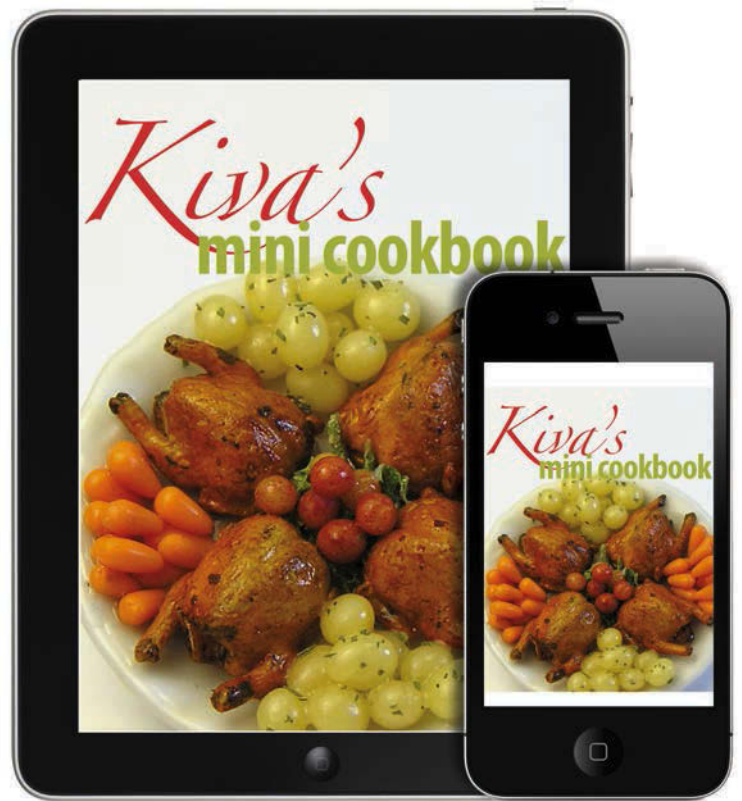
USA

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Chicago, IL **The Miniature Show: A Celebration of Artisans of Miniatures** will be held April 14-16 at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, 1800 E. Golf Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173. Thursday 3pm to 5pm (Preview), Friday 10am to 5pm, and Saturday 10am to 3pm. Website: www.theminiaureshow.com Email: theminiaureshow@yahoo.com Contact: Greg Madl, PO Box 187, West Olive, MI 49460.

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- Dolls in Miniature
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