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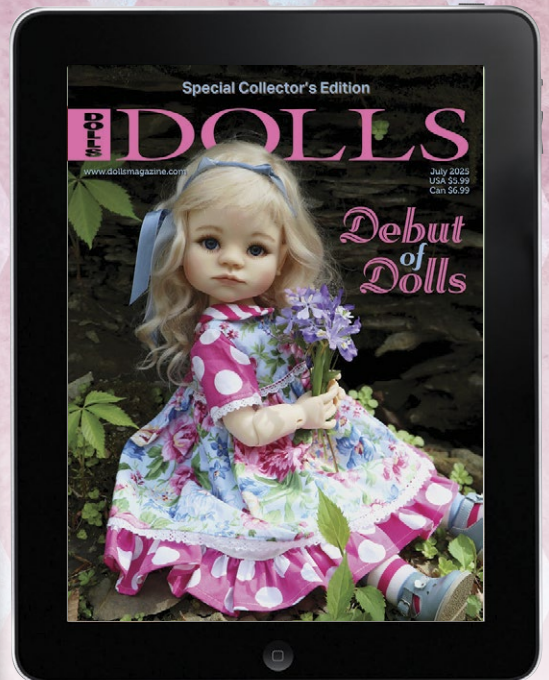
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On the Cover: Lunette is a sophisticated yet playful fashion from Andymy Designs. It is modeled on a Nu. Face doll from Integrity Toys, which also made the doll's shoes and jewelry. *Photo by Andrei Teican.*

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Publisher's Notebook



What Lies Ahead for 2026

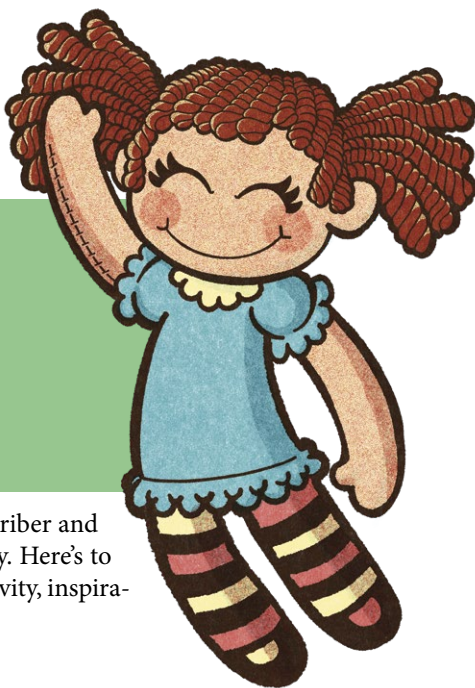
With 2026 looming just around the corner, it's fun to look ahead to what we can expect in the coming year.

The big question: What new dolls are you looking forward to seeing this coming year? Do you have a favorite maker who you are waiting to see launch their next creation?

At *DOLLS* magazine, we are looking ahead into 2026, too! At the beginning of the year, we are changing to six issues per year. This update will allow us to bring you even more thoughtfully curated content, beautiful photography, and in-depth features with each issue — ensuring that every edition of *DOLLS* is something truly special. We understand this is a change from our previous schedule, and we want to assure you that your continued support means the world to us.

Vote for your favorite name!

Our newest addition to *DOLLS* magazine has been playing hide-and-seek in each issue, and she needs a name. Will it be Annie, Coral, Maggie Mae, Pepper, or Tilly? You can help us decide! The deadline to vote is January 6. Find the ballot at dollsmagazine.com/foundit.



Thank you for being such a loyal subscriber and an essential part of the *DOLLS* community. Here's to a wonderful year ahead — filled with creativity, inspiration, and, of course, the dolls we adore.

Happy New Year!
Diana Jones
Owner/Publisher

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A Dream Becomes Reality



Elsje Wuyts Pursues Her Passion for Design

By Hannah Kelley

Life is a series of moments, with some inevitably being more consequential than others. For Elsje Wuyts, one such moment occurred 17 years ago. While searching online for a crochet pattern for an amigurumi panda, she happened to cross paths with a photo of a Blythe doll. Enthralled by her appearance, it wasn't long before Wuyts acquired her first of many Blythes and a clothing design journey commenced.

Today, Wuyts works full time as a kindergarten teacher in Antwerp, Belgium, where she lives with her partner and two teenage children. And in her spare time, she successfully manages Bliss & Bien — a side project she describes as her passion. The name was partially inspired by the first Blythe Wuyts purchased. She said, "I will never forget the excitement and thrill I felt while unboxing her. I decided to name her Bliss because that's what she felt like for me: pure bliss." (This doll's name was



Top: A doll customized by OneSweetyDoll explores nature in a pinafore set by Elsje Wuyts. Her hat and mushroom are by playfromyourheart.

Above: Bliss and Odine (customized by OneSweetyDoll) model outfits from Elsje Wuyts' The Quiet Meadow collection. The pinafores feature embroidered flowers. The hat is by playfromyourheart.



Above: OneSweetyDoll customized this Blythe, which is sitting patiently in Elsie Wuyts' studio.

Below: Elsie Wuyts' handmade dungarees with embroidered hearts are worn by dolls customized by HolaNora and OneSweetyDoll.



Above: A lined jacket adds variety to a wardrobe.



Left: This embroidered pinafore is part of the Soft Summer Breeze collection.



Below: The apron dress is one of Elsie Wuyts' classic designs.



later changed to Nell, but another Bliss eventually joined the collection.) As for Bien, Wuyts said it was her username when she started sharing Blythe photos and designs on Flickr and it doesn't have a particular meaning: "It's pronounced exactly the same as you pronounce the English word *bean*. Many think Bien actually comes from the French word *bien*, which means *good*, and since Belgium is bilingual French and Dutch, that could have been the case, too." It was the encouragement she received on Flickr that led her to open an Etsy store.

Blythe may have been the catalyst for Bliss & Bien's inception, but Wuyts has always been enamored with dolls and fashion. Growing up, she said, "I had lots of Barbie dolls I played with for hours on end. Dressing up was the main thing. I used to host little Barbie fashion shows, with my mum as the audience and her ironing board as the catwalk. But I also had many other dolls: Amanda Jane, Fleur, Sindy, and later on Strawberry Shortcake." At 16, Wuyts bought what she believed would be her last doll — a Crimp and Bead Sindy — but during her 20s, she found My Scene Barbies and Bratz dolls too irresistible and began collecting again.



Above from left: A tiny dress and pinafore are combined with a knitted wrap cardigan. • This Alice set is called Into the Rabbit Hole.

Left: Elsje Wuyts sewed the matching outfits worn by these three dolls. On the left is Wuyts' first Blythe, now called Nell; she was customized by caredollbykv. The BJD in the center is by JacooSun Studio, and the Qbaby doll on the right is by Lee Rodger. They are accompanied by a felted cat by Zolala Studio.

Below Left: Groovy Groove Blythe was the first one in Elsje Wuyts' collection. Originally named Bliss, she is now called Nell.

Wuyts said that during her high school years, she aspired to become a fashion designer. So, she learned to sew, design, and draft patterns. "I thought it would be a great preparation for the fashion academy that awaited me, but I was the eldest of five children and fashion school wasn't exactly cheap, so I decided to become a teacher instead," she said.

That early education has come in handy, though, and she has been able to watch her designs transform in rewarding ways. "In the beginning, my style was very retro," she said. "I used a lot of vintage fabrics, with big flower prints. I did A-line dresses featuring big, pointy collars, blouses combined with flared pants and berets — most of them breathed a flower power vibe. Of course, my style evolved a lot over the years. It became more romantic and whimsical, with ruffled collars and petticoats. I've done circus sets, fairy-tale collections, princesses, Alice in Wonderland, and I've designed little rag dolls who wear dresses and socks that match the bigger outfit they came along with.

"At the moment, my work resembles a childlike fantasy world inspired by Holly Hobby and Sarah Kay illustrations from the '70s. I've also recently started adding embroidery to pinafores and dungarees and always love the outcome of those creations. To me, embroidering feels like drawing and coloring on fabric, and it's so relaxing and mindful."

While she has some signature pieces, which are reproduced with different fabrics and receive occasional alterations, Wuyts enjoys the challenge of coming up with new looks. When considering the individual outfit components, she estimates she has produced more than a hundred unique designs. Dress and pinafore sets and lined jackets happen to be some of her favorites.



From left: A BJD, which was a collaboration between JacooSun Studio and VainillaDolly, stands in front of Elsje Wuyts' fabric display. She has on dungarees with a mushroom embroidered on the front. • Elsje Wuyts is pictured in the studio with one of her Blythes (customized by OneSweetyDoll). • Baby Alice, dressed in a baby doll set, holds a matching rag doll.



Above from left: This customized doll by StableHouse is trying on a work in progress. • A 1972 Kenner Blythe doll wears one of Elsje Wuyts' retro flower power designs.

The creative magic takes place in Wuyts' in-home studio, where she keeps her sewing supplies and dolls. Some fabrics are neatly stored in a paper organizer to provide inspiration, but she said there is an abundance of yarn and other materials packed into boxes and cupboards. She sources many of her fabrics from flea markets and thrift shops, and she makes good use of secondhand garments. "I think, in general, fabrics are what most inspire me — I can see a piece of fabric and immediately see what it could become on a doll's body," she said.

She also draws inspiration from the outdoors and said, "Many of my collections have names that reflect nature. My studio has a large window facing the garden and I live across from a lovely park, so although I live in the city, I truly feel connected with nature. And whenever I can, I try to take my dolls outside for a nature-themed photoshoot. I just feel there isn't a better formula for an inspiring doll shot — green and dolls always work!"

Wuyts has become quite skilled at photographing her tiny clothing designs and doll models. She shared, "Taking pictures in the park can sometimes result in funny anecdotes — children shouting, 'Look, she's got a little gnome' or grown-ups looking at you, thinking you're probably missing an edge. My colleagues at school, my friends, and family have all gotten so used to my doll activities that I sometimes forget that not everyone I come across is familiar with a grown-up woman carrying a doll and posing her under a tree or in a flower bed. But I've reached a stage where I just don't get bothered anymore. And if I could advise any beginner, I would only say don't ever feel embarrassed! And I would like to quote George Bernhard Shaw on that matter: 'We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.'"

Through social media, Wuyts is able to share photos and updates with those interested in her work, as well as stay connected with fellow doll enthusiasts and artists. Frequent platform updates can pose a challenge, though. She said, "As an artist, you want to be noticed, so in a way, you have to obey the algorithm. I did struggle when Instagram suddenly focused on reels more than on pictures. I had to learn to film and edit videos. And then Instagram decided to switch to rectangles in profile feeds, instead of squares. That meant goodbye to my neatly composed profile." It takes extra effort and can be frustrating at times, but Wuyts does what she can to adhere to the updates, and she believes some of them are positive.

In a world of constant change, Wuyts is determined to continue designing. "I don't think I'll ever get rid of this passion of mine — I sure don't intend to," she said. "The dolls and creating little outfits for them give me so much pleasure and joy in life, I honestly couldn't imagine my life without them. And I often feel so blessed to be able to do what I do, to have been gifted with a talent, to have a safe and rich life, where I can spend money on a luxury doll and her needs. I will never take that for granted! Sometimes, I sit in my studio, music on, dolls by my side, in front of my sewing machine, busy creating, and I get overwhelmed by all of that 'bliss,' feeling like the luckiest person on earth." 🌸

Bliss & Bien
Instagram: @blissandbien

Dolls Strengthen Bonds

A Family Comes Together To Make Vivi J Art Dolls a Success

By Hannah Kelley

Photos by Elisa Johnson

When one family member loves dolls, it's bound to rub off on others, and this can span multiple generations. That is certainly true for Elisa Johnson, who grew up surrounded by her mother's extensive antique doll collection and had dolls collected on her behalf before she was even born. Johnson recalls attending numerous doll shows as a child, and when she was 18, her mother launched a product line for the antique doll market. The whole family pitched in to bring the product to the doll community.

Right: Tempie, 13 inches, and her dog are ready for an adventure. Her dress is by Carol Pringle.



Above: Wearing a sweet dress by Tonja King, 13-inch Dasha poses with a panda bear.



Through these experiences, Johnson developed an appreciation for dolls as works of art, and when the opportunity presented itself, she seized the chance to create some of her own. She said, "At 19, my mother signed me up for a week-long sculpting (class) with a local doll artist. I completed a full sculpt during that week, and afterward, I sculpted several more heads. The face was always my favorite part to create. But then life happened — career, marriage, children — and my early work was carefully boxed up and stored away."

Johnson and her husband live about an hour from Seattle, in the foothills of the Cascade mountains. They have nine children between the ages of 7 and 22, and Johnson said, "Before motherhood, I worked as a credit manager for a finance company, but after the birth of our first daughter, we made the decision that I would leave the corporate world and focus on raising our family. Over the years, I explored various creative ventures from home, including a jewelry business and, for the past 15-plus years, a fabric and custom pillow business with my sister, Tonja King of Creations by Tonja." Busy raising children and managing a small business, Johnson's sculpting remained on hold, but she and her daughters carried on the collecting tradition.



Above from left: 13-inch Dasha in a dress by Tonja King, 16-inch Tempie and 13-inch Tempie in dresses by Tracy Mitropoulos, 19-inch Dasha in an outfit by Caroline Dodds, and 10-inch Tempie.

Right: (From left) 16-inch Dasha with a jacket by Elisa Johnson, 16-inch Tempie in a dress by Linda Dykman, 16-inch Fredric in clothes by Hideedoll, and 19-inch Tempie with a coat by Donna May.

Life for the Johnson family shifted abruptly on December 1, 2019: “We experienced a devastating house fire and lost many sentimental things — including my daughters’ cherished Betsy McCall and Mary Engelbreit dolls by Robert Tonner. They were treasured pieces that we had collected over the years, and it felt like a deep personal loss.

“Shortly after, I saw an estate sale listing that featured some dolls similar to the ones we’d lost. My sister Tonja lived nearby, and I asked her to go and see if she could purchase a few. She agreed — and while she was there, something unexpected happened. She discovered a Little Darling doll that she fell in love with and bought for herself. That moment was a spark for her, and soon she was deep into the world of customizing doll wigs.”

Four years later, King signed up to have a booth at the 2024 Modern Doll Collectors Convention, and she invited Johnson to





join her. "At the show, I met so many incredible people, and my booth just happened to be next to Jacob of Blank Space Dolls. He introduced me to the world of 3D-printed artist dolls — and I was instantly hooked," Johnson said.

Upon returning home, Johnson let her creativity flow as she sculpted new dolls from clay. She figured out how to make 3D scans, and with the help of King, she was able to convert these into print-ready digital files. Johnson's 20-year-old son stepped in to set up a resin printer and taught Johnson how to use it. Her first 3D-printed doll was completed five weeks before the 2024 Ball-Jointed Doll Convention.

While Johnson completes most of the doll-making tasks — including sculpting the dolls by hand, creating the digital files, printing the parts, and completing each face-up — her family has provided much-needed support. In addition to tolerating the common areas of their home being overtaken by dollmaking supplies while they await the completion of a craft shed, she said, "A couple of my adult children work for me, helping with the sanding and prep of the doll parts so I can focus more on the creative aspects like painting and assembly. Their help has been invaluable as the business has grown." Johnson shared that her

Above from left: Hideedoll created 16-inch Fredric's antique-style outfit, and his monkey toy was handmade by Tonya Mayhue. Johnson said, "My Fredric sculpt holds a special place in my heart, as there are fewer boy dolls out there, and I love styling him alongside his 'sisters' Dasha and Tempie." • Nineteen-inch Dasha, in an outfit by Caroline Dodds, holds 10-inch Tempie on her lap.

Left: Sixteen-inch Tempie looks precious in a garment by Linda Dykman.

Below: The jacket made by Elisa Johnson complements 16-inch Dasha's sweet features.





Above from left: Donna May made the coat modeled by 19-inch Tempie. • Elisa Johnson made the antique-style dress and jacket worn by 16-inch Dasha.

11-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter have been sculpting companion characters of their own, which will be introduced in 2026. And King, of course, creates natural-fiber wigs for the dolls.

The business name Johnson chose reflects the value she places on family: “The name Vivi J Art Dolls is deeply personal. ‘Vivi’ comes from my beloved grandmother, Vivian — also my middle name — and ‘J’ stands for Johnson, my family name. The name reflects both my heritage and the heart I put into every creation.”

Inspired by everyday life and children, Johnson said, “My dolls are rooted in realism and expressiveness. I love creating faces with depth, warmth, and a gentle spirit — dolls that evoke a simpler life in the country, with classic styling and relaxed playability. I want collectors to feel joy,

nostalgia, and connection when they hold one of my dolls, as if reawakening the childhood joy of nurturing a beloved baby doll.”

Johnson’s in-progress collection is representative of the nine fruits of the Spirit. She has completed three so far — Dasha (goodness), Tempie (self-control), and Fredric (peace) — and three more are in the final stages of production. The new dolls will be released over the next year.

She said, “It’s been both humbling and thrilling to see collectors embrace my work. The doll world has welcomed me warmly, and I’m excited for what’s to come. I continue to collaborate with incredibly talented seamstresses and designers to dress and accessorize my dolls just right. I’m here to create art that brings joy, tells a story, and captures the sweet innocence of childhood. I can’t wait to share more of that with the doll world.” 🍷



Left: Fredric, 13 inches, has on overalls by Tracy Mitropoulos. The dresses worn by 16-inch Tempie and 19-inch Dasha were made by Linda Dykman.

Vivi J Art Dolls
Facebook: Vivi J Art Dolls

All in for Glamour

Ali's Clothing Embodies Beauty, Reality, and Pop Culture

By Stephanie Finnegan

Photos by Uptown Couture

Fashion is a fabulous arena. Customers feel as if they know the designers who dream up their latest ensembles. In fact, there is such a personal connection between the couturier and the client that a single name often suffices. Think Halston, Mackie, Dior, and Versace.

In the doll world, it is the same one-on-one meeting of minds. That's why Uptown Couture's man behind the brand is known simply as Ali. The Britain-based doll costumer lets his clothing speak for his intentions, his aspirations, and his manifestations. Absolutely, his glamorous array of garbs has a lot to say.

"My company's name, Uptown Couture, was initially inspired by uptown fashion. Gradually, I merged casual fashion with couture to showcase that I can work across both styles, rather than focusing on just one area," Ali revealed.



Above: Ali sees Enchanted Evening as the go-to outfit for a memorable and marvelous date night. The handmade emerald-green ensemble includes a puffer jacket and a short dress bedecked with sequins and lace. A charming bow is placed on the minidress's side.

Left: Country Club Cool is a handmade outfit that embodies sophistication and chic charm. Handmade gray trousers and a vibrant floral shirt are joined by a V-neck cricket sweater with white and red ribbing.

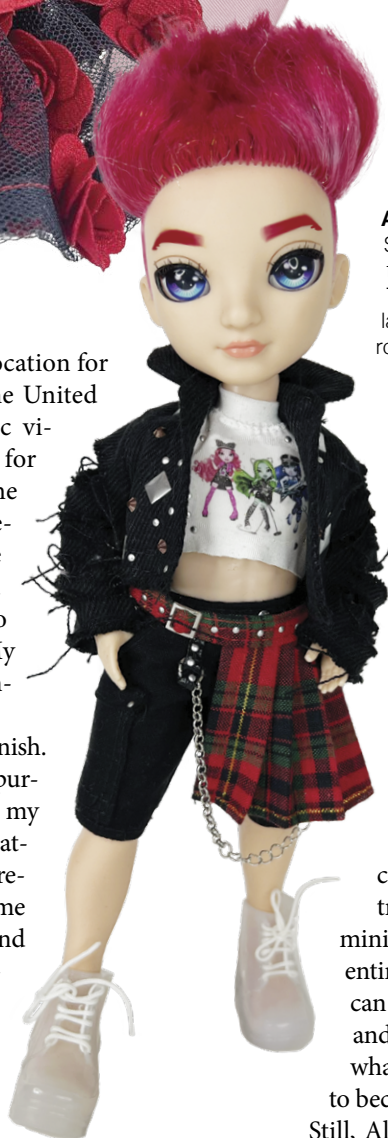


Above from left: The handmade Roses & Skulls gown radiates glamour. The formal attire features a red satin bodice and a tiered skirt. The bottom hem is finished with a black overlay mesh decorated with handmade red felt roses. Black lace gloves add the final finesse.

- Pink Beau combines whimsy and the wow factor. The handmade costume boasts a pink satin bow with a white satin dress.

Dreaming up wardrobes for dolls is not a new vocation for the South East London resident. Growing up in the United Kingdom, his family was supportive of his artistic visions, including his passion for drawing and then for making clothes. Ali said, “I first began sewing at the age of nine. I would play with my cousin — who remains my best friend to this day — and while we played, I would hand-sew the outfits for the dolls. When I was older, my grandmother allowed me to use her sewing machine to create the garments. My mother and auntie were also instrumental in teaching me new sewing skills.”

As he matured, Ali’s passion for fashion did not vanish. Rather, he was determined to hone his craft and to pursue it professionally: “I did attend college to expand my knowledge in fashion, focusing on trend predictions, pattern cutting, and sampling. I have worked in fashion retail and have been in the fashion industry for quite some time now. Initially I started creating clothes for men and women, but it didn’t work out as people weren’t willing to pay for bespoke designs. I then moved to children’s wear, which started brilliantly, but then again, handmade dresses proved too expensive for most customers. Before transitioning to dolls, I took some time away from creating and focused on fashion illustration and collection design.”



Left: Tartan Terror is a handmade look that features a ripped black denim jacket embellished with silver studs. It is paired with a plaid red tartan minikilt. The outfit is grounded by black shorts, a studded belt, and a graphic-themed white crop top.

Channeling his childhood fascination with doll-size costuming, Ali has had his own shop since 2021 — he started on Etsy and then switched to his own website in November 2024. “I’ve been sharing my designs and selling my clothes via my website,” he said. “I have learned new construction techniques and developed tremendous patience when working with miniatures. My inspiration continues to come entirely from within. When I feel inspired, I can spend hours developing new collections and concepts. I try not to focus too heavily on what’s already out there. I don’t want my work to become a copy-and-paste exercise.”

Still, Ali is aware of what doll aficionados fancy and what runways around the world spotlight. His



range of designs is modern, chic, and totally relatable. “Occasionally I’ll browse Pinterest for specific trends for collections I’m releasing, or I’ll look at luxury fashion houses for emerging trends. I’ll take some of their silhouettes and adapt them to doll size. I always make sure to note where my collections draw their inspiration from.”

Ali’s mind is always buzzing with new looks and new combinations. His creativity is constantly percolating, and he said, “I don’t limit myself to one aesthetic. I love being able to experiment with new styles and shapes. This gives collectors various options to choose from. I always strive to provide them with quality pieces at affordable prices. All my clothes are released in limited quantities due to fabric constraints. Since I use upcycled fabrics, I don’t always have enough material for multiple pieces. I also prefer quality over quantity. Making multiple versions of the same look can become quite tedious. I tend to lose interest in repeating the same design. That said, if something proves popular from a previous collection, I’ll bring it back in a future drop to give people another chance to purchase it or for anyone who missed out previously.”

Clockwise from upper left: Gothic Kiss is dramatic and awe-inspiring. The gown is handmade and features a voluminous skirt of tiered, ruffled black rosettes, which is complemented by a sleek black bodice adorned with a subtle polka-dotted pattern. An ornate feathered black mask and oversized puffy white satin sleeves add to the mesmerizing allure. • The Feathered Vixen ensemble boasts a satin hot-pink bubble skirt and a tailored black velvet bow with gold embroidery. The handmade outfit is combined with fishnet stockings and a multicolored feather-and-sequin mask worn over a pink fringe hairstyle. • Yang is a handmade ensemble that defines a crisp, clean look. The all-white clothing includes cargo pants and a biker jacket. It also comes with a hoodie sweater. • Ali’s handmade Plaid Perfection outfit features a plaid pantsuit with a cropped white top. The jacket spotlights a striking black-and-red plaid pattern. The doll’s pants mirror the jacket’s trendy design. A distinctive gold buckle belt epitomizes the outfit’s elegance.



Left: Think pink! Rose Quartz is a pink handmade baby-doll dress that pairs well with Ali's short faux fur coat.



Right: Lemon Hacienda evokes an evening of tropical splendor. The handmade outfit showcases a white top with pirate sleeves and a layered Spanish-style skirt with a bold lemon print.

Below: Ali was inspired by Paris Hilton's Y2K fashion when he designed Studio 54 Bday. This handmade attire features a stylish top and a ruffled skirt with rose embellishments.

At the present moment, Ali's eye is zeroed in on Rainbow High dolls, which are his favorite models and muses. However, he has plans to expand his talent to include other dolls, such as Bratz, Barbie, Integrity, and Draculaura. "I mention Draculaura specifically because she's the only Monster High doll I own. I'd love to create more looks for her. It would give people more options and it would be great fun to feature more dolls on the website," he said.

Currently, the dolls on Ali's site represent both male and female choices. The clothing manages to be simultaneously whimsical and realistic: "The men's clothes are quite understated compared to what I actually design for men. I'd love to be more adventurous, and plan to do so in the future. I dress quite preppy, and I can see myself wearing many of the pieces I've designed for the boys. My husband is also an inspiration. For the female dolls, it's very much an 'if I were a girl, this is what I would wear' sort of approach."



With his ears listening to customer reactions, and his eyes looking toward future possibilities, Ali is never at a loss for brand-new ideas and directions. His to-do list is always brimming with plans to tackle. "Now that we've entered the winter season, there will be more coats and layered pieces! I'm also planning to work on a collection inspired by Disney characters. The collectors I communicate with tend to inspire one another by sharing feedback and tips for future designs. I've completed multiple collaborations with several of them and plan to do many more in the future. Now I don't create many accessories for the dolls — my focus is purely on clothing. I have made some bags for two of my collections, but I believe clothing is my strongest suit. I would love to create fabric shoes in the future. I just need to work out the right adhesive and find the proper shoe mold to make this happen."

His loyal following can't wait to see where he leads them next! 🌟



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PUBLIC'S CHOICE AND THE WINNER IS...



More than 600 votes were cast to decide this year's Public's Choice winners in the *DOLLS* Awards of Excellence competition. We'd like to thank everyone who took the time to vote and all of the talented artists who entered their creations in our 2025 competition. Congratulations to this year's Public's Choice winners and our 2025 Artist of the Year!

STANDARD CATEGORIES

Baby Doll



Ady,
Miroslava Brodlova

Child Doll



Charlotte,
Kaye Wiggs

Teen/Adult Doll



Princess Alena,
Zofia and Henry Zawieruszynski

Fantasy Doll



Malina,
Zofia and Henry Zawieruszynski

OOAK Baby Doll



Gumdrops,
Gregg Ortiz

OOAK Child/ Teen Doll



Play Tyme,
Gregg Ortiz

OOAK Fantasy Doll



Treat Time,
Linda Zalme

SPECIAL CATEGORIES

Reborn Doll/ Silicone Kit



Luna,
Stacey Haskins

Doll Repaint/Face-Up



Alice,
April Norton

Doll Fashion



Vahalani (Hawaiian Sunset),
Kathleen Hill

ARTIST OF THE YEAR



Miroslava Brodlova



ARTISTS: GET READY TO ENTER STARTING JANUARY 5

The *DOLLS* Awards of Excellence (DAE) competition recognizes and encourages excellence in the design and creation of dolls. Photos of all entries are reviewed and rated by professionals within the doll industry, who evaluate each submission on overall aesthetic appeal; excellence in concept, design, and execution; quality of materials; and workmanship.

The highest-scoring creations in each category receive the DAE Industry's Choice awards. These winning creations, along with other entrants' top-rated submissions in each category, become the nominees for the Public's Choice awards. *DOLLS* readers vote for their favorite nominee in each category to determine the Public's Choice winners. Get ready to show the doll world your talent by entering our 2026 competition!

2026 Rules & Definitions

For the purposes of this contest, dolls are defined as jointed or unjointed playthings or collectibles, produced from any materials, in a human image (anthropomorphic designs may be entered in one of the Fantasy categories). The awards are divided into eight Standard Categories and three Special Categories (defined below).

Eligibility: All entries for the 2026 DAEs must have been first introduced on or after January 1, 2025, and must not have been entered in past DAE competitions. Dolls introduced and made available for sale in 2025 or 2026 that have already been sold are eligible to enter.

Standard Categories

Entries in categories 1-8 must be designed and completed by the submitting artist or manufacturer, from original sculpt to finished doll. Collaborations are permitted, provided contributing artists are credited, but dolls made from kits designed by another

artist or altered versions of an existing doll by another artist or company must be entered in the appropriate Special Category.

Categories 1-4 are open to dolls reproduced in open or limited editions. This includes individual dolls whose bodies have been reproduced in any medium and that have then been costumed and finished uniquely, as well as dolls released with minor variations, such as ball-jointed dolls (BJDs) sold with a random wig or pair of eyes.

Categories 5-8 are open to one-of-a-kind (OOAK) dolls. Each entry in these categories must have an original, unique sculpt that has not been reproduced, along with a unique costume and finishing details.

Special Categories

Dolls entered in the Reborn Doll/Silicone Kit or Repaint/Face-Up categories can be made from kits or molds or by altering an existing doll. The original artist/manufacturer of the doll, mold, or kit must be named in the Additional Credits portion of the entry form.

Dolls used to model entries in the Doll Fashion category should likewise be properly credited. Fashion entries must have been offered for sale separately from a doll released by an artist or manufacturer or have been created by a third-party artist or designer.

How To Enter

Beginning January 5, 2026, go to dollsmagazine.com/dae — this will take you to the complete rules for the competition. Once you've read the full rules, click on the entry link at the bottom of the page. The deadline for entering the 2026 awards competition is April 2, 2026.

Key Dates

Jan. 5-April 2: *DOLLS* magazine will be accepting entries in the 2026 *DOLLS* Awards of Excellence competition.

June 18: Industry's Choice winners will be announced in an on-line presentation.

Late August: Public's Choice nominees and a ballot will appear in the *DOLLS* September/October 2026 issue.

Oct. 16: This is the deadline for the Public's Choice voting.

Late December: Public's Choice winners will be announced in the *DOLLS* January/February 2027 issue.



Standard Categories

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Fantasy Doll | 5. OOAK Fantasy Doll |
| 2. Baby Doll | 6. OOAK Baby Doll |
| 3. Child Doll | 7. OOAK Child Doll |
| 4. Teen/Adult Doll | 8. OOAK Teen/Adult Doll |

Special Categories

9. Reborn Doll/Silicone Kit
10. Doll Repaint/Face-Up
11. Doll Fashion

From Canvas to Clay

Zorica Lazic Brings Her Artistic Talents to the Doll Realm

By Hannah Kelley

Photos by Zorica Lazic

Serbian artist Zorica Lazic has been immersed in the art world for much of her life. Growing up, she could often be found studying the anatomy and movement of animals and then translating what she saw to paper. With time, the human form was incorporated into her growing portfolio.

Clearly gifted at drawing and painting, Lazic opted to pursue an education in art to further develop her skills. However, sculpting was not specifically part of the school curriculum. Curious about it, Lazic created a full-body miniature human figure on her own, but the process did not motivate her enough creatively to want to pursue it. In general, dollmaking is not common in Serbia, so Lazic did not become aware of this art form's potential until years later.



Above: Pink Fairy (2024) is all about the color pink.



Middle: Lady on the Beach (2025) depicts classic glamour.



Left: Love Forever (2024) evokes images of 18th century love and romance.

About 12 years ago, she happened across one-of-a-kind art dolls while browsing on DeviantArt, which is a platform where artists can share images of their work. Lazic said these dolls fascinated her — so much so that she sought out tutorials and the help of a Croatian friend to learn how to make her own. She has been sculpting art dolls for nine years now and said, “Each tiny step forward, every new skill I learn, is joyful and exciting for me.”



Above from left: The appearance of Billy (2023) was partially influenced by the color blue. • Forest Fairy (2023) incorporates elements of nature.

Left: Dragon Elf (2022) holds a sculpted companion in her hands.

Lazic's creative process varies, but more often than not, she plans a character's full look up front rather than letting it develop as she works. She said it usually begins with an idea for the face, which "tells me if it wants to be a fairy, mermaid, elf, or something else." The rest of the details come to her naturally from there. Other times, she takes the opposite approach, deciding first what type of character she wants to make and then determining which features are suitable. The direction she chooses can be influenced by her mood and current inspiration, which also factor into whether she will focus on one doll or a few at a given time.

Her experience studying faces and human anatomy has helped Lazic achieve the level of realism she strives for in her work, while her imagination allows her to tie in fantasy elements. Browsing art websites like DeviantArt provides her with ideas and feelings that she then uses to form her own characters. To keep the inspiration flowing, Lazic said she watches movies and television shows spanning a variety of genres, both in her spare time and while she works, "because everything begins with human faces and anatomy for me, and studying those two through movies is fun and inspiring."

Polymer clay is her medium of choice, and Lazic said she has noticed an improvement in her skills over the years and is proud of how well she can capture the human form. However, she noted that sculpting the head and face is her least favorite part of the dollmaking process. The bare clay can take on an alien-like appearance, and she said, "I always wonder, 'How am I going to make something beauti-



ful out of this mess?” That question is put to rest once the paint comes out and color starts to be added to the face and body. Lazic most looks forward to this stage because she can see her original vision come to life before her eyes.

Above from left: A serene expression and curly locks stand out on Spring Fairy (2022). • Autumn Fairy (2020) ties in the rich colors of fall.

Left: Mermaid and nature themes were combined to produce Bella (2023).



Left: Zorica Lazic said White Deer was inspired by nature and the spirit of tribal people. The doll was completed in 2021.

Right: Zorica Lazic created Chrystal Mermaid in 2022.





Once painted, clothes and accessories are added. Lazic makes most of these herself. She also styles each doll's hair, making sure it suits the doll's overall look and personality.

Because of the endless possibilities that come with her tendency to combine themes like fantasy and realism, Lazic's dolls can take on a range of styles. That said, she would like to experiment more with her dollmaking and has expressed an interest in sculpting creature dolls and sci-fi characters in the future. She also wants to do more with textures and fabrics. Additionally, Lazic is eager to try her hand at making ball-jointed art dolls. Ultimately, she said her goal is to make "people feel magic when looking at my creations, and feel like that magic is coming to life, like some kind of tangible magic."

Trying to sustain a career in any artistic field can be difficult, but Lazic compares art to a lifeline in the river of life, and she is determined to hang on to it even when the going gets tough. She said the most significant obstacle for artists is finding a place in the world and keeping it. Hers is in the doll community, and she has the stubbornness and determination to face any challenges that might come her way. "As a doll artist, I still have so much to try and do," Lazic said, adding she thinks "one life is not enough for trying it all, but I hope to achieve my full potential as a doll artist, wherever it may lead me!" 🌟

Above from left:
Princess Elf (2020) is the picture of poise. • Doll artist Zorica Lazic.
• Moth Fairy (2021) incorporates understated colors.

Left: Summer Bliss, created in 2022, draws upon female beauty and old Hollywood glamour.

**Dreamy Angels Ooak Doll
Sculptures by Zorica Lazic**
facebook.com/zorica.lazic.370



Chance or Destiny

The Carvers Handcraft Wooden Dolls

By Melanie Luther

Charles Stuart Carver first dipped his toe into the art of wooden dolls when a friend asked for help with the restoration of a Grödnertal doll. After extensive research into a variety of methods and techniques, Charles successfully completed the much-needed repairs and painted the doll's face and hair, thereby reviving her old-world charm.

Originally trained in porcelain and bisque doll restoration, Charles took a leap into his own wooden doll artistry at the behest of his wife, Alicia. She has been involved in the doll industry for more than 20 years as an antique doll dealer and member of the United Federation of Doll Clubs.

Alicia retells this anecdote about the beginning of their artistic journey into wooden re-creations: "I had been asking Charlie to make me a wooden doll for years, as he is a talented and lifelong enthusiastic wood hobbyist. After seeing the restored Grödnertal, the idea was born. He could carve and re-create 19th century Grödnertals, as there were not many wooden artists re-creating dolls from this era. My mind was turning and I poured over examples I found in catalogs and on the internet to come up with the ideal one — Queen Victoria's dolls."

Above: Monsieur Musard, Leontyne Heberle, and Maria Taglioni costumed as a fairy ballerina are centrally positioned in the upper level of the dollhouse.

Right: Many of the Carvers' wooden dolls are displayed in this Queen Victoria-inspired dollhouse.





“I am humbled by the enthusiastic response with which collectors in the doll community have greeted our work.”

— Charles Carver

After further study, the Carvers learned that Queen Victoria genuinely loved her doll collection, especially her small wooden dolls, because she could change their clothing and move them about in her dollhouse. This supported the couple's original thoughts about which dolls to make and inspired the Queen Victoria series of Carver wooden dolls. Lady Gertrude and Sir William Arnold were selected as the first pair of dolls to be re-created.

Charles began carving, and a year later, the prototypes were ready. It was an arduous process that required careful attention, as each doll was composed of nine separate pieces with eight joints that had to be carved to fit together perfectly. The body and legs were crafted from locally sourced wood, while the arm joints were constructed from hard maple for durability. The dolls were painted by hand and signed by Charles.

Left from top: Alicia and Charles Carver stand in front of a display of their dolls. • The first pair of dolls carved were the Arnolds — Lady Gertrude and Sir William. • Congregating in the dollhouse kitchen are Miss Arnold, housekeeper Martha, and two sweet children.

Below: The Austen series features 12-inch figures. They are based on characters from the classic Jane Austen books. Shown here are (from left) Mr. George Knightley, Ms. Elizabeth (Lizzy) Bennet, Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy, and Emma.





Alicia, who often consults with Charles during the dollmaking process and has been known to whisper in his ear from time to time to “tweak” a facial expression, took on the responsibility of making the dolls’ authentic reproduction fashions. She searched for fabrics that were correct for the period and managed to find several selections in her personal textile stash and shops in Miami that specialized in imported fabrics. Then she set to work.

Of course, once the dolls were dressed, they needed to be properly displayed. Charles and Alicia turned their attention to designing, building, and furnishing a Queen Victoria-inspired dollhouse for them.

Eager to meet the UFDC Convention deadline, the Carvers decided to add more hands to their doll workshop in Florida. In their own words, Alicia and Charles expressed their appreciation to all of their “helpers,” who were “friends and family without whose support we could not have accomplished this.” At the 2021 convention, which took place in Baltimore, Maryland, the Carvers’ wooden doll creations came to life! A limited edition of 50 pairs of Lady Gertrude and Sir William Arnold were brought to market, and collectors embraced them. Each doll came in an excelsior-filled decorated box with a laser-engraved certificate of authenticity.

While the Carvers continued to produce dolls for the Queen Victoria-inspired series, they also developed a series based on characters from Jane Austen’s novels. Having been an English teacher, Alicia was intrigued by the Regency era and the costumes, hats, and accessories that could be made for the series. It’s a period not frequently addressed by doll artists. At 12 inches, Emma is one of Alicia’s favorites. The doll is carved in the early Gröndnertal manner, with a slender, elongated body and delicate hands; she dons a tuck comb and drop-bead earrings. Other dolls in the Austen series include Mr. George Knightley, Ms. Elizabeth (Lizzy) Bennet, and Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy. Future releases will include Austen heroines like Fanny and Eleanor. Alicia’s talented friend Val Hays designed Regency era patterns and sewed dresses for the collection, and Alicia offers some patterns and ready-made outfits of her own. She has even designed and fabricated some hats herself.

Above from left: The Carvers offer fashions, sewing patterns, and other accessories for their 12-inch dolls. • The Countess of Leicester is displayed in her specially constructed box for travel. • The Earl of Leicester is packaged for the journey to his next destination.

Below: Alice, the Countess of Rothesay, holds her twins in her arms.





Above: Popular with collectors, the children of Lady Pulteney are pictured in natural fiber frocks.

Below from left: Grace, an 18-inch replica of an Oberammergau doll, is incredibly challenging to craft due to her ball-jointed body. • This stovepipe bonnet and straw hat are carefully constructed and can be worn by dolls in the Austen series.



A more recent addition to the workshop is Grace, an 18-inch early Oberammergau replica. She is carved from solid wood and displays fully articulating ball joints in the shoulders, elbows, hips, and knees. Painted by hand and completed with an antique-colored wax finish, Grace wears a Regency era dress made of historical printed cotton fabric that follows the post-French Revolution style.

The Carvers have brought limited editions of hand-carved and hand-painted wooden dolls to several UFDC Conventions, including Leontyne, Miss Unity, and Dolly. Collectors are now anxiously awaiting the arrival of Josephine and Napoleon, which are planned for the 2026 UFDC Convention.

In addition to the unique and exceptional edition underway, Alicia and Charles continue to expand their offerings as collectors demand more. Currently, they are toying with the idea of adding a re-creation of Hitty to their wooden doll repertoire. Collectors can find the Carvers' wooden doll creations at various doll and miniature shows, as well as on their website. 🌐



Carver Wooden Recreations
thedollcarvers.com

Guided by Fate

The Inevitable Creation of Andymy Designs

By Hannah Kelley
Photos by Andrei Teican



Life offers an infinite number of paths to travel. Some lead directly to a set destination, while others don't. Without a map, one must rely on personal judgment and others' directions. Andrei Teican, better known as Andymy, was met with many forks in the road, but they eventually converged and led him to the doll community, where he has since established himself as a fashion designer.

Andymy officially launched his doll clothing business, Andymy Designs, in 2019, following a series of detours. Although he'd mulled over the idea of becoming a fashion designer as a teenager, his parents convinced him to pursue something more practical instead. He therefore spent more than five years studying architecture, resorting to sketching clothes in his free time.

"Eventually, I realized that buildings just weren't my thing — unless they were doll-sized! So, I dropped out and decided to prepare myself for fashion. But life had other plans for me," he said.

Above: In spring of 2025, Good at Greeting made its debut. The stunning polka-dot dress is worn by a Nu. Face doll, which has been styled with shoes, a hat, and jewelry made by Integrity Toys.

Left: Goddess (2024) was created specifically for Integrity Toys' fashion design competition. It is modeled by an FR2 doll and styled with shoes, a crown, and some jewelry by Integrity Toys.



“For a while, I worked part time in installation design — thermal, sanitary, and electrical systems — not glamorous, but definitely fun. My mind could easily visualize the 3D result, even though I was working in 2D. Then the financial crisis hit, and I lost my job. I moved back to my hometown in 2010.

“I suddenly found myself taking an unplanned sabbatical year to figure out what to do next. During that time, I discovered the doll community — collectors and designers creating clothing for dolls — and something instantly clicked. *This is what I want to do*, I thought: design garments for dolls.” Andymy had been drawn to dolls since early childhood, viewing them as “small but beautiful reflections of beauty and expression,” and once he realized there was a place where he could combine his genuine interests, his path forward became clearer.

He began watching YouTube tutorials and was able to pick up some of the essential skills required of a designer. “Around the same time,” he said, “I worked as a digital artist for a small advertising company, creating posters and calendars. That experience taught me a lot about color, composition, and presentation — skills that later translated beautifully into my fashion work and that I still use today.”

Above from left: A doll with the Integrity Toys Homme body shows off his three-piece Sunny Side of the Street outfit from 2024. • September 2025 saw the release of Midnight Directive and Phantom Gala, which were designed for Silkstone Barbie.

Left: Jewelry from Integrity Toys adds to the elegant look of Umphetho, a black dress from 2022.

Below: Romanian designer Andrei Teican is known in the doll community as Andymy.





it would look bulky and out of proportion. You have to improvise and adapt. After 15 years of doing this, I actually find doll fashion easier than human fashion — it demands precision and patience, but at least my clients don't complain about fit!"

Not only that, but members of the doll community have been extremely supportive of his work, even when others in his life were more pessimistic. This support is what gave Andymy the boost of confidence he needed to open his business. Explaining how the name came about, he said, "Andymy Designs is derived from my nickname, 'Andy,' and it actually started as a small play on words when I created my first email address — and it just stuck — ANDYMY. Over time, it became more than just a name; it became my identity as a designer."

In any profession, there can be obstacles and uncertainties, and these are often magnified when working independently. Andymy said, "Running a one-person business means doing everything — designing, sewing, marketing, managing clients, shipping orders, and somehow finding time to sleep. Along the way, I've faced lost packages, creative slumps, financial struggles, and even bouts of depression. And yes... probably more coffee than any one person should ever drink. There were moments when it felt overwhelming, and I questioned whether I could

Left: The Interrogator, worn by Silkstone Barbie, was released in October 2025 and consists of a sleek pencil skirt, bralette, and a fully lined coat.

Below: Wearing shoes and jewelry by Integrity Toys, this Nu. Face doll is ready to dance in the beautiful Tritone dress from 2022.

He went on to work in a garment factory, where he became well acquainted with the clothing production process from start to finish, including budgeting, patternmaking, sewing, and marketing. Andymy also learned about the properties of different fabrics. "That hands-on experience became the foundation of my craft. Later, I returned to school and formally studied textile and garment design. After so many years in the field, the theory finally clicked, and everything made sense," he said. "Now, designing for dolls feels like second nature — a mix of art and engineering."

While it might seem simple enough to design for dolls after learning how to make clothes for people, Andymy can attest that there are some key differences: "The artistic process — the storytelling through fashion — remains the same. The technical side is a different ball game. You can't just shrink a human pattern and call it a day. Fabrics behave differently at that scale and proportions are different, so construction must be reinvented and details must be adapted for scale. For example, a doll-sized winter coat can't be made from real wool coating —





Left: Black Bleached (2022), worn by a Nu. Face doll with Integrity Toys accessories, consists of a jumpsuit layered with a dress.

Center: A Paraggi is a production garment Andymy created for the Anouk doll. It was a collaboration with Nav Sikand.

Below: Short n Sweet (2025) dresses are modeled by two Nu. Face dolls. The limited-edition designs are paired with jewelry by Integrity Toys.

New collections are always in progress, and Andymy finds joy in pushing his creative and technical limits. The results are shared on his website and Instagram page (@andymydesigns), and he sends out newsletters. At the moment, most of his designs are made to fit Integrity Toys' Nu. Face dolls, but he has been creating for Silkstone Barbie as well. "I'm also exploring new ways to make my collections feel like complete worlds, not just clothes," he said, mentioning he would be thrilled to have his own line of dolls in the future.

Andymy said, "Turning a childhood passion into a sustainable business is my proudest achievement. It's still surreal knowing that collectors worldwide appreciate and cherish my designs, and that my work has made an impact; it brings me immense joy." He added, "To everyone who's supported me — *thank you!* You've turned my dream into something real, and that's the best kind of magic there is." 🌟

keep going. But my love for what I do has always pulled me through. Every challenge, no matter how discouraging at the time, has taught me resilience, patience, and the value of persistence. Looking back, even the hardest moments have shaped me into the designer I am today — and made me appreciate the little victories even more."

Motivated by the creative process and ongoing community support, Andymy conveys his commitment to quality, precision, and storytelling through every design he produces. He said, "Each collection starts with a spark — a mood, a color, a theme that captures my imagination, or even just a scrap of fabric. The hardest part is always editing myself. I can have 20 ideas at once, or sometimes just one that completely takes over my focus. Over time, I've learned that simplicity can often say more than an overly complex design. For me, it's all about finding that perfect visual harmony."

Asked to describe his design style, Andymy said it is "versatile and emotion-driven. It can shift from clean, minimal looks to bolder, experimental designs depending on inspiration — whether from a fabric, a vintage piece, or a contemporary trend. But no matter the style, it always comes down to the details. The tiny stitches, the miniature buttons, the story behind each garment — those are what bring a design to life."



Andymy Designs

andymydesigns.com



Adelaide by Alana Woods

To reborn the 18-inch doll kit sculpted by Samantha L. Gregory, Woods used outdoor matte varnish, Golden air-dry paints, Golden matte gel medium, Emily Elliot's nail powder set, glass beads, Poly-fil, glue, gloss by Golden, a magnet, and dark brown curly yearling mohair. The doll has skin texture. (Photo by Alana Woods)



Luzia by Maria Tereza Cravo Panichi (left)

A limited edition of one, the artist said this posable 29-inch doll has a feminine personality and aesthetic, and she was "created to represent a strong and determined woman." She is made of cotton and voile fabrics, wires, silicone fiber, and plastic beads, and she has synthetic hair. (instagram.com/mtarteemtecidos, terezapanichi@terra.com.br, Photo by Gabriel Sparrenberger of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil)



Aliette by Kathleen Hill (left)

Standing 22 inches tall, this doll has pale green eyes; a platinum and auburn synthetic mohair wig; and a porcelain head, breastplate, and limbs attached to a wired cloth body. She wears an Edwardian-style tea gown that is shades of black and fuchsia with green accents. The outfit includes lace-trimmed silk pantaloons; a lined silk charmeuse skirt with an embroidered silk front; a ribbon-trimmed camisole; and a silk charmeuse-lined peignoir with black Chantilly lace. The bishop sleeves are embellished with hand-dyed English cotton lace trim. A choker necklace, earrings, cameo jewelry, and hair accessories polish off the look. (kathleenhillstudio.com, brynhk@gmail.com, Photo by Kathleen Hill)



Christabel by Brenda Mize (above)

Created using a Little Darling sculpt by Dianna Effner, this 11-inch porcelain doll was painted entirely by hand. She has light green eyes, golden blond hair, soft blushing, and delicate features. Her luxurious burgundy and gold brocade holiday dress is paired with a white faux-fur stole fastened with a sparkling vintage-style brooch. A satin hair ribbon, a bracelet, and black dress shoes with lacy socks complete her festive ensemble. A red velvet Christmas stocking with a miniature teddy bear hangs from her wrist. (brendamizedolls.com, brenda@brendamizedolls.com, 512-552-0787)



Contessa Valentina by William Ooi

This unique 16-inch doll is made of high-quality polyurethane resin in the Millennium skin tone. She has hand-painted facial features, delicate nails, and subtle lip tinting. Regarding her show-stopping attire, Ooi said, "Contessa Valentina exudes timeless elegance in her Scarlet Reign gown, a masterpiece crafted on a fine tulle base and adorned with a lavish array of sequins and countless hand-sewn beads. Every detail, from the flowing satin cape to the matching high heels, reflects couture craftsmanship. Over 100 hours of meticulous handwork went into creating this gown, making it a true testament to OOAK artistry and dedication." (emperisdolls.com, info@emperisdolls.com)

Alpy the Glacier Drake by Georgia Ossipov (right)

Alpy is part of Amiable Curios' Dragon collection and is approximately 3 inches tall. His face, limbs, and tail fins are sculpted from polymer clay, while the rest of his body is made of fabric. The head and limbs are articulated. Ossipov said the hand-painted glass eyes "sparkle with frozen shine." (amiablecurios.com)



Marie Antoinette by Joelle Mahoney

The upper half of this 11-inch doll is made of porcelain, while the lower half has a lampshade frame. She wears a gown handmade from cotton, batiste, satin, antique French lace, embroidered lace, silk ribbon, pleated antique trim, ribbon rose appliques, and small ribbon bows. Her wig is made of high-end viscose, and she is adorned with handmade jewelry. To complete the look, she has a feathered bird headpiece. (PeriodDolls.com, Joelle@PeriodDolls.com)



Buckskin Fancy Dancer by Linda Rous

This one-of-a-kind doll is 37 inches. It is made of doe leather, glass and bone beads, wood, satin ribbon, crushed velvet, and yarn. Rous said the doll "represents a ladies competition buckskin dancer at powwows. Her colors are representative of the Osage Indian nation." (etsy.com/shop/MyPeopleDolls, lindarous@aol.com)





Sienna by Debby Brooks (above)

Premium mohair, glass eyes, Genesis paint, Poly-fil stuffing, and glass beads were used to reborn this 18-inch Louise doll kit by Adrie Stoute. "Sienna is relaxing in her strawberry pj's. I wonder what she's thinking with that look of concentration on her face," Brooks said. (imakedolls@gmail.com)



Kaye Wiggs
Charlotte

**A BIG THANK
YOU TO THE
VOTERS.**



kazekids.com

kazekids@hotmail.com



Scarlett O'Hara by Sandi Carter (above)

Carter, of Sweet and Simple Originals, sculpted this doll from polymer clay. She is 17 inches tall, has glass eyes, and wears a dress made of red chiffon and sparkly tulle. A feather boa is draped over her shoulders.

Stella by Marie-Christine Kaufmann (left)

"Stella is the first doll out of my new handmade plaster molds," Kaufmann said. "For this doll, I did the sculpting of the prototype digitally; every other step is done by hand. All of my porcelain dolls are one-of-a-kind, and every single one of them is made with the utmost attention to the finest details." The porcelain doll is 13.7 inches tall. China paints provide her with color, and her wig is made of mohair. (azaleedolls.com, info@azaleedolls.com)



Kathleen Hill Studio
Photography & Doll Art

Porcelain Originals
& Repaints in
OOAK costumes.



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West Central Illinois Doll Club

Celebrating Doll Collecting and Friendship

DOLLS: What is the name of your club, and where is it based?

Jane Easterly (club president): The West Central Illinois Doll Club is in west-central Illinois (Galesburg and surrounding areas).

DOLLS: When was the club founded?

Easterly: It was founded in 1970.

DOLLS: What is the club's current mission or main purpose?

Easterly: The main purpose is for people interested in dolls and toys to share information and their love for dolls and have fun.



Above: In 2014, members visited Gigi's Dolls in Chicago.

Below: Club members went on a trip to Connie Zink's Land of Oz in 2012.



DOLLS: Does the club focus on specific types or styles of dolls?

Easterly: The members of the club collect all kinds of dolls — antique, vintage, reborn babies, modern fashion dolls.

DOLLS: What has been the club's most significant challenge?

Easterly: It is difficult to add new members. We are not a UFDC club because it is not financially possible for all of the club members to join UFDC. We have a Facebook group, but it is not easy to reach people who might be interested in the club.

DOLLS: Approximately how many members are in the club today?

Easterly: There are 13 members.

DOLLS: Does the club hold regular meetings?

Easterly: We try to hold a meeting each month from February to December, but that does not always happen. People volunteer to host. The most common meeting time and day is in the evening on the first Tuesday, but people can host on other days and at other times. Most meetings take place in a restaurant.

DOLLS: What is the process for becoming a member?

Easterly: Dues are \$12 a year, but people are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings before deciding to join.

DOLLS: How can others learn more about your club?

Easterly: We have a Facebook page with official club notices (facebook.com/WestCentralIllinoisDollClub) and a Facebook group where anyone can post and share (facebook.com/groups/198565294213150). They can also contact me at jane_easterly@hotmail.com. 📧

Right from top: The group traveled to Gigi's Dolls in Chicago in 2016. • Members enjoyed a holiday party in 2023. • A fun time was had at the club's 2024 holiday party.

Below from left: A 50th anniversary party was held in 2022. • Club President Jane Easterly prepared club dolls for the 50th anniversary celebration.



Bay Area Doll Divas and Divos

Fun for All, and All for Fun

DOLLS: What is the name of your club, and where is it based?

Jeffrey Doung (club founder, member, and newsletter recorder): Bay Area Doll Divas and Divos (BADDD) is located in the San Francisco/East Bay area in Northern California.

DOLLS: When was the club founded, and what inspired its creation?

Doung: It was established in 2008. Belonging to other doll clubs previously, we wanted to form a new doll club free from club drama and without rigid restrictions and formal bylaws.



Above: A centerpiece doll was given away to a lucky winner.

Left from top: Going to the Movies With Dolls was the March program topic. • These tables are filled with raffle items.

DOLLS: What is the club's current mission or main purpose?

Doung: As stated in the masthead of our monthly 30-page newsletter, the purpose of BADDD is for members to get together, talk, play with dolls, and have a show-and-tell and a raffle. We club members only have one rule, and it's very strict: *have fun!*

DOLLS: Does the club focus on specific types or styles of dolls?

Doung: Our club members collect a wide range of dolls, including antique French and German dolls, '50s dolls such as those by Madame Alexander, modern fashion dolls like Barbie, Gene, Tonner, Integrity Toys, Sybarites, BJDs, and Monster and Rainbow High. There is an emphasis on fashion dolls.

DOLLS: What has been the club's most significant challenge?

Doung: Having a large enough meeting place to accommodate all of our members. We currently usually meet at a club member's clubhouse, which can hold 50 people, although we do meet occasionally at restaurants.

DOLLS: Approximately how many members are in the club today?

Doung: We have 75-80 members, who mainly reside in Northern California, although we do have long-distance BADDD Abroads from Texas, New York, South Carolina, Canada, and Taiwan.



Above from left: A vintage Fashion Queen Barbie is shared by a member of the club. • Fitting with the "Q" theme for the meeting, one club member shares her vintage Madame Alexander Queen Elizabeth Cissy. • A club member presents her mini-me doll to the group.

Right from top: Members of BADDD. • This club member shares her latest American Girl doll.

DOLLS: What events does the club host or attend together?

Doung: Our hosts sometimes hold the tri-yearly Bay Area Doll Club Council Luncheons that are attended by people belonging to the various doll clubs in Northern California and by anyone else who wishes to attend. Many of our club members make over, restore, or sew for dolls and sell at local doll shows throughout the year. Many of us also attend various conventions such as Barbie, UFDC, Integrity Toys, and Virtual Doll Convention.

DOLLS: Does the club hold regular meetings?

Doung: We meet once a month — usually the last Sunday of the month (and we also hold a few Zoom meetings so we can keep in contact with our long-distance members). As mentioned previously, we usually meet at a clubhouse in San Mateo.

At the meetings, we begin with socializing and appetizers. People bring items to sell at our BADDD Bazaar, which is followed by a potluck luncheon, club announcements and news, and a program. Then we have show-and-tell of members' dolls that are associated with the month's theme. This year, we are completing the alphabet. Some previous themes we did were Colors, Fabrics, Movies, Books and Fairytales, and everything associated with that month. After dessert, we conclude by drawing for the winners of our monthly raffle that contains dozens of assorted dolls. Meetings go from noon to around 4 p.m.

We also have a new yearly Club Travel Doll that people sign up to take for the month — they take photos of her journeys and donate clothes, and then the doll is raffled off at our end-of-the-year party. This year's doll is an Integrity Toys Poppy Parker we renamed Raven Misbehaven.

DOLLS: What is the process for becoming a member?

Doung: People are invited to attend a club meeting. If it is a



positive experience, they can join. There are no dues. Then they will receive the free emailed monthly newsletters and meeting invitations. However, we are currently full and are not accepting any new members at this time.

DOLLS: How can others learn more about your club?

Doung: We have a private closed Facebook group that is only accessible to club members. In it, people share news, post pictures of their dolls, and can see photos of the raffle items that will be offered at the upcoming meeting. Anyone interested can contact me and ask to be notified if we do have any openings to attend a meeting or join. ☺

Collector Corner



Two of Diane Milla's Ginny dolls have on their Valentine Hearts dresses.



Amanda Williams of Amanda Jane Designs created this sweet frog-themed outfit for Saffi, who is a tan BB doll from Meadow Dolls. "She decided she really needed a toy to match her outfit, so I let her have her way and made her a froggy friend," Williams said, adding, "I love making outfits for my doll collection. It brings me a lot of joy."



Ellowyn Wilde by Robert Tonner is wearing her trendy travel outfit. Marie Cluster explained, "She just returned from her trip around the world! She is glad to be home and snuggle with her baby kitty, Sybil."



Lindsay Moniz hand-embroidered the white batiste dress with cotton lace, which is worn by a Dianna Effner Little Darling doll. "I love how the colors match the flowers in the background," she said.



Carol Reilly's Robert Tonner Jac doll, repainted by Jewelianne, looks stunning in the pink Ambient Luxe gown by Tonner.



Jane Easterly said, "Stock Neo Blythe Kendra the Bibliophile shows off her favorite outfit."



Pandora by Ppinkydolls is exploring the garden in an outfit Barbara Brown said is a combination of owner-made and seamstress-made pieces.



Bernay Scott's porcelain Adora Belle dolls by Marie Osmond are stylishly redressed and rewigged for winter.



Suzanne McDonough said, "As a *Downton Abbey* fan, and admirer of the fabulous fashions, my JAMIEshow Gene dolls are dressed in gowns depicted in and inspired by the show. The two dolls on the left are in fashions that I made, and the two dolls on the right are dressed in fashions made by Lynne Day."



"These Kens are serving confidence in pink — both featuring the classic Barbie Basics Ken face sculp. I wanted to showcase Black men being free, expressive, and unapologetically themselves," said Urian Ross (@dudewithblackdolls), who styled and photographed the pair. Haute Couture for Dolls made the light pink three-piece ensemble.

Curious Collector

By A. Glenn Mandeville

1960s Horsman Poor Pitiful Pearl

Q I am a senior doll collector, and recently at an auction, I was the top bidder on this incredible doll that I know I have seen before. Something just made me want this doll, and I have a feeling that, like I said, I have seen this doll early in my collecting but not in this packaging. It was \$80 but I just had to have it.

I know you are well known for your backstories. And there must be one with this interesting doll?

A Yes, indeed, there is quite a backstory. Your doll was made by Horsman in the 1960s. She was available in your size (14 inches) and a 17-inch size that is harder to find. Made of all vinyl with rooted hair and sleep eyes, the doll is an orphan character named Poor Pitiful Pearl. The idea was that a child could use the extra accessories provided to help this poor doll have a glamorous persona.

The reason this doll may look familiar to you is because she was marketed by Brookglad Company in 1958. She was designed by William Steig, who was a well-known illustrator for children's books. One of his books went on to be a hit movie titled *Shrek*.

The doll was a very popular seller in the late 1950s and was released in its same form in 1976 by Tristar. It proved to be a big seller that year, as well.

Your Horsman doll continues to be sought after by collectors today. The idea of taking an orphan and making her pretty has



always been a popular theme, not only with dolls but also in literature.

I think you made an excellent purchase, as the Horsman dolls are exceedingly difficult to find in mint-in-box condition. This is one backstory that seems to have a happy ending!

Send queries about vintage and modern dolls, with photos, to aglenmandeville@aol.com or by mail to Curious Collector, c/o DOLLS, P.O. Box 5000, Iola, WI 54945-5000.



1996 Melanie's Mall Fashion Collection

Q I have been a lifelong doll collector and have accumulated what I think is an outstanding collection. My 6-year-old granddaughter just adores my dolls. However, I feel she is too young to handle many of the antique and collectible dolls that I have acquired.

Imagine my delight when, at an auction, I bid on a box lot of dolls and among them were several of these Melanie's Mall Fashion Collection dolls. With supervision, I allowed my granddaughter to open and play with them. And I must say, they are quite a delight. With so many incredible accessories and rooted hair, she just loves them.

Is there anything more you can tell me about them?

A I agree with you that these 4-inch, fully jointed, all-vinyl dolls are absolutely incredible. They were released in 1996 and were extremely popular. Along with the rooted-hair feature, there were African American versions, and they all had extra fashions, purses, stoles, and a cute shopping bag to hold things bought at the mall.

There was an entire world devoted to these cute little dolls. Melanie's Mall was a series of shops that could be put next to each other to make a complete 1990s mall.

Except for a few rare pieces, most of the styles can be found on various internet sites for around \$15 to \$18. The original 1996 price was \$3.99 and up. The manufacturer was Cap Toys.

I commend you on the way you are introducing your granddaughter to doll collecting. I am sure she will be a welcome addition to your future doll adventures! ☺



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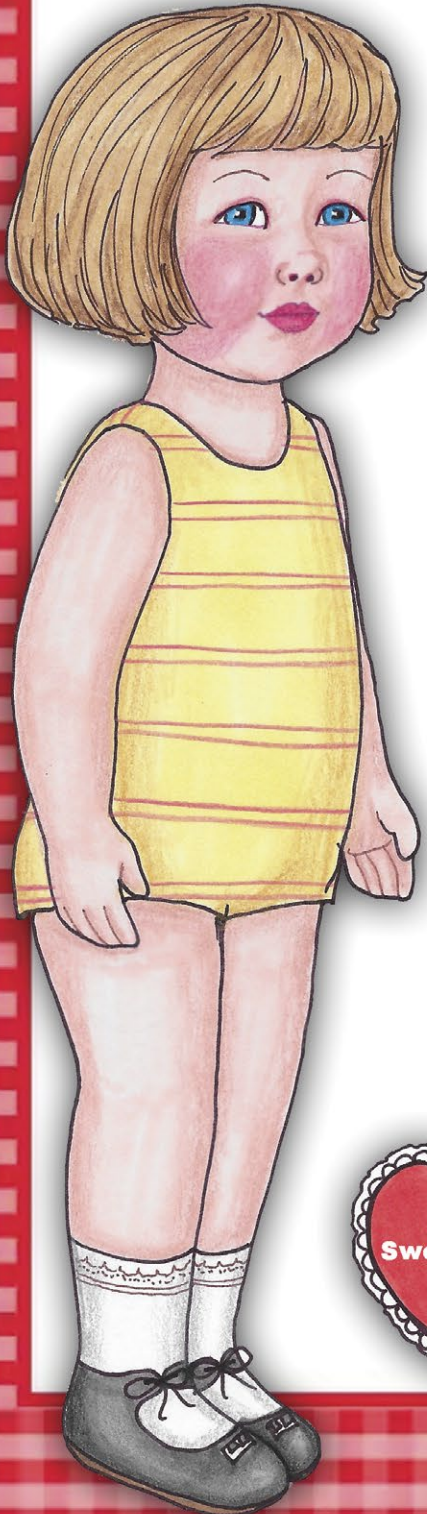
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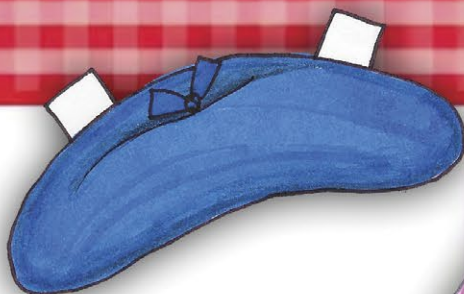
*Breakfast in bed!
"I made it myself!"*



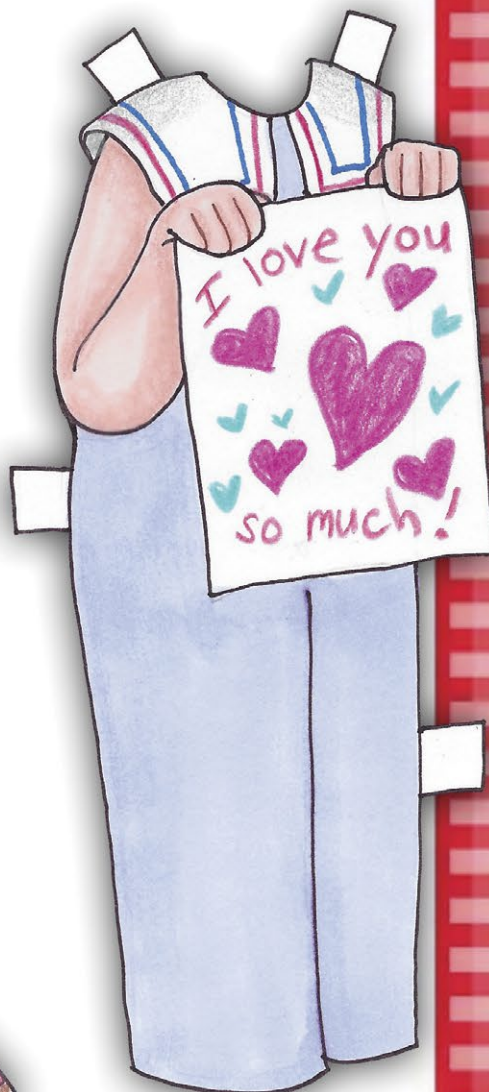
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*Cleaning the doll room:
 "...But we may end up playing
 more than cleaning."*



"You're a work of art!"



"Sweets for the sweet!"



*Diana
 F. Vining
 2023*

Event Calendar

Before leaving for a show, it's always a good idea to check the show's website or email the organizer in case of last-minute changes or cancellations.

Florida

Dec. 6: Land O' Lakes Doll Club Doll Show and Sale. Central Baptist Christian School/Church, 402 E. Windhorst Road, Brandon. Contact: Land O' Lakes Doll Club, glentampa09@aol.com, 813-727-3733.

Feb. 7, 2026: Annual Doll and Teddy Bear Show. Morrison Methodist Church, 1009 W. Main St., Bldg. #5, Leesburg. Contact: Richard Ziller, rjziller@hotmail.com, 703-627-7763.

Missouri

June 27, 2026: Doll Friends ~ Doll, Bear & Toy Show & Sale. VFW, 1347 S. Morley St., Moberly. Contact: Janice Wassmuth, janie_annie@hotmail.com, 660-676-6304.

Texas

Feb. 21, 2026: 34th Bi-Annual Hill Country Doll Show & Sale. Schertz Civic Center, 1400 Schertz Pkwy., Schertz. Contact: Dorothy Meredith, dolldr.com, dmeredith@dolldr.com, 830-606-5868.

Aug. 29, 2026: 34th Bi-Annual Hill Country Doll Show & Sale. Schertz Civic Center, 1400 Schertz Pkwy., Schertz. Contact: Dorothy Meredith, dolldr.com, dmeredith@dolldr.com, 830-606-5868.

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2026 DOLL SHOW DATES

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FEBRUARY 28, 2026

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761 BOYLSTON HWY, FLETCHER, NC

THE TRIANGLE

APRIL 18, 2026

(RALEIGH, DURHAM,
CHAPEL HILL NC)

AMRAN SHRINERS TEMPLE
11101 CREEDMOOR RD. RALEIGH, NC

GREENVILLE, SC

AUGUST 15, 2026

GREENVILLE SHRINE EVENT CENTER
119 BEVERLY RD
GREENVILLE, SC, 29609

EXHIBITOR OPENINGS AVAILABLE
FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE
WEBSITE FOR EACH SHOW.

www.SoutheasternDollShows.com

To list your event here and in our online calendar, go to dollsmagazine.com/events and click the link near the top of the page. Each listing will run until the event date passes. Contact Jill Maggio at jillm@jpmediallc.com for more details.

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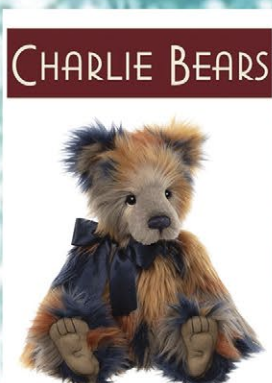
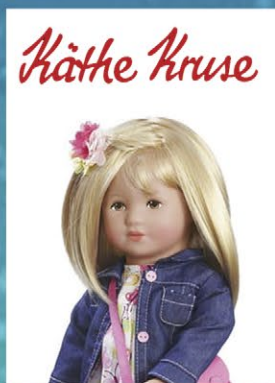
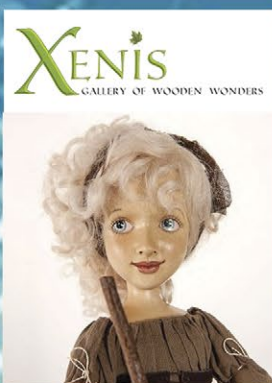
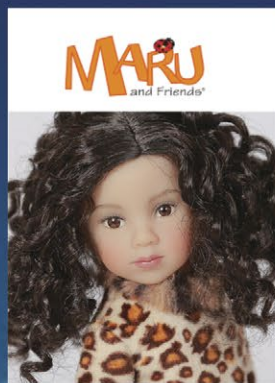
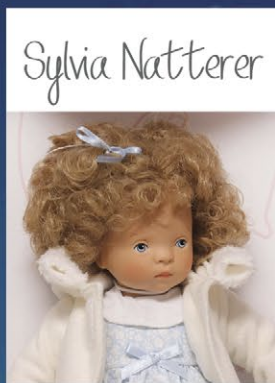
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