Issue 1 Summer 2023



IADR ART DOLL MAGAZINE



What's Inside

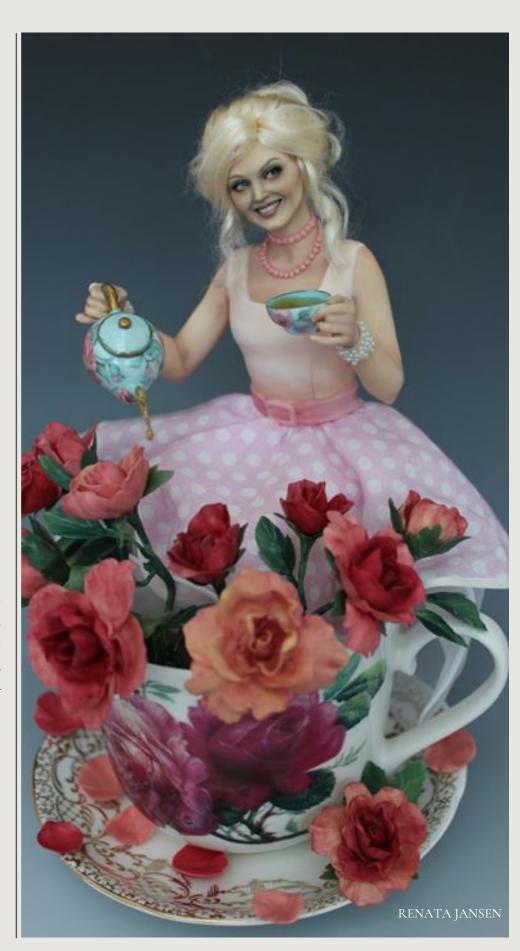
- Artist Interviews
- Tutorials
- Art Business
- Competitions
- & More!

"Celeste" MELINDA WOOD

Art dolls are objects of art, rather than children's toys, created by artists and sculptors in a wide variety of styles and media. They are often one-of-a-kind and handmade.



Scan the QR Code to visit the IADR website!



SUMMER 2023 | ISSUE 1

Beauty is not a material thing.

Beauty cannot be copied.

Beauty is the sensation of pleasure

on the mind of the seer.

The Art of Spirit~Robert Henri

Editor's Note



This magazine is a portal to beauty as rendered by the artists we feature through visual as well as informative articles. We hope to create, inspire, and support each other through this accumulation of work.

It is in learning to see through the eyes of the artist that we experience the pleasure of beauty. It is through learning that we can also gain these skills that we might create for our own. Art is a mediation, an exploring of the soul, with something to show from the journey within.

Welcome to the adventure and journey that we ask you to join us on as you open the pages of this magazine. Talented people are sharing of their time as well as knowledge through the articles that might make your path easier. Or maybe give you that "aha" moment where we have shed a light where it was dark before. Tutorials, upcoming events, as well as shows to participate in are just some of the services we choose to offer here. If you also wish to be a part of this journey by submitting articles for future publications, please send them to:

IADRegistry@outlook.com.

Lesley Duthie Editor-in-Chief

IADRegistry@outlook.com

IADR Art Doll Magazine

About the IADR

The IADR is a world group of like-minded artists who create one-of-a-kind figurative art in various mediums. In that endeavor, we choose to support one another through continuing education and the promotion of our art.

The IADR was formed to create a one-of-a-kind art doll registry to aid in the copyright protection of original artwork.

For more information about the IADR, visit us on our website at:

www.international-art-doll-registry.com



The IADR Art Doll Magazine is published four times a year. IADR members receive a free digital copy of the magazine otherwise a digital copy of the magazine is available for a fee of \$5.00 (USD) per issue. To purchase a copy contact us at IADRegistry@outlook.com

Contributing Artists

Amanda Parkinson

Tutorial & Art Business Article

Melinda Wood

Artist Interview

Adelė Po

Artist Interview

Sandee Elvsaas

Artist Tip Article

Adelaide Santini

Art Helps Article

Featured Art Doll Photography by

Rentata Jansen & Lucia Bonanno

The views and opinions expressed in the IADR ART DOLL MAGAZINE are those of the contributing authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of International Art Doll Registry (IADR).

Documents/articles/ and presentations may contain links to external websites or resources. The IADR is not responsible for the content or reliability of any external websites or resources referenced in this magazine.

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ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE

Ahhhh, and so we grow.

Who knew, all those years ago, that our beloved group would evolve and progress in all the ways it has.

Today I am thrilled to witness yet another development in the promotion and growth of IADR, with this new addition, an online publication! This digital magazine is a wonderful way to help network with our members, get to know one another and share ideas. Be sure to check out the articles and the wonderful tutorials contained within these pages.

Offering support to one another and having a safe place to share and ask questions was key to our foundation and continues to this very day. That has never changed since our inception. Meet your fellow artists, reach out to one another and offer to make your own contributions too!

Thank you for being a part of our wonderful art family - and keep up the great work and participation! Together we can strive and know there are no limits to what we can accomplish...

All the best, Deb Wood - President Emeritus



MELINDA Wood

with Lesley Duthie

For our first issue of IADR Art Doll Magazine, I thought it would be great to spotlight one of our members that has been with IADR since 2009. Let me introduce Melinda Wood.

Melinda, please tell us a little about yourself.

I am a polymer clay artist that has been creating art dolls in my home in Vermont for over 15 years. My dolls have been in various magazines, won awards and have found homes in many parts of the world.

That is amazing and I can see why. Your baby fairy is my favorite. When you create, do you do something special to get into your muse?

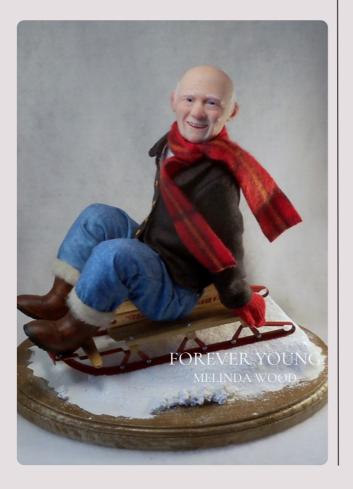
If I'm having a hard time getting in the mood to create I put on some music and then I'm ready to go. I don't like complete silence so music is always playing or my television is on.

I agree with that. I too need the white noise around all the time which means the TV is usually on *smiling*. How did you get started in your doll making journey?









I got started with polymer clay when I was browsing through Ebay looking at dolls. I came across a fairy created by Julie Mansergh from Fairies in the Attic otherwise known as FITA. I was so amazed with her fairies and that they were sculpted from polymer clay (that I had never heard of) and when I discovered I needed no special equipment I just had to try it. So, I bought some super sculpey to start and have never stopped although I did move on quickly to other polymer clays.

The Pin-Up Witch on the pumpkin is another fantastic creation. What process did you use that inspired its creation and could you maybe share a little about your Forever Young creation too?

I saw a tutorial on Youtube by Alena Becker on making a hollow pumpkin display for Halloween and my daughter and I spent a day making the display. I liked making them so much I decided to try to make a larger pumpkin that I could sit my Pinup Witch on. I was very pleased how this piece turned out.

Forever Young was my first larger doll. His head was created in a class with Mark Dennis. He had a much younger face when I left, and I hadn't baked it because I wasn't really happy with it so I brought it home and made him into an older man.

Then I made him a wire hanger armature and he ended up with polymer clay hands, boots and head on a soft body. He was the first time I had created a doll that way. If I remember right, I think I sculpted the hands and boots right on the armature lol. I learned much later.





Was your creative path restricted or enhanced by the isolation of Covid?

Covid didn't really affect me much except for the isolation. I was used to hosting a Wine & Craft on Saturdays which my daughter and a couple of friends would attend. They had to stop because of Covid. I think that day of just doing odd stuff for fun might have helped with my creativity as I slowed down on completed work after that.

How do you see doll making evolving in this day and age over when you started making dolls?

When I started it seemed like there were more people creating and selling their dolls and they were getting much higher prices all the way up to a couple of thousand dollars for each piece. Now I feel like there are more people creating and not as many people collecting and only a few get those higher prices for their work. If anyone is getting into this to get rich, I would say turn back now. You must do it because you love it not because you want to make lots of money lol.

Are you finding it harder or not any difference in accessing the supplies you use in your doll making?

Due to where I live I have to get the majority of my supplies from shopping online. I recently discovered that where I used to buy my small oval glass eyes for my baby dolls is no longer selling that size. It's a good thing I tend to stockpile certain things when I run out I will either find another supplier or I will come up with a solution of making my own.

Thank you Melinda for sharing your creations with us. The love of what you do certainly shines through your art. If people wanted to learn more about you or your dolls where can they find you?

I share my dolls on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/Mindys.Fairies1

and I have an Etsy shop at:
https://www.etsy.com/shop/mindy141

When I sell on Ebay it is under Mindy141.

I'll also do a shout out for you Melinda and that you have recently created your Artist's Studio page on our IADR Website which is at https://www.international-art-doll-registry.com/store/c17/Melinda_Wood.html for others to see more of your art.



Thank you again for supporting IADR by being a member as well as volunteering to being our first interview as we start this new endeavor with the IADR magazine.

By Lesley Duthie



by Sandee Elvsaas

The most important thing someone told me was... "Don't compare yourself to other artists. Your art is unique to you and how you create it. People can like it or not like it, doesn't matter it is "Your" art."

Begin with taking every class you can. Practice your craft everyday. Your work will benefit from it. You will get better. Buy the best supplies you can afford and the best tools... nothing beats a great sculpting tool!

Just because a tutorial is free doesn't mean it isn't good. There are lots of free tutorials out there. Watch them, save them, print them for later reference. You never know when it might disappear. I love PDF's, I have binders full of classes at my fingertips and I refer to them often.

Keep an idea book. I have a binder where I have clipped photos, ideas, inspiring quotes, fairies, dragons, flowers... everything that makes me want to create. I begin with inspiration and build from there.

Everyone's journey is different. Relax and enjoy the ride.





There is no greater power than that of the sun, the moon, and a woman who knows her worth ~Nicole Lyons

TUTORIAL

How to Sculpt Lips in Polymer Clay

By Amanda Parkinson





Hi! My name is Amanda, and in this magazine, I will show you how I sculpt lips in polymer clay.

In this tutorial, we won't be sculpting any lips in particular. However, we will look at some reference photos as a general guide. Then we can add our character to the lips as we see fit.

I will show you how I construct the lips using simple building blocks, blending and tweaking. Let's get into the tutorial!

What You Will Need:

- Polymer clay (I will be using Super Sculpey in a grey colour)
- Sculpting tools (silicone-tipped tools may also be handy if you have trouble smoothing the clay with your fingers).
- Isopropyl Alcohol (optional)
- Assorted soft bristle paintbrushes (optional)

Using a Reference:

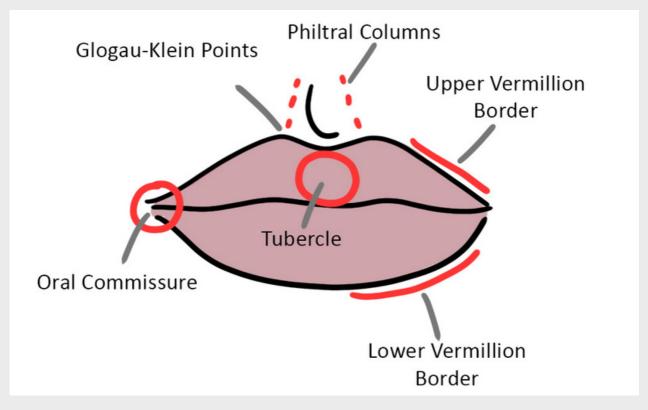


Lips come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. When you're learning how to sculpt lips, you must refer to reference photos.

Reference photos are there as a guide. You don't necessarily have to sculpt what you see. However, using a reference photo to study the lips' anatomy is essential.

In this tutorial, I will show you how to sculpt lips using simple building blocks. However, it will be up to you to troubleshoot your work if it needs to be corrected. Compare your sculpture with reference photos. This is one of the ways you will grow as an artist. When looking for reference photos, try to find ones that are still underexposed. Photos that look too flat may be challenging to copy.

During this tutorial, I will be referring to the anatomical names of parts of the lips. I hope this diagram will helps make it easier to understand what different parts of the lips I'll be sculpting. Look out for these names in the tutorial.



How to Sculpt Lips in Polymer Clay:



Start with a base or the head of your sculpture. Ensure the surface is slightly rounded so your lips don't appear too flat after sculpting.



First, we will build up the top lip. Knead a piece of polymer clay until it's soft and malleable. This will make it easier to blend. Lay it across the surface and press slightly to adhere to it.



Blend the top of the clay into the clay surface. Leave the bottom of the piece alone, as this will form our top lip.



Define the lips using your fingers or a sculpting tool. Define the top edge of the lip (Upper Vermillion Border). Also, define the cupids bow (Glogau-Klein Points) and the centre of the lip (the Tubercle).



Sculpt the dent above the top lip (the Philtrum) by defining the Philtral Columns. Do this with your fingers or a sculpting tool.



Knead a piece of clay until it's soft and malleable so it's easier to blend. Place it under the top lip as shown. This will form the bottom lip and the muscles attached to it.



Using your fingers or a sculpting tool, define the bottom lip's border.



To create voluptuous lips, I like to press a dent halfway down the bottom lip.



Define the Lower Vermillion Border with your sculpting tool.



Smooth the border with your fingers or a sculpting tool to make it more subtle.



Add some clay to the chin area to bulk out the chin. Blend and smooth the clay so it's fully incorporated.



Add two pieces of kneaded clay to the corners of the mouth. This will form the muscles at the corners of the mouth.





Blend and smooth the muscles at the corners of the mouth until it's fully incorporated. You may have to sculpt the corners of the mouth (the oral commissure) again. Now is your chance to tweak the lips until they look how you desire. Once they look right to you, smooth the clay gently with your fingers or a tool.

Note: You can also smooth the clay with a soft paintbrush and Isopropyl Alcohol (rubbing alcohol). It will slightly dissolve the surface of the clay removing fingerprints and some tool marks. Now it's done! I hope you enjoyed the tutorial.

Remember to have fun with your creations. Your sculpture can be realistic or stylized. If your sculpture is stylized, you don't need to get the anatomy perfect; just ensure you have the fundamental building blocks there.

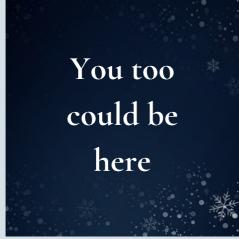
Have fun!



Amanda Parkinson www.AmandasDolls.com

FACEBOOK





MEMBER ARTWORKS

Above: Jerry Knegtel - "The Little Tearoom Thief". Left (from top to bottom): Lesley Duthie - "Moon Dragon", Amanda Parkinson - "The Baron", Nade Jankovska - "Viola".

If you would like to have your work featured in the magazine simply post your work or work in progress on the International Art Doll Registry's Members Only group and tag Lesley Duthie for permission.







ADELĖ PO

ARTIST INTERVIEW

"I PERCEIVE INSPIRATION AS AN EMPTY CUP WAITING TO BE FILLED WITH VARIOUS CONTENTS".



Many have heard of Adelė either through her beautiful creations or her informative tutorials. We are going to take a dive into Adelė's journey as an artist.

When did you start creating art dolls?

I began my journey into art doll creation around 2013. During that time, I was still studying at Vilnius Art Academy, with aspirations of becoming a set designer. It was during a semester focused on puppet theatre that my curiosity reached its peak. Initially, I embarked on more experiments rather than actively creating art dolls. However, this exploration set me on the path I continue to tread today.



Over the following years, I delved into discovering my favorite materials, figuring out my unique style, and defining the type of dolls I envisioned bringing to life.

What made you consider art dolls as a career choice?

Initially, creating dolls was merely a hobby. Whenever I had time, I would immerse myself in sculpting, sewing miniature outfits, and arranging photoshoots in my room. I shared my creations on Facebook, and before long, I received the first inquiries regarding their availability and pricing. People were interested in purchasing my dolls. So setting up an Etsy store seemed like the next step.





While working at a conventional office job for a few years, I diligently dedicated my evenings to crafting dolls. But life at work seemed very dull and depressing - I wasn't on the right career path. I gathered all my courage, saved up some money, and quit my job to pursue doll-making full-time. For the first half a year, I was barely making any money, so savings kept me going for the most part. Things started to look up when I diversified my brand into two parts: creating one-of-a-kind art dolls and making cute plushies - that were repeatable and didn't need many hours to complete. After my first year of being a fulltime doll artist, I was confident I could make this work.

What inspires your creations?

I perceive inspiration as an empty cup waiting to be filled with various contents. I love to be in nature, read books, follow other artists' work, attend live music concerts, and frequently browse Pinterest or Instagram for captivating art. All of that combined gives me new ideas for my own creations. My porcelain dolls draw significant inspiration from the world of plants, and I dedicate each doll to a certain plant. I view my nymphs as protectors of nature, so I'm curious about endangered species and how people interact with nature around us.

The photography of your dolls is inspirational. Do you have any tips for our viewers on how to take these amazing photographs?

Photography is another way to share how I view the world and my dolls. My intention is not solely to capture images for the purpose of putting them on Etsy or other selling platforms. Instead, I aspire to weave a narrative and show the magic I see in my creations. It has to awaken a sense of connection and emotional response.



For that reason, I use a lot of props, perhaps reflecting my background in set design. However, to refine my photography skills, I took an online class about creative photography and learned how to edit photos with Lightroom and Photoshop. I needed some help with all the technical stuff, so don't be afraid to invest in your new skills!

How would you describe your journey selling on platforms like Etsy? Was it challenging?

As with everything, it was a journey. I love Etsy for the connections it has forged between me and numerous doll collectors who might not have discovered me otherwise. I put a lot of love into my dolls, and sharing that with others has been a wonderful experience. It extends beyond mere transactions; it is about expressing gratitude for those who choose to support me. That's why I put a lot of attention to packaging and overall unboxing experience for the customer.



My Etsy shop, nowadays, is dedicated to plush dolls, and it's steadily growing. I just hired my first assistant, that helps me with all the sewing, marking another significant milestone in my journey!

At what point were you able to become a full-time artist?

After I quit my office job, for the first half a year, I was barely making any money, so savings kept me going for the most part. Things started to look up when I diversified my brand into two parts: creating one-of-a-kind art dolls and making cute plushies - that were repeatable and didn't need many hours to complete. After my first year of being a full-time doll artist, I was confident I could make this work. On my second year, I launched various courses about doll making, and I have been expanding this part of my business ever since. Being able to find other sources of income, not just selling dolls, was



crucial in having a stable job. Now I'm counting my 9th year as a full-time doll artist.

Did you have to adapt your business during the Covid lockdowns?

During the initial months, I had to temporarily close my shop due to limited functioning of postal services. Since the majority of my clients reside overseas, shipping times became significantly prolonged. I shifted my focus towards the teaching side of the business. As we all found ourselves confined to our homes, online courses experienced a surge in popularity, and naturally, mine benefited as well. I launched some additional courses and eventually started making monthly video tutorials for my Patrons. I'm proud of myself on how quickly I was able to adapt to the situation. Sharing my knowledge with others and seeing so many people picking up doll-making brings me immense happiness.



Has helping others with doll-making tutorials transformed your business or art process?

Absolutely! From the very beginning, I established a blog to share my personal journey as a doll artist. To this day, I continue to write free articles about materials, dollmaking techniques and how to market yourself as a doll artist. When I was just starting to make dolls, there was a scarcity of online information available. Therefore, my intention is to assist others who, like me, possess a desire to create dolls by helping them avoid mistakes and providing valuable knowledge on the subject. I document most of my creative process on video or in pictures. This transparency and openness have liberated me from the misconception that the art world is fiercely competitive and unforgiving. My own experience has been entirely different! I found so many doll-loving people who are curious and invested into this



form of art. It makes me happy I can be a part of it.

We thank you so much for sharing your journey with us Adelė! We wish you all the best with your creations for many years to come.

If you would like to see what Adele offers, feel free to follow her online spaces:

Follow her on Instagram:
@adele_po https://www.instagram.com/adele_po/
@nymphaidolls https://www.instagram.com/nymphaidolls/

Check out her BJD sculpting masterclass: https://www.nymphaidolls.com/bjd-masterclass

Enjoy her free articles: https://www.nymphaidolls.com/blog https://www.adelepo.com/blog

5 THINGS I WISH I KNEW

BEFORE STARTING AN ART DOLL BUSINESS

So You're excited about making a profit from your passion. Let's face it, making art dolls can be an expensive hobby. Making some income to support your craft is helpful. Where do you start?

First, let us assume you have been practising your craft solidly for a while. Standing behind your doll's quality will be necessary for repeat buyers.

Also, we will assume you're creating something unique- something that just anyone can't reproduce from a pattern or mold. This will ensure you a reasonable selling price.

These need to be the premises for starting a doll business. If you feel these don't apply to you, maybe you can work towards these goals.

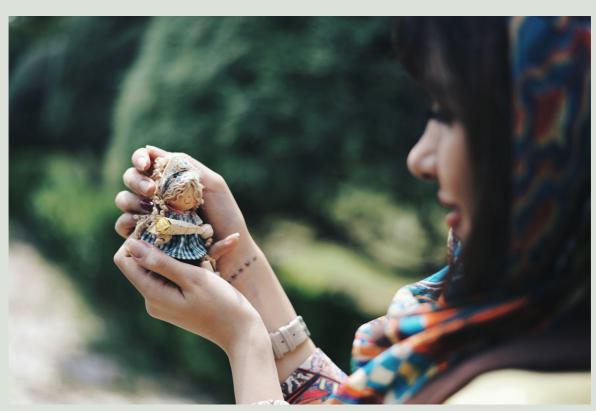
1. Make a Business Plan

Any significant business brand starts with a business plan. A plan is essential for government grants and loans to ensure the business is well on track to make a profit.

You'll need a business plan too, not for a loan but to help you keep on track.

You will have clarity on where your goals are, how much it will cost you and what other things you will need to get moving.

Start your plan with a focused idea. Do you want to sell to miniature enthusiasts? Do you want to make surreal works or fantasy-themed dolls? Know your market so that you know repeat buyers are more likely.



Write this focus into your plan. It will get your excited and crafty brain to niche down, at least for a while. If using this theme in your business name, make sure it allows for growth outside of your niche. More on that later.

2. Price Your Work Well

Determine how much you want to price your dolls in your business plan. Many people say that you should price your dolls according to your cost of materials, your hourly rate multiplied by four for your retail cost.

However, with doll making, this calculation rarely works for every kind of doll. It is often better to work backwards from other people's retail prices.

For example, an Original 1:12 scale figure doll might be priced at around \$300. How long would it take you to make a 1:12 scale figure? How much would it cost for clay and fabric supplies? Could you make \$300 work for you? If not, you might need to consider making something different that you could profit from.

Others may buy specific supplies cheaper than you can, or they can work quickly because of their experience in their craft. Or worse, they may sell their dolls at a loss because there isn't enough demand for that kind of item.

In any case, it is better to determine what niche will work for your bottom line and pay yourself accordingly.



3. Open a Website

So many talented doll makers rely solely on social media to reach their audience. However, the sooner you can develop your online presence without negotiating an ever-changing "algorithm," the better.

Your website should be where you direct people so they can learn where to find you.

If you can train people to find your latest works, updates and sales on your website, it's so much better. It's better than competing for views amongst other artists or advertisements.

Some artists have found that with enough of a website following, they don't even need a shop! People just email them for new artwork.

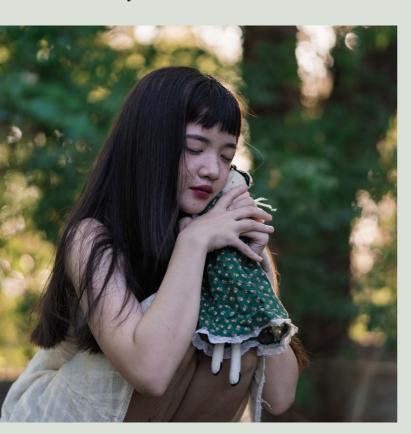
4. Choose Your Battles

It is very easy to become overwhelmed as an artist. Our creative brains can be bustling with ideas, and it's easy to lose focus on our business plans and what can bring in genuine revenue.

We might be trying to grow on Instagram, Facebook, and Youtube, all while writing a blog on our website and maintaining an Etsy store. These tasks don't even include creating our dolls and doing all the account-keeping involved with selling them.

Narrow it down to what you are capable of keeping up with. It's better to do a few things very well than lots of things poorly.

Determine where your audience is and what you can achieve.



Facebook is more about interaction and connection, as you are able to write text-only posts. Would you be good at engaging with your audience?

Instagram is about having a pleasing aesthetic, cohesive design and beautiful photos. Do you have the equipment, software, and knowledge to do well?

Youtube relies on engaging, entertaining or informative videos. Competition on Youtube is strong. Do you have the equipment and editing skills to advance in this space?

Everyone starts somewhere, but choosing a platform you excel at or are willing to learn is the key to growing in that space. Don't try to be everywhere at once!

This isn't to say that with time you can't expand. Just as long as you realise you are only one person, don't take away from your creations too much.

5. Leave Room For Growth

When you start, you won't know where you will be or what you will be creating five, ten or fifteen years from now.

This is one of my biggest regrets. I always "branded" myself in a tight niche, and when I evolved as an artist, I would have to rebrand.

If I could recommend one thing, it would be to brand yourself so that you can grow into any niche without having to rebrand and confuse your customers.

This is important even if you decide on a niche in your business plan. Once you build authority as an artist, you can branch out and still maintain customers. Just because you can't do this initially doesn't mean you won't get there!

Losing your customer base and viewership to a change in brands hurts a lot. Trust me; I've been there several times.

If you're mindful of your brand from the beginning, you will enjoy the privilege of loyal followers and the income it brings.

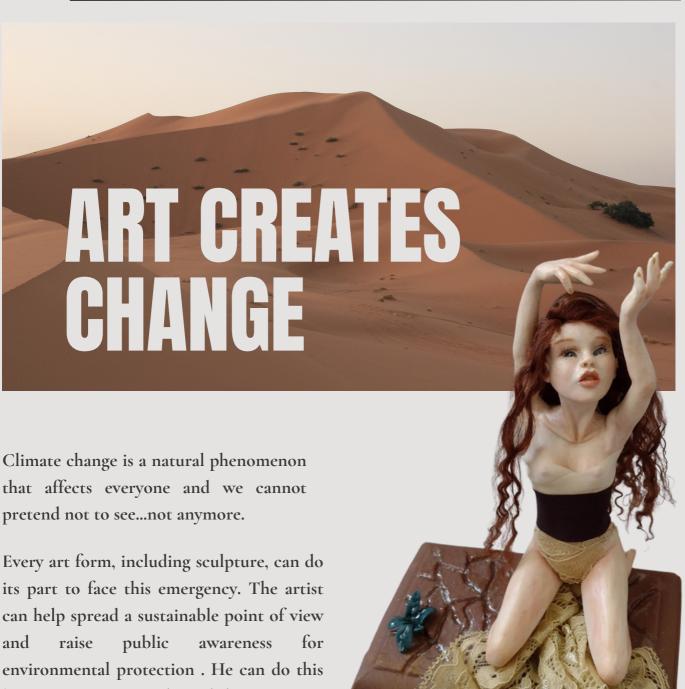
Doll Making is a beautiful art form and a gratifying profession. It takes work, so I shy away from recommending it to everyone. I truly believe you have to have a passion that burns deeply.



Doll making as a business can be both inspiring and magical. I hope this article helps you on your journey.

-Amanda Parkinson





by trying to convey, through his creations, a message. Our artistic sensibility can be oriented to the needs of Nature so that more and more people realize that it is essential to do something.

This is what I tried to do with my "Gaia's Relief," taking into account one of the side effects of climate change, drought. Gaia, representing Nature, arches toward the sky showing all her relief and gratitude toward the rain as a shy seedling comes up again from the dry land, invaded by the first raindrops. A small sign of hope that we could grasp only if we realize that we are going through a real emergency.

rt on Climate Change

Events & Shows

IADR Juried Show



Juried Show for one-of-a-kind handmade/sculpted artdoll in any medium of polymer, porcelain, wool/needlefelting, cold porcelain, paperclay or cloth now open. Deadline is August 31st, 2023

Entry is free to members of IADR. A \$25.00 (USD) entry fee will be charged for all others.

A Certificate with cash prizes are awarded for several skill levels and categories. For more information on requirements or awards enquire at www.international-art-doll-registry.com/events-for-the-year
If further information is needed, contact Lesley Duthie at IADRegistry@outlook.com.

More Events & Shows

To list your upcoming event, please submit event information to include contact or website to <u>IADRegistry@outlook.com</u>



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN DOLL ARTISTS (NIADA)

Annual Conference and Diamond Jubilee July 13th – July 15th, 2023 Charlotte, North Carolina, USA www.niada.org

S.A.M.E MINIATURE ASSOCIATION

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th August 2023
Payneham Library Complex
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PENRITH DOLLS, BEARS CRAFT & COLLECTABLES SHOW

Sunday, 10 September 2023, 10am - 4.00pm Nepean Creative & Preforming Arts High School

115-119 Great Western Highway Emu Plains, N.S.W, Australia ENQUIRIES...

Trader -

Gail +61 407 498 021 (9am-5pm)

Doll & Bear Competition -

Val 02 9602 2242 (after 5pm)

DOLL ARTISAN GUILD ONLINE EVENT

28 - 30 September 2023

Theme: Fashion Icons Through the Ages

This is a online costume competition with the deadline being August 25th, 2023
Enquires

https://dollsbeautiful.com/dde2023

WOLLONGONG DOLL CLUB ANNUAL DOLL, BEAR & CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, 21st October 2023, 9.30am - 4.00pm Ribbonwood Centre Princess Highway, Dapto, NSW Australia ENQUIRIES...

rhbowden@optusnet