

Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Club Newsletter

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Doll & Teddy Bear Collector Survey Results

The Susan Quinlan Doll & Teddy Bear Museum & Library conducted the first-known extensive survey about the buying habits of antique (pre-1930), collectable (post-1930), and artist (designed & made by an artist) doll and teddy bear collectors. Although a complete copy of the Survey Results were only available to survey participants, these are some of the survey findings:

- Doll and teddy bear collectors have been collecting *collectable pieces* about 30 years and antique pieces and *artist pieces* about 20 years.
- The factors that influence their decision the most to buy a piece are: facial features/expression/appeal, craftsmanship, design/style, emotional attraction/attachment, and condition of doll/bear. Factors that influence their decision that are not as critical but still very important are: style/appeal of clothing, price, uniqueness, condition of clothing, material used for head/body, artist/manufacturer credentials/reputation, and certificate of authenticity.
- They are more likely to try negotiating with a collectable dealer, less likely with an antique dealer, and least likely with an artist.
- Many are apt to inquire about more pieces on the sales table if prices are clearly marked.
- Many will pay more if the piece is a one-of-a-kind and/or will pay more if the piece is signed.
- The most common attitudes about prices at shows is that *antique pieces* are somewhat over priced and prices of *artist pieces* and *collectable pieces* are reasonable for what they get.
- As for their favorite material used to make a piece, bisque and porcelain are the most and equally popular with doll collectors, while mohair fur is twice as popular as plush fur among bear collectors.
- Shows and conventions are by far the most popular places for making most of their purchases. Far less popular are retail shops. Much lower in popularity of places for making most of their purchases are all other physical and online outlets.

- By far the most important reason why they shop at shows and conventions is to touch and feel the pieces; other major reasons are to see their favorite sellers, spend time with artists/dealers, and the greatest variety of pieces.

First of a Series of Books by Susan Quinlan

When you begin a new hobby, one of the things you are always told is that you should read books on your chosen topic in order to become knowledgeable about the subject matter. But how are you to know what is available to be read? You cannot rely on your local public library or book store for everything you might want to read, since publications go out of print very quickly and many stores and libraries keep only a few of the recent books due to a lack of space on their shelves. Libraries can get you books through interlibrary loan, but even then how do you know which ones to request?

The book collection at the Susan Quinlan Doll and Teddy Bear Museum and Library has over 11,000 volumes in its collection. It is the largest known collection of its kind. Susan Quinlan recently wrote and published the first in a series of five books that provide a classified catalog of the books and related material in her library collection. The book is entitled "Reference Guide to Research on Dollhouses and Miniatures." When completed, the five book series will cover:

- Dollhouses and Miniatures Fiction and Non-Fiction Books
- Teddy Bears Fiction Books
- Teddy Bears Non-Fiction Books
- Dolls Fiction Books
- Dolls Non-Fiction Books

The library collection contains most of the major books published in these areas, and more are being added all the time. Unlike many bibliographies that are more interested in presenting a physical description of the books, this publication emphasizes the content of the books. The books are divided into subjects or sections with the hope that they will lead the reader to those books that are most relevant to their immediate interests.

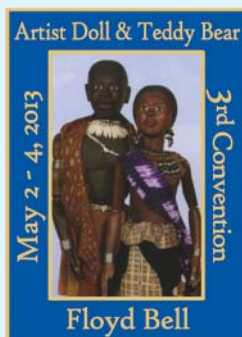
Susan Quinlan hopes that her book, which is a bibliography covering 1,242 books, will help the readers, whether they are new or long-time collectors, in their search for information and ideas in this wonderful world of dollhouses, miniatures and related topics. The price of this 320-page reference book is \$19.95. It is available at the Susan Quinlan Doll & Teddy Bear Museum & Library in Santa Barbara, CA, by email

(sq@quinlanmuseum.com) and phone (805/687-8901), and at the Market Place held at the May 1-3, 2014 Artist Doll and Teddy Bear Convention.

Preview of the 2014 Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention

To view the future, we just need to look to the past. With this year's annual convention just around the corner, it is time to take a look at what collectors and artists experienced last year since we plan to repeat all the best parts and add some new fun activities at the May 1-3, 2014 convention on the outskirts of Philadelphia, PA.

The 2013 Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention held next door to Philadelphia by the Susan Quinlan Doll & Teddy Bear Museum was again packed with unusual and fun activities. It started with the registration package that includes one-of-a-kind limited edition pins honoring leading doll and teddy bear artists. The pins are only available to convention attendees. This time doll artist Floyd Bell and bear artist Martha Burch were honored.



*Doll Artist Floyd Bell
Commemorative Pin*



*Bear Artist Martha Burch
Commemorative Pin*

The Quinlans and their relatives from California and Washington, otherwise known as the "Blue Crew", did their best again to make sure the convention ran smoothly, stuck to the schedule, ran on time, minimized problems, and resolved any issues of the collectors and artists.



*Blue Crew Who Make the Convention Run Smoothly. From left to right:
Julia (daughter), Tom & Cindi (mother) Fleener; Susan (with "Me Too") & Terry Quinlan;
Chris & Bob Quinlan; John & Sue Fleener*

Thursday Optional Workshops

Many of the Thursday workshops are “free or nearly free” to the students because the workshop fee includes the cost of buffet meals. Although the instructors are only allowed to charge \$10-\$100, they really appreciate receiving 100% of the workshop fee and not having to share it with the event organizer as is the custom at most conventions. The workshops were as popular with collectors as with artists who learned to make one-of-a-kind vintage necklaces, top hats, suitcases, doll hands/bodies, wood heads, entire bears, paper dolls, and more.



Stylish Hat Made at Christine Shively-Benjamin Workshop



One-of-a-Kind Eclectic Necklace Made at Sue Van Nattan Workshop

Many of the workshop students, ranging from beginners to professionals, showed off their creations in the Gallery of Workshop Creations, which provided the first of the convention’s four gallery photo opportunities. There was no competition involved – just a chance for students to take pride in what they learned and accomplished that day and to share a fun experience with everyone at the convention.

Convention Gets Under Way

The two-day convention fee of \$195 goes entirely to the cost of advertising and supplies. This means the six (6) buffet meals, nightly cocktails, all day refreshments and activities are all free to the attendees. The convention kicked off Thursday evening with the excitement of previewing, judging and buying one-of-a-kind, signed artist dolls and bears entered in the competition for the Beverly Port Award for Excellence among the artist teddy bear entries and the Helen Bullard Award for Excellence among the artist doll entries. The open bar made it an even more relaxed and enjoyable experience. That night was also the first of three buffet banquets with so many food and dessert choices and a chance to catch up with friends since the last convention.



Friday evening Gallery of Signed One-of-a-Kind Signature Piece Entries Being Judged for the Beverly Port Bear and Helen Bullard Doll Awards for Excellence

Things really shifted into overdrive after a hearty buffet breakfast on Friday with everyone attending the Artist & Collector Market Place where anyone can sell, buy and trade trims, material, furs, supplies, trinkets, do-dads and silly things for designing, creating and accessorizing their dolls and teddy bears. Some of those signing and selling their latest books at the Market Place included artists Mark Dennis, Nancy Wiley, and museum owner Susan Quinlan.



Market Place Where Artists and Collectors Sell, Buy and Trade Doll and Bear Supplies

Among the most unusual events at the convention were the special artist galleries that were added to the program for the first time. The purpose of these galleries is to motivate the artists to think outside the box – to try entirely new designs, materials and techniques – in order to enter new and broader markets for their creations. This year

there were two special galleries. (In 2014 there will be four.) The Gallery of Dolls-by-Bear-Artists & Bears-by-Doll-Artists was the idea of doll artist Deborah Pope. She thought it would be fun if bear artists tried their hand at making a doll and doll artists tried making a teddy bear. The idea spread like wildfire at the 2012 convention and the artists were really excited about the experience of creating a different art form. This gallery exhibition is not a competition and there is no judging. The artists enter simply for their enjoyment and just for the fun of it. Collectors were able to buy these one-of-a-kind “budding artist” pieces at rock bottom prices before the artists become famous in their new world of creativity. This extraordinary collection of pieces by leading artists working in uncharted waters of a new artistic venue provided the second of four memorable photo shoots.



*Doll Made by Bear Artist Martha Burch from
the Dolls Made by Bear Artists Gallery*



*Ball Jointed Bear Made by Doll Artist Debbie Weimert
from the Bears Made by Doll Artists Gallery*

The other special gallery was the Funk & Junk® Doll and Teddy Bear Gallery. Artists are used to making teddy bears and dolls out of mohair, plush, cloth, air-dry clay and wood, but this was a real challenge. What can you do with recycled funk and junk from around the house before it winds up in the garbage? The entries were wild and whimsical creations. This also was not a competition. It was just a chance for artists to create an off-the-wall piece that would bring smiles to the collectors. Collectors and artists were buying these one-of-a-kind exceptionally unique creations at rock bottom prices before they eventually become the rage of the collectable world. Others were busy taking snapshots of these never before seen pieces at the third of the four photo shoots to show off back home.



*Michelle Lamb Nicknack Doll from
the Funk and Junk Gallery*



*Cindy McGuire Cookie Tin Antique Bear
from the Funk and Junk Gallery*

All day Friday there were free concurrent tracks of presentations of four specific interests: collectors, artists, dolls and teddy bears. There was plenty of education and amusement for everyone including sessions on “Creating Settings for Art Dolls” by Betsy Baker, “Making Paws for Effect” by Tami Eveslage, “Adding Movement to Cloth” by Mark Dennis.



*Betsy Baker Creation Used as an
Illustration in her Class on
“Creating Settings for Art Dolls”*



*Tami Eveslage Paw Pad Treatment
Demonstrated at her Session on
“Paws for Effect”*



*Mark Dennis Doll Used to Illustrate
How to Add Movement and
Drama to Costuming for Small
Figures at his Session on
“Adding Movement to Cloth
Demonstration”*

The session on “Share the Joys of Collecting with Teddy Bears” by Terrie Stong was something real special to us. The highlight of Terrie’s session was surprising Susan Quinlan with her own dress-alike traveling bear designed and created by leading bear artist Martha Burch, one of Susan’s favorite bear artists. The bear is named “Me Too” and she also received a miniature traveling bear called “Mini-Me”.



Susan and Terry Quinlan Showing Off Travel Bear Creations by Bear Artist Martha Burch and Given to Susan by Terrie Stong from the Good Bears of the World

At the session on “Collectors’ Most Interesting and Favorite Pieces,” conducted by Susan and Terry Quinlan, was a bear submitted by collectors Jamie and Scott Fogel. The bear is named “Harley” and is riding a Harley Davidson motorcycle. The piece was made especially for them by England’s renowned bear artist Katherine Hallam. He is their favorite bear for many reasons. He has that perfect smile, stylish handmade clothing, and let’s not forget that amazing bike! Harley also reminds Jamie of her husband Scott who rides his own “real” Harley bike.



Favorite Bear “Harley” Created by Katherine Hallam for Jamie and Scott Fogel from the Session on “Collectors’ Most Interesting and Favorite Pieces”

Possibly the best and most appreciated new additions to the convention this year were two sessions called “Creating a Teddy Bear Artist Shopping Guide” and “Creating a Doll Artist Shopping Guide”. Each artist took 30-45 seconds to explain what makes their pieces unique, special, and attractive to their customers. Attendees received a “scorecard” that lists each of the artists in order of their sales table number so collec-

tors could make notes on all of the artists who were of special interest to them. This gave them a guide to go directly to the sales tables of their first, second, third, etc. choices when the sales room doors opened later that evening. The concept stemmed from the fact that there are 125 artists selling at this convention. How are collectors suppose to make decisions as they scurry through the six sales areas for the first time to survey what they might consider buying, then hurrying back through a second time to buy their first choices before other collectors beat them to the punch? On top of all this running around, collectors are suppose to find out information about their pieces of interest from the artists. There just is never enough time. These two sessions were intended to create some order to the chaos of shopping at the largest show of its kind.



*Bear Artists Lined Up to Introduce Themselves and Creations at the Session
on "Creating a Teddy Bear Artist Shopping Guide"*

Throughout the day there were One-on-One Mentoring Sessions for New Doll and Teddy Bear Artists. Some of the most experienced and renowned artists provided free advice and guidance to new artists on how to fine-tune their craftsmanship. The mentors let them know what is working and suggested improvements for their consideration. The purpose is to encourage new artists and to focus on the positives of their skills in order to carry on the artistic creation of these precious keepsakes and collectables.

After a hectic day full of shopping and attending presentations, everyone appreciated another free open bar during the two hours of early access to shop in the sales rooms and to face the challenge of absorbing the largest sale of its kind in search of new additions to one's collection. It was truly a mission impossible! There was no time to take pictures at the last of the four convention photo shoots. It had to wait until the Saturday Show & Sale. That evening, everyone took a sigh of relief, sat down with old and new

friends to relax and unwind over another banquet buffet. Those desserts never looked so good.

Saturday Show & Sale

On Saturday, the collectors were back in the sales rooms before the general public was admitted. An hour later, the doors were opened to the general public who were welcomed by a stirring rendition of the music from the movie “Rocky”. How appropriate for an event held in Philadelphia. The steady flow of new arrivals were rewarded with drawings throughout the day. Winners were able to choose from a wide selection of various doll and teddy bear related prizes. The public was treated to free coffee, tea and lemonade all day, just as those attending the convention enjoyed over the two previous days. Some of the artists had a sample creation or a piece of the material used to create their dolls and bears so children had something to touch and feel in order to appreciate what makes these handmade creations so special.



One of the Sales Areas at the Saturday Show & Sale



*One of the Many Raffle Winners
After Picking Out Her Own Prize*

By the time the artists packed up after the Saturday Show & Sale, everyone had spent 2-3 hectic days of learning, laughing and lollygagging with old and new friends as well as the ever popular “shopping until you drop.” Now it was time to sit back, have a beverage or two and another great meal from the bottomless serving dishes to the scrumptious desserts. Those who did not nod off were able to relive the convention by watching slides of all of the events and activities since early Thursday, which seemed like so long ago. The recipients of the Beverly Port and Helen Bullard Awards for Excellence were announced after dinner.



BETSEY
BAKER

KATHERINE
HALLAM

LULU
TATUM

MICHELLE
LAMB

JOANNE
LIVINGSTON

WANDA
CARSON

RON
NORTHMAN

KRISTY
NORTHMAN

MARK
DENNIS

LINDA
EHRENFRIED

ANKIE
DAANEN

Winners of the 2013 Beverly Port Teddy Bear & Helen Bullard Doll Awards for Excellence

2014 Convention

The convention organizers Susan and Terry Quinlan enjoy experimenting with new ideas and ways to make the collectors happier and artists more successful. They firmly believe “that for the world of dolls and teddy bears to turn around, we have to stop doing the same old thing. Growth and progress are based on innovation, taking risks and staying the course.” They plan to continue trying to make a difference. Their next convention will be May 1-3, 2014 at the same location and it promises to offer even more unique and interesting experiences for the collectors and artists (see www.quinlanmuseum.com/convention). Hope you will join us.

2014 Convention Pamphlets Available

For more information about the May 1-3, 2014 convention and registration:

- Go to www.quinlanmuseum.com/convention (click on “Registration” and scroll to bottom of the page for the Collector Registration button)
- Request a 20-page convention pamphlet and/or registration form at terry@quinlanmuseum.com or phone (805) 687-8901