

Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Newsletter

Post-Philadelphia Convention Issue

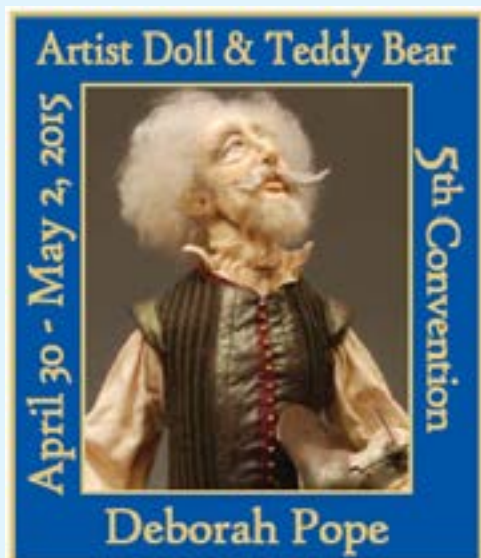
Volume 1, No. 4

January 2016

Revisiting the 2015 Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention

To view the future, we just need to look to the past. With this year's annual Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention just around the corner, it is time to take a look at what collectors and artists experienced in 2015 since we plan to repeat all the best parts and add some new fun activities at the April 29-May 1, 2016 Philadelphia event.

The 2015 Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention organized 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 Deborah Pope and Tami Eveslage. The collectable pins are only available to attendees at the convention.



The Quinlans and their six relatives from California and Washington, otherwise known as the “Blue Crew” (due to their blue shirts), did their best again to make sure the event ran smoothly, stuck to the schedule, ran on time, minimized problems, and resolved any issues of the collectors and artists.



To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Raggedy Ann and Andy, a couple of the Blue Crew (Cindi and Sue Fleener) provided photo opportunities like this one with Irene Clark from Oxford, NC, who was attending the convention with her daughter, artist Barbara Felts, who makes OOAK miniature baby dolls.

Possibly the most appreciated new additions to the convention this year were a Teddy Bear Artist Shopping Guide and a Doll Artist Shopping Guide. The Shopping Guides show for each convention participating artist a picture of one of their creations and describes what makes their pieces unique, special, and attractive to their customers. The artists' sales table numbers are also listed in the Shopping Guides. This gave collectors a guide to determine which sales tables they wanted to visit in order 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 over 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 Shopping Guides were intended to create some order to the chaos of shopping at the largest show of its kind.

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, which is the typical practice. The workshops were as popular with collectors as with artists who learned to make one-of-a-kind woman's head, teddy bear purse, expressive bear eyes, angel wings, cloth doll, bear head pin, fairy doll, teddy bear key ring, costumes, ball joints, mohair bear, lady's hands, and more.

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 eight (8) 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, lectures and activities are all free to the attendees. The convention kicked off at 4:30p.m. with a First-Time Attendees Get Together where you can sit down with Susan and Terry Quinlan to understand what makes this convention unique and to be briefed on all of the convention activities you will encounter. This was followed by the Workshop Creation Gallery where students at the Thursday workshops can display their creations so attendees can appreciate the imagination, creativity and workmanship of the students ranging from beginners to professionals.

The most anticipated gallery was on 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 Helen Bullard Award for Excellence among the artist doll entries and the Beverly Port Award for Excellence among the artist teddy bear entries. The open bar (free drinks) 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. The recipients of the 2015 Helen Bullard and Beverly Port Awards for Excellence, as selected by the convention attendees, are shown on the next page.



Wanda Carson



Nina Tugarina



Katherine Hallam



Natalie Ruiz



Diane Keeler



Tami Everlage



Mark Dennis



Michelle Lamb



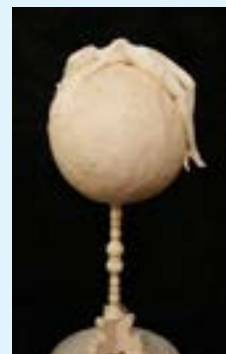
Joanne O'Hanlon



Linda Ehrenfried



Sue VanNattan



Joy Calhoon

As the evening wound down, attendees listened to representatives from the major artist doll and teddy bear organizations and shows in the U.S. in order to better appreciate the background of the artists who are members of these organizations and to learn about other events where collectors can find a large selection of leading artist creations on display and for sale.

Friday Activities

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.

Among the most unusual events at the convention were the Special Artist Galleries. 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 six (6) Special Galleries: **Beadwork Gallery** (dolls/bears decorated or made with beads), **Jewelry Gallery** (doll/bear pins and necklaces), **Miniatures Gallery** (dolls/bears that are 4” or less), **Mythological Gallery** (dolls/bears representing legendary figures, creatures and beasts), **Accessories Gallery** (doll/bear purses and tote bags), **Science Fiction Gallery** (steampunk and robot dolls/bears). On the next page are samples of the wonderful and imaginative creations on display and for sale at these Special Galleries.

Beadwork Gallery



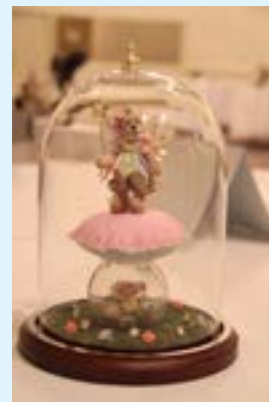
Amy Yascavage

Jewelry Gallery



Elizabeth Taylor

Miniatures Gallery



Janet Wilson

Mythological Gallery



Roxanna Maria

Steampunk Gallery



Martha Burch

Robot Gallery



Amy Yascavage

This Special 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 many memorable photo shoots to show off back home.

All day Friday there were free concurrent tracks of presentations to improve collectors’ appreciation of artist dolls and bears and to improve artists’ ability to run their business.

The ever popular Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Sale Discount Coupon Drawing provides the collectors an opportunity to buy tickets to win discount coupons for any item from their favorite artists’ sales tables at the Friday evening and Saturday Show & Sale. Discounts ranged from 10% to 50%.

Throughout the day there were free One-on-One Mentoring Sessions for New Doll and Teddy Bear Artists. Some of the most experienced and renowned artists provided 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 in the Show Rooms. Photos 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.



Mark Dennis Donation

The highlight of the dinner was a surprise drawing among all attending collectors to win a one-of-a-kind creation so generously donated by the artist and creator Mark Dennis. The luck winner was Wilma Cohen from Bronx, NY.

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 and grandchildren had something to touch and feel in order to appreciate what makes these handmade creations so special.

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." However, there were some who still had the energy to dress for dinner in their steampunk outfits.



Standing Left to Right: Sean Eveslage, Tami Eveslage, Elizabeth Taylor, Michelle Lamb, Katherine Hallam, Martha Burch, Francisco Carreno

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, presenting the final photo shoot by the attendees who were deliriously happy again with this year's winners.



*Standing Left to Right: Joanne O'Hanlon, Sue VanNattan, Wanda Carson, Tami Eveslage, Katherine Hallam, Linda Ehrenfried, Michelle Lamb, Natalie Ruiz, Joy Calhoon, Mark Dennis
Kneeling Left to Right: Diane Keeler, Nina Tugarina*

What is New at the 2016 Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Weekend Event

The event 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 event will be April 29-May 1, 2016 (see www.quinlanshow.com for details) at the same location and it promises to offer even more unique and interesting experiences for the collectors and artists. To start with, the convention will not be held on Thursday to Saturday as in the past, but held on Friday to Sunday, which is the reason for the name change from “Convention” to “Weekend Event”.

All of the activities mentioned above at the 2015 event will be held at the 2016 event again. In addition, these are some of the improved and new activities:

- Three (3), rather than two, free collectable pins honoring three leading artists
- Collector Drawing to win a one-of-a-kind doll or teddy bear created and donated by these five very generous award winning artists: Mark Dennis, Diane Keeler, JoAnne O’Hanlon, Sue VanNattan, and Joy Calhoon (picture not available).

Mark Dennis



Audrey walking Audrey II
from *Little Shop of Horrors*

Diane Keeler



Queen of Hearts

JoAnne O'Hanlon



Amelia Bearhart

Sue VanNattan



Peggy Sue and
Her Poodle

- Six (6) Special Galleries of signed, one-of-a-kind artist dolls and teddy bears on exhibit and for sale: Star War Characters Gallery, Comic Book Characters Gallery, Heroes and Role Models for Children Gallery, Bride and Groom Gallery, Historic Military Figures Gallery, Hand Painted Dolls and Bears Gallery
- Workshops for spouses, e.g., Home Brewing & Beer Tasting, Acey-deucey Board Game Tournament
- Presentations of special interest to collectors, e.g., How to Shop and Invest Wisely; Disposal of Collections; Why, What & How of Doll Collecting; Turning Around the Teddy Bear Collecting Environment
- Simple aerobic exercise sessions during three of the coffee breaks to work off the six buffet meals
- Artist-only social to catch up with your colleagues over cocktails
- Photographer Lloyd Wilson available all three days for attending artists and collectors to have dolls and bears from home and event purchases photographed professionally