

*An e-magazine for doll enthusiasts everywhere!*  
Published quarterly on-line

*The Premier Issue*

The  
Doll  
Club

AN E-MAGAZINE ©



Artist Interviews  
Up-close & Personal

*Recourses, tips, ideas and a freebie!*



*Lillian Alberti*

*editotr*

A graduate of Parsons School of Design with a BFA in Fashion Design, Lillian has been creating one-of-a-kind Art dolls for over twenty-five years. Her dolls have been featured in many doll related publications and she now travels the country teaching dollmaking to like-minded, creative soul's kind enough to allow her to share her years of doll making experience with them.

*From the Editor:*

*Welcome to the premier issue!*

*Dolls have been around since the days of old...long before recorded history...and they continue to prevail today. We've played with them in many forms: paper, play dough, stick figures, mud, and cloth since childhood. And now, as adults we strive to create them. What is it about dolls that continue to intrigue us?*

*Many of us find that creating dolls has a calming, therapeutic, effect, for others it's truly an artistic expression. No matter where you may fall in the spectrum, it is apparent we enjoy the "art" of the doll!*

*It is with this fascination in mind that I decided to develop this E-zine. I hope that you will download it to your computer, print it out to read or upload it onto your mobile unit of choice. Whichever way you choose to enjoy it...I hope you will enjoy...The Doll Club!"*

*Happy Doll Making*

**Cover artwork "Destripada" was provided by:** Marisol Diaz. Please visit <http://www.amarettogirl.com/> for more about Marisol and her beautiful artwork.

**The Doll Club** would like to offer you an opportunity to have your work published! Do you have a fun idea you'd like to share, a studio you would allow us to peek into or have an article idea submission, please send us a **brief** email with **one** photo sample of your best work to: **thedollclub@yahoo.com** for review and consideration. It is the responsibility of the submitting artist to ensure that **no** copyright infringements have occurred and that all submitted work is their own. **The Doll Club** reserves the right to edit as needed. **The Doll Club** is published 4 times a year at \$3.00 an issue

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# On-line Connections

We all understand the value of communication. The dictionary defines the word as: *“the exchange of information.”* Its synonym **is** “connection!” Without communication...where would we be? If you’re like me, you’d like to be in the company of people who understand the urge or even the **need** to create. I have some great friends but unfortunately many don’t speak the language of dolls. So, where do we creative doll folks go to connect? On-line of course! If you don’t already know, there is a wealth of information yet to be discovered in online doll clubs.

I consider these social networks as “collective think tanks” where ideas are generated and mediums are explored. It’s a place to ask advice and receive valuable tips. Where questions are asked and comprehensive answers are given. It’s a place where you can grow and evolve as a doll artist. A venue to have your creative voice heard and in return, you’ll receive support, encouragement and sisterhood! Not to mention challenges, tutorials, round robins...oh my!!! At an online doll club, **everyone** speaks the rich and diverse language of dolls! The cool thing is that you can make friends with artists from all over the world who work in all kinds of mediums...some are even world renown doll crafters who have been honing their craft for years! So, whether you’re new to doll making or have been creating forever...check them out and see which one is right for you!

Here are just a few that I have explored. Most are free but some take a small membership donation...Good Luck!

<http://www.clothdollconnection.com/ClothDollClubs.html>

<http://www.clothdollartistry.com/>

<http://clothclaydolls.ning.com/>

<http://creativesouls.ning.com/>

<http://createbyfaith.ning.com/>

<http://dollstreetdreamers.com/>

<http://www.artdolls.info/>

<http://www.dollclubs.com/>

<http://www.dollmaking.org/>

<http://www.idmadolls.com/>

<http://www.joggles.com/>

<http://dollsasart.com/>





# Inside the World of: Colleen Athens

*by Lillian Alberti*

I remember the first time I met Colleen Athens. I was teaching a workshop at the “Art is...you” East Coast” Convention (<http://www.art-isyou.com/>) a few years ago and she was taking my class. During the lunch break, Colleen showed me a few of her precious dolls. After much squealing from all the ladies present, myself included, Sallianne McClelland, creative director of the fabulous event, happened to come in to the room. Needless to say, as soon as Sallianne saw them, Colleen was hired on the spot to teach her *own* class in the following year’s lineup... and the rest, as they say, was history!

Anyone meeting Colleen for the first time will notice that she is small in stature...but those who know her, *KNOWS* that she has a big heart! Colleen is a generous artist who loves to share her artistic talents and is a great inspiration to all who meet her!

Today, Colleen is a much sought after instructor...you may have seen her fabulous tutorial article in **Art Doll Quarterly** magazine recently. She's also a full time mother and business woman dividing her time between traveling to teach and running an on-line doll making supply shop (website). These days, Colleen is busy on a new business venture...she has just launched her own teaching studio/art store "The Artsy Soul" in New Jersey! A space, I'm sure, that will serve to instruct and inspire those who, like her, have traveled down the yellow brick road toward the wonderful world of doll-making!

You may say that in this circus called "life," Colleen wears many colorful hats and seems to juggle them with ease...lol! She has been a great inspiration to me in many ways and I'm thrilled that she has taken time from her busy schedule to grant us an interview for this premier issue.





*Confectionery  
creations!*



*Colleen at work teaching a workshop*

***When did you discover your obsession with dolls?***

About 7 years ago, I purchased an embroidery machine. Within the first 2 months of my purchase I was surfing the "net" for embroidery designs. I then came across a site featuring a small cloth mermaid doll. It was so beautiful and intricate...I had no idea this Art form even existed! I became obsessed and "secretly" looked for more doll information. It had to be secret because I couldn't tell my husband I didn't want my brand new machine anymore...I JUST WANTED TO MAKE DOLLS!!! Eventually I sold the machine and started making cloth dolls...ending up with my true passion...dolls sculpted in clay!

***What inspired you to dream up your gorgeous confectionary creations?***

I think most of my creations are the things I love in real life! I love cake, cookies and candy and what I love the most is what they look like...their presentation...do they look "good enough to eat?" I love texture and design even in the clothes I wear...I'm constantly on the hunt for something "special!"

***Has your style changed much over the last few years?***

When I compare my recent dolls to my first dolls my "style" is really the same. I'm still trying to get the same ideas "out" of my head and "into" the clay but there is clearly a big difference in the **quality** of what I am doing! I know that whatever I give to my Art, I get back in the final outcome of my creation.

***You have taken classes with many world known Doll artists, which ones did you find the most influential and why?*** There is no "One" artist that was **most** influential to me...they ALL were! I feel like I jumped in and taught myself the basics...and then went out searching for "more"...more information, more techniques, more "Inspiring Energy" from wonderful Doll artists that are passionate about what they are doing. No matter who the Doll artist that I take a class from, I always find at least one thing that helps me on my journey to be the best that I can be! I have taken classes from Diane Keeler, Jack Johnston, Sherry Goshon, Wendy Froud, Ankie Daanen, Lillian Alberti, Mimi Winer. No one can ever know so much that they can't learn from another. When I teach, I always learn from my students!

***Of the different clays that I have dabbled in, why do I prefer paper clay?***

oh my gosh...I LOVE paper clay!!! I love the way it takes acrylics, water colors, chalks and pigment powders. I love that you can add to it at any time...and I mean "Anytime!" I am an "adder" of clay, always changing my mind or seeing mistakes after the fact. I have even painted and "sealed" a face then decided the chin or cheek was wrong...added more clay, smoothed, and painted seamlessly. That is amazing to me! I'm not patient...so I bake everything and keep on working! I can build it up or carve it away...I love its versatility!

***Being Published (ADQ Summer 2012), how did that accomplishment feel?***

Wow!!! It feels so good to have a magazine acknowledge what you are doing and help you bring it out to an audience. I have always been so shy about what I create...that type of thing is hard for me, maybe being afraid that people won't accept my Art. Being published is helping me be a bit more "brave." It makes you feel excited and proud, I'm so glad I took the step to submit my work.

***New business venture and hopes for a new "workshop classroom"***

I am very excited and nervous at the same time. The Building will consist of a small store front where I will sell hard to find mixed media Art Supplies and "treasures." There will also be a Classroom for teaching all types of mixed media workshops. I am primarily a Doll maker, but, to me, a doll is mixed media Art if you're using clay, cloth, paints, findings, embellishment....the list goes on! I'll teach classes and will hire other artists to hold workshops.

***Direction do you see yourself in your dollmaking journey?***

I'd love to share my passion and teach what I know. I really dream of someday writing a book on creating tiny paper clay dolls and embellishing them. ♪



For more information on Colleen or to see where she'll be teaching next, please check-out her blog:

<http://dolljourney.blogspot.com/> .

The Artsy Soul is located at 59 No. Main Street Manahawkin, New Jersey 08050

# Collage

Readers Submissions



1. Christine  
Jacobson

2. Elizabeth  
Parsons

3. Marisol  
Díaz.

4. Carol  
Andrews



Want to see your work on these pages? Submit to: [thedollclub@yahoo.com](mailto:thedollclub@yahoo.com)



# The Birth of a Doll Club...

by Lillian Alberti



I have wanted to be part of a doll club for the longest time...but, as it turns out, I never find one near me. It was becoming increasingly obvious that the only way I was going to be in a club was to start one myself...so...I did! Naturally, I had no idea where to begin but some quick research on-line led me straight to the **Cloth Doll Connection** (<http://www.clothdollconnection.com/>) a fabulous resource not just for clubs but for countless other doll related information.

There I found "**How to start a doll club**" written by ODACA Art Doll artist and veteran doll master, Gloria Winer (<http://www.mimidolls.com/>). Thanks to Gloria, much of the guess work is taken care of in this downloadable PDF. It proved to be very helpful in many ways especially on how to let people know about the club forming. Luckily, I write a blog so I was able to word the spread quickly. In less than a week, I had nearly 15 ladies committed to attending the first meeting...cool!



Next was deciding on where to meet. I held it at my own home and decided that serving “tea & treats” would be a great ice breaker. Also, because some of the ladies were coming from a distance, I wanted to make the gathering a bit more special so I made personalized name tags and had an email directory list printed up. The atmosphere was wonderfully exciting and there was plenty of chatter!

A wonderfully eclectic mix of women showed up. Most were meeting for the first time, for others, it seems, their paths had crossed before...small world! We had gals who have been making dolls for years while others have only made a handful. Each came with pen in hand and ideas to share...in short, these ladies came to the table ***ready*** to be inspired! Those new to doll making were willing to absorb all that was being offered while the

experienced doll makers were **so** willing to share their passion...a perfect match!

With this much energy filling the room, it is clear that there will be constant excitement and new ideas circulating at “The Warwick Doll Crafters Guild!” The hours breezed by and our time together came to an end and as they left, each of the ladies had a smile on their face, feeling energized and inspired...already looking forward to the next meeting! 🌸

### *Additional helpful information:*



- Once everyone has RSVP's... make name tags. This allows all present to feel welcome and will eliminate the embarrassment of having to ask someone to repeat their name
- Having a printed list of information to hand out will give credence to the gathering and give a sense of professionalism
- The list should include an agenda of what is to be decided, such as: voting on office positions, the naming of the club, etc.
- Consider adding a club "code of conduct." This **can** be a delicate topic, but, because of the range of members experience, novice to advance, a statement declaring that **all** members will be able to contribute freely, give and receive constructive criticism and receive mutual respect from their fellow doll makers is important. This will help set the "tone" of the club and put everyone's mind at ease
- As silly as it sounds, we recommend having a gavel or bell on hand. We **all** know how animated creative conversation can be...lol! This will allow everyone an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas!

***GOOD LUCK!***

JUST  
4  
FUN

## *The Transformation:*

by Lillian Alberti

Isn't she lovely? Pretty as she is, though, she didn't start out that way. I was inspired by a magazine article that featured a photograph of a dress mannequin "dolloed-up" in tulle & crinoline...I just loved the concept! I did some on-line research and found several table top "French" mannequins that would fit the confines of my work small area, unfortunately the cost was far too expensive for something that would truly be used for just decorative purposes.

So, I put the whole idea on the back burner. Recently, while shopping at a craft store, I stumbled upon an inexpensive version of the table top mannequin. This one, unfortunately, was "done up" in black satin, crinoline and sequins (pictured at right) and void of *any* charming details...not exactly what I had in mind...ugh! But as they say, the "price was right" and the fact that I had a discount coupon just sweetened the deal!



*Let the transformation begin!*



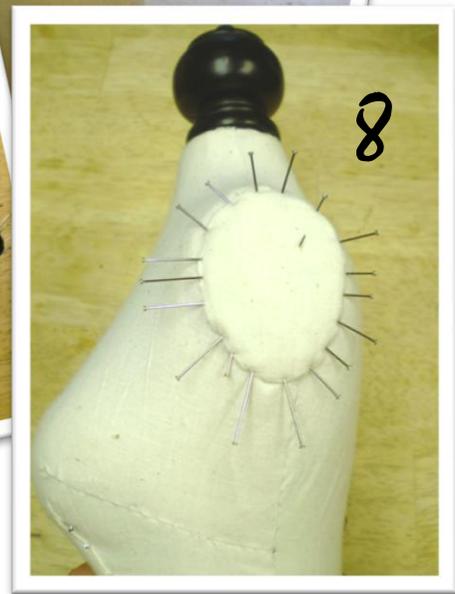
I took her home with me and quickly went to work. **1.** Off came all the black satin and sequins! **2.** Unfortunately the underlying foam starting coming off with it...yikes! **3.** Not having any other alternative; I had to take **all** the foam off...ugh! **4.** Thinking quickly, I covered the form with felt...it went on easily and hugged the form smoothly...whew!



5. I draped muslin over the felt and fitted it at the apex and waist seams...just like in fashion school! 6. She's starting to take shape 7. Adding black satin to the base would add just a "touch of class!"



8. Padding the armhole would give her a *real* "French" accent!"

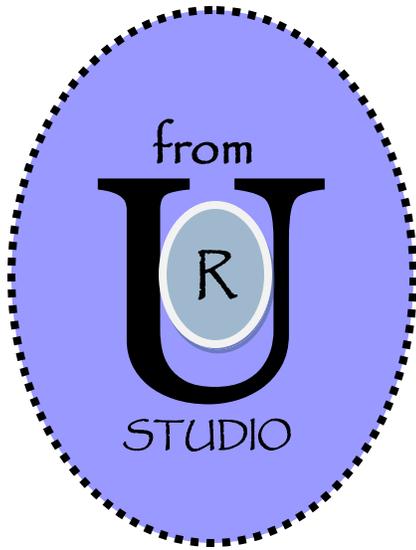


Feeling inspired?  
Are you up for the  
challenge? Be  
forewarned ... this  
project is **not** for  
the faint hearted  
...lol! Many times  
as I worked on this  
I wondered if I bit  
off more than I  
could chew! But  
after about 5 hours  
(off and on) she  
was finished! And  
for a mere \$25.00,  
I now have **just**  
what I pictured in  
my mind's eye! ♡

*Voilà*



Do you have a project you'd like to share **just 4 fun**? Please  
email us your suggestions for possible consideration!  
[thedollclub@yahoo.com](mailto:thedollclub@yahoo.com)



## *From Elizabeth Parsons inner sanctum...*

When I was a girl we'd travel to visit family in Georgia. On one particular visit, I discovered my first "art doll" and was forever hooked. We stayed at my Aunt Molly's house in the tiny town of Grantville, GA; she was in her 80's and still lived in "Bonnie Castle," a family mansion with an attic full of dusty old trunks and a cellar with tunnels leading to rooms filled with all kinds of junk. Wonderful places for a curious girl to explore! While exploring a trunk, I came upon fabric and old sewing notions and handmade dolls in various stages of completion. Aunt Molly told me the dolls were made by her mother-in-law, Itura Colley. Itura made walnut-head dolls in the 30's and 40's for her cottage industry business called "Loveleigh Novelties." The dolls depicted African Americans, with names like Old Black Joe the farmer, The Preacher, The Preacher's Wife, and Little Topsy, to name a few.

The walnut heads were painted and the bodies were wire armatures wrapped with black crepe paper flat cardboard feet and felt hats. Tiny Bibles or canes completed their outfits. My aunt allowed me to have the dolls and I still treasure them today. Today, Loveleigh Dolls are collectables and are auctioned on eBay or sold in antique shops, but I'll never sell mine!

My assemblage dolls grew out of my love of collage and dolls. I read an article about a collage artist, Lisa Kaus and saw examples of assemblage dolls she made using wood and vintage German doll heads. I was intrigued and researched the doll parts. I learned that prior to WWI, there were many doll factories in Germany. The factories buried their rejected doll parts to dispose of them. Time went on and the doll industry in Germany waned. Today, there are doll parts still buried on the grounds of the old doll factories that are dug up and sold. The age of the parts vary from the early 1800's to early 1900's. Rescued doll parts from Germany...what a great story to tell in each doll I make!

I was inspired by what Lisa was doing but I have my own spin. As I am a story teller in my art, I decided to make dolls that tell a story. I started with Cinderella and Prince Charming. People seemed to love them and wanted to buy them...so I sold my first doll. At the time, I was also in the throes of menopause and made a "Menopause Queen" assemblage doll. She was a huge hit...I've made many since! Each one is unique and a one-of-a-kind. Women emailed me from all over the US telling me how much they relate to her!! Hands down, my "Menopause Queen" doll is my bestseller.

I also have a love of paper and named my company: [www.allthingspaper.com](http://www.allthingspaper.com). I think of each doll as a dimensional collage that tells a story. I've experimented with making a collage doll by making the body out of paper clay and collaged the entire body with vintage papers. The end result is wonderful; I love how she turned out and plan on making more.

My style has not changed much over the past few years. People tell me they love my 'style' but I have no idea what that is! What has changed is what I work on. I always said I would NEVER be a scrapbook maker but after my grandchild was born last year, I decided to make a scrap book for each of my daughters highlighting their children. Rather than making it "cutsie," I made it *my way* - funky, chunky and full of artwork...my daughters loved them! Right now the idea of how to incorporate a doll or doll head into a scrapbook is marinating in my head... some experimentation is soon to come!

The crowning achievement of my artwork was when one of my all-time favorite artists, Nick Bantock, picked my artwork to go on the cover of an art magazine. He was the featured artist in that issue and as he was reviewing other artists' work that would be in the same issue, he told the editor that my work needed to be on the cover! I remember when the editor of the magazine called me and told me to 'sit down'...

I'm a 'newbie' in the doll making world. As such, I am still finding my way and have discovered paper clay to be my favorite medium for doll making. I've worked with polymer clay and Lillian Alberti's technique of paper clay over Cellu-clay. My assemblage dolls have wood bodies and continue to evolve as I learn new techniques to develop into great stories. One idea I'd like to explore is incorporating paper clay and / or cellulose over wood to make my assemblage dolls.

I, just like Alice, fell down the rabbit hole of Doll making! I am on a wonderful adventure with all kinds of curious characters to meet and things to explore... in my opinion, it doesn't get any better than this! 🐇



[www.allthingspaper.com](http://www.allthingspaper.com)

or

[www.allthingspaper.blogspot.com](http://www.allthingspaper.blogspot.com)

# The ART<sup>to</sup> DISCOVERY

Christine Jacobsen is new to the art of doll making. Here, she shares with us her love of her new found art...

## 1. How long have you been creating doll?

In the fall of 2011, I saw a posting for a doll making class at our local BOCES, taught by Lillian Alberti. It sounded interesting, and since I have had a love of fiber and clay for over 20 years, I thought I would try it. I started researching doll making prior to the class, and discovered books at the library on cloth doll making. I made one prior to my first class, and, like "Alice," I, too, fell down deep into the rabbit hole...in this case...of doll making! After I took Lillian's class, I took another with her and can't seem to get enough of doll making. Now, I usually have 3 or 4 projects going at once.

## 2. Have you tried other mediums in doll making? If so, which is your favorite?

Since doll making is relatively new to me, I'm not sure which my favorite is yet. I seem to be but I seem to prefer the air dried clay dolls, as it gives me the opportunity to sculpt, something that I have been doing for about 5 year.

## 3. What do you find inspires you in doll making?

Lately I have been drawn to the idea of dolls in motion. I was a dancer, so I am looking to recreate some of my favorite movements. Inspiration seems to come from many sources, and again as a beginning doll maker, I am inspired by the work of others, and try to recreate a style or theme that I have seen done by someone else.

## 4. You seem to have caught on very quickly...have you had any art training in the past?

Well, I don't know if you count the years of dance, acting and singing training I have done. LOL.. but I have taken sculpting classes from Najim Chechen, and Bob Breuer, two local NY sculptors. I also took a weekend workshop at Peters Valley, in New Jersey, with sculptor Anne Currier, on how to make sculpture from throwing pots on a pottery wheel. Lately, I took an online class from Joggles, with doll artist Judy Skeel, and made a Queen of Hearts doll.

## 5. What direction do you see yourself taking in your doll making journey?

Here is what I love, love, love about doll making- the only limit is your imagination. I am having so much fun, and I want to keep it that way. So for now, I'll keep expressing myself this way, and hope to bring some joy to those who adopt or inherit my dolls! ~





*The  
Artist  
Dolls  
&  
Teddy  
Bear  
Convention*

Philadelphia, PA

May 2012

For those of you who were not able to attend **The Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention** near Philadelphia this spring, I'm here to say that this is one "don't miss" event that will satisfy both vendor and collector! The Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention is the brainchild of Susan and Terrence Quinlan. The Quinlan's are not new to the one-of-a-kind craft

market. Several years ago they founded **The Susan Quinlan Doll & Teddy Bear Museum and Library** in Santa Barbara California (<http://www.quinlanmuseum.com/>) which houses Susan's huge (and continuously growing!) collection of Doll and Teddy Bears. Just think ...all of this came about because of Susan's childhood obsession with Barbie dolls! Lucky us...now we get to enjoy all the goodies!

The convention was conveniently located at the Philadelphia Airport Hotel just outside Philly which offered reasonable accommodations. Share the room with a friend like I did, and splurge the savings on a one-of-a-kind doll...hint, hint! Here are just a few of the offerings that were included in the **\$195** convention fee:

- Buffet meals,
- Receptions, all day refreshments
- Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Sale with **150 artist tables**
- Affordable Artists Workshops
- One-of-a-Kind Artist Doll & Bear Sale awards night
- Artist Book Signing and Sale
- Presentations, Panels, Demos and Lectures by leading artists
- Artist Market Place for supplies to create dolls/bears
- A Raffle

Although I attended the convention as an opportunity to sell my dolls (and I did!) there was still plenty of time for me to enjoy the fun. Here, I share just a few of the highlights of the event. Christine, my roomie, and I explored the planned activities. We attended a lecture on NIADA Art Doll Artist, the sales room...WOW...the market place and Christine herself gave a lecture on American Indian Dolls. I had the pleasure of meeting some of my favorite and I'm sure, yours too, NIADA & ODACA Artists:

**Nancy Wiley** (<http://www.nancywiley.com/>)

**Floyd Bell** (<http://www.wooddollcarver.net/>),

**Ankie Daanen** (<http://ankie-doll-art.com/agenda.html>),

**Sandra Wright Justiss** (<http://www.odaca.org/bios/justiss.php>),

**Stephanie Blythe** (<http://stephanieblythe.com/>)

**Donna May Robinson** (<http://donnamayrobinson.com/>),

**Betsy Baker** (<http://www.odaca.org/bios/baker.php>)

and **Diane Troutman** (<http://www.troutmanoriginals.com/>) just to name a few! Several of them taught cool workshops.

The sales room was buzzing with activity...sooo many artists, sooo much talent...the only problem was not knowing where to begin! There were plenty of refreshments offered throughout the day to keep you hydrated and moving onto your next discovery. I chatted with several acquaintances I've met at other Art Doll functions and made new friends including artist Wendy Barber, while enjoying the fabulous buffet meals. I really had a great time and would **highly** recommend the event to anyone interested. I've already signed up for next year's event...May 2-4, 2013...hope to see you there! ☺



Founders Susan and Terrence Quinlan



A piece by Sandra Wright Justiss



Donna May Robinson (on the left) with Stephanie Blythe



Me with Nancy Wiley (left) and Nancy's fabulous 3' tall display!



An award winner by Mark Dennis



Me with Floyd Bell



A panel of speakers gave a very informative lecture on the Business of Art doll & Teddy bears...selling and marketing!



Breakfast with friends...both new & old!

I hope you've enjoyed this issue of **The Doll Club**. Until next time...happy dollmaking!