

Quinlan Museum Doll & Teddy Bear Newsletter

Volume 2, No. 5

February 2019

Experiences at the 2018 Susan Quinlan Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention by teddy bear artist Wayne Lim, Wayneston Bears, Singapore

This was Wayne Lim's 2nd time participating in the Susan Quinlan Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention. The event was held at the same location as last year, in the Clarion Hotel & Convention Center in Philadelphia.



Wayne Lim sales table at the start of the Show & Sale

I was so happy to meet my fellow bear and doll artist friends again. I gave everyone a big "bear" hug as we met. This event somehow seemed to have a unique magical power, having the ability to bind artists and collectors together. No one seemed to be strangers as everyone had a great smile on their faces. This was one of the reasons why I had decided to come again. I felt a deep sense of belonging at the show, where I could not have felt the same at any other shows I had attended.



I arrived at the hotel on Thursday, April 12th and the first thing I did was to setup the display of my OOAK (One-of-a-Kind) Signature Gallery piece in the Ballroom. This year, I gave my best to create and present my creation "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" (see picture above) in the gallery. The piece consisted of a Centaur named Brave Heart and a baby cub, Micki. I was glad to hear that some artists and collectors voted for me, which meant a lot to me. Although I didn't win an award (he fell 3 votes short), I was appreciative for the encouragement given, as it gave me motivation to strive to become a better bear artist. Some collectors and artists even thanked me for creating the gallery piece. It gave me inspiration and a moment to appreciate something beautiful. I was also very thankful to all the wonderful praises, as it made all my efforts totally worthwhile, which was priceless. These are a couple of the entries in the Beverly Port Award for Excellence gallery and sale:



*"Wizard of Oz" by Betsey Baker,
award winner miniature doll artist*



*"Lushs" by Marina Osetrova,
a teddy bear artist from Russia*

This event is definitely a "must-go-to" for all who love dolls and teddy bears. There was always something for everyone. On Thursday, there were several optional doll and bear workshops. That evening was the judging and sale of pieces entered for the Beverly Port and Helen Bullard Awards for Excellence. On Friday, there was an Artist & Collector Market Place where one could shop for materials, supplies, do-dads and other accessories for making bears and dolls. There were many sharing sessions in different time slots. I attended the *Toy Prop Making* session by doll artist Michelle Pulaski and the *Five Key Steps to Building Successful Business* by legendary doll artist Jack Johnston. I was very excited to purchase and receive a specially autographed book from Jack!



Doll artist Jack Johnston and Wayne at book sale and signing

On Friday there were also six special OOAQ doll and bear exhibits and sales based on the following themes:

- Part-Doll, Part-Bear Characters
- Creations Good Enough to Exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Fashions from Your Favorite Period of Time
- Greatest Moments in History
- Science Fiction Characters
- Famous American Women or Men

I entered my creation "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" piece in the Part-Doll, Part-Bear Character Exhibit. Below is Katrina Bittar's paper mache doll entry in the Fashions from Your Favorite Period of Time Exhibit. The purpose of theme exhibits at the convention each year 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.



*Wayne with Ukrainian doll artist Marina Bondarenko
and Russian doll artist Katrina Bittar*

While all these activities are taking place on Friday, behind the scenes are one-on-one mentoring sessions going on where a veteran artist offers suggestions to new artists how to fine-tune their craftsmanship and to provide encouragement. The first time I attended the convention in 2017, I took advantage of being mentored by bear artist Tyler Crain-Davis.



Tyler and Zac Crain-Davis sales table at the 2018 convention

On Saturday, the convention was opened to the public to visit and purchase creations from their favorite artists. We were glad to see some of the regular collectors like Andrea Shinn and her mother Alice Shinn coming to the show to support the event. Andrea has been adding to her collection every year since the convention started in 2011. I was glad that some of my creations like Mikhail and Brunost were adopted and found new homes.



Teddy bear collector Andrea Shinn visiting Wayne's table



"Say cheese!" Bear artists Tami Eveslage (left) with bear artist Lynn Bowie (right) who traveled from Scotland for the event



Doll artist Anna Potapova came even farther to participate – from Russia



Another outstanding artist from Russia, bear artist Svetlana Khabarova



Oregon bear artist Candi Taylor, recipient of the 2019 Beverly Port Award for Excellence



Florida teddy bear artist Darlene Allen, a faithful convention participant and supporter since the 1st convention in 2011



Dynamic duo artists the Northman's from Michigan with Capt'n Ron creating the bears and Kristy making the outfits



Colorado teddy bear artist Michelle Lamb, a perennial recipient of the Beverly Port Award for Excellence and frequent workshop instructor



"Local" New York teddy bear artist Rob Boger-Elliott



Wisconsin doll artist Diane Keeler, a perennial recipient of the Helen Bullard Award for Excellence and frequent workshop instructor (Yes, there were as many doll artists as bear artists at the convention)

In the evening, we had a wonderful time having dinner at the Presidential Ballroom where the winners of the Beverly Port Awards for artist teddy bear entries and Helen Bullard Awards for artist doll entries were announced. Congratulations to all eight of the award winners.



Recipients of the 2018 Beverly Port Awards for Excellence: teddy bear artists Tami Eveslage, Katherine Hallam and Sue VanNattan (missing: Candi Taylor)

After the Awards Ceremony, organizers of the event, Susan and Terry Quinlan, announced the dates of the convention next year to be on May 2-4, 2019. So mark your calendar! I just talked about the artist teddy bear side of this event. There is also an artist doll side to this event that will double your fun, enjoyment and pleasure. I hope to see you there this year!

Wayne Lim is the founder of the Singapore Teddy Bear Club, an organizer for the 2019 Singapore Teddy & Friends Show, and one of the outstanding international artists participating again at the Quinlan Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention in May 2019. Not only will he be selling his bears and animals, he will be conducting a full-day workshop for collectors and artists to create their own "Lucky Puppy." The class is limited to six students, so hurry to sign up. Go to www.quinlanshow.com for details.