

2018 Quinlan Artist Doll and Teddy Bear Convention

The 8th annual Artist Doll and Teddy Bear Convention, otherwise referred to as the “Quinlan Show” by the artist community, will be held again at the Clarion Hotel in Philadelphia on April 12-14, 2018. Convention information is at www.quinlanshow.com. Click on “Registration”, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on the appropriate button(s) for a registration form. We expect there again will be 130 artist sales tables (sellers will all be artists – no dealers/vendors) at the Saturday Convention Show and Sale. The Friday-Saturday convention fee is \$195 for artists, collectors and spouses. Those attending Thursday workshops will register directly with the instructor and send them the workshop fee (instructor contact information is provided). Below is a brief summary of the convention agenda.

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Workshops (8am-4pm)

- Fifteen (15) optional half day and full day workshops
- All day free coffee, tea and lemonade
- Breakfast/lunch in private dining room or hotel restaurant (on your own)
- Professional photographer service all day

Convention (begins at 4:30pm)

- Three collectable rare convention artist souvenir pins
- Bear artist Armella Dana Commemoration souvenir gift
- New and old doll and teddy bear magazines for convention attendees
- Boot Camp Indoctrination for First-Time Attendees session
- Two days of socializing with leading artists and making new friends
- Attendee Judging for Helen Bullard and Beverly Port Awards
- Signed, Certified One-of-a-Kind Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Sale
- Complimentary wine, beer, and soda open bar during Judging and Sale
- Dinner in private dining room or hotel restaurant (on your own)

Friday, April 13, 2018

- Buffet full breakfast, lunch and dinner
- All day free coffee, tea and lemonade
- Professional photographer service all day
- Market Place for buying trims, material, supplies, trinkets, and do-dads
- Initial release, sale and signing of artist Jack Johnston’s latest book entitled *Professional Doll Making – 25 Key Steps to Building a Successful Business*
- Thirteen (13) educational and entertaining presentations and discussions
- Good Bears of the World (GBW) General Membership Annual Meeting

- One-on-one mentoring by leading artists for new doll and teddy bear artists
- Dancing-with-the-Bears coffee breaks – learn simple line dancing
- One-of-a-kind, signed doll and teddy bear sales at six (6) theme exhibits:
 - Part-Doll, Part-Bear Figures
 - 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 and Men
- Artist doll and teddy bear discount coupon drawing
- Two-hour early access to the Artist Doll and Teddy Bear Show and Sale
- Complimentary wine, beer, and soda open bar during early access Sale

Saturday, April 14, 2018

- Buffet full breakfast and dinner
- All day free coffee, tea and lemonade
- Largest Artist Doll and Teddy Bear Show and Sale (open to the public)
- Sixty (60) doll and bear door prizes for lucky winners of hourly free drawings
- Good Bears of the World (GBW) gifting teddy bears to the local Police
- GBW Charity Silent Auction for children in traumatic situations
- Free new and old doll and teddy bear magazines for the public
- Professional photographer service all day
- Professional Doll Makers Art Guild Annual Award Ceremony
- Complimentary wine, beer, and soda open bar
- Helen Bullard and Beverly Port Award Banquet

Revisiting the 2017 Quinlan Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Event

The 2017 Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention began with a full day of optional workshops on a wide variety of doll and teddy bear related topics and taught by a number of the leading artists in the U.S. Among the 100 students attending the 23 workshops, 70% were artists and 30% were collectors, so many of the workshops have appeal to collectors as well as artists. In the 3-7 hour classes, students learned to make patterns, dolls, bears, body parts, clothing, creatures, jewelry, ornaments, prints, as well as to develop new or better techniques and to learn to use tools.



*Soulful [Bear] Smiles
Michelle Lamb*



*Sculpting a Woman's Head
Diane Keeler*



*Ukrainian Easter Eggs
Tina Parsons*

At the end of the day, there was a Workshop Student Gallery where students ranging from beginners to professional could share their creations with other convention attendees. It is just an opportunity for students to take pride in what they learned and accomplished and to share a fun experience with everyone at the convention.



*Needle Felting a Bear's Face Pin
Michele Freeman Students*



*Print Making
Andrea Marcucci Students*



*Teddy Bear Jacob
Allen Hsu Students*

The actual convention started late Friday afternoon. This year's convention registration package included one-of-a-kind limited edition pins honoring two of the leading doll and teddy bear artists Sandra Wright Justiss and Donna Nielsen, respectively. The collectable pins are only available to attendees at the convention.



Sandra Wright Justiss



Donna Nielsen

Sixty percent (60%) of those at the convention were new attendees since the prior year, which is a healthy sign for any event, as success is based on new contributors to the activities/exhibits and new buyers and sellers at the sales. The first event at the convention is the "Boot Camp Indoctrination" session conducted by Susan and Terry Quinlan where you learn what to expect for the next two days and receive "tips" on how best to shop and experience this event. Attendees have affectionately referred to this convention as a "boot camp" because you get up early every day to face a whole new world of doll and bear experiences at a go-go-go pace in between hearty buffet meals provided to keep up your energy. There were opportunities to do exercises during some of the coffee breaks. The convention continues to be "the best deal and fun event in the doll and teddy bear world." For the nominal \$195 registration fee, you received six (6) buffet meals, nightly cocktails, all day refreshments, educational and entertaining lectures and activities.

Prior to the Friday banquet was the preview, sale and judging of one-of-a-kind, signed artist doll and bear entries for the 2017 Helen Bullard Award for Excellence among the artist doll entries and the Beverly Port Award for Excellence among the artist teddy bear entries. Eight-five percent (85%) of the participating artists entered at least one piece in this judging and sale event – shows how popular the event and awards are among the artists. Here are example of artist dolls and teddy bears entered in this year's judging and sale experienced by the attendees while enjoying complimentary wine, beer and sodas.



Cassandra
Michelle Lamb



Spring Hanfu Maiden
Diane Keeler



Pierre
Sharon Barron



Keeper of the Earth
Marla Niederer



Embrace Your Softer Side
Katherine Hallam



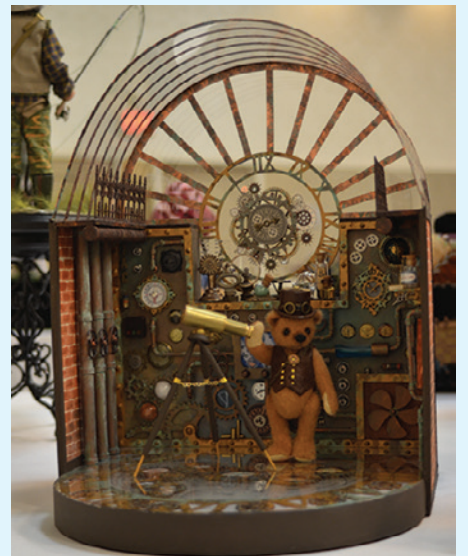
Dorian Grey
Michele Collins



Sennett
Pam Pontious



Petit Valiant
Mary Esther Ward



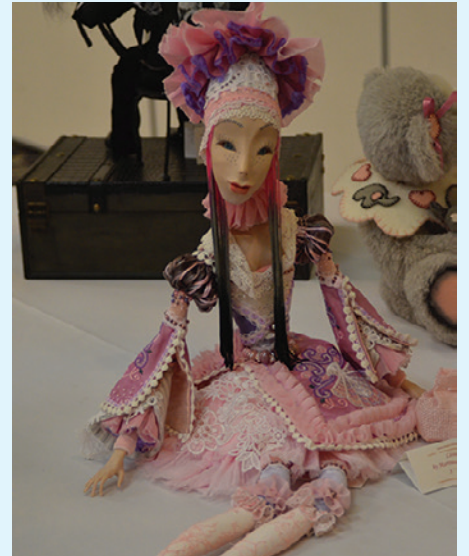
The Time Machine
Ginger Brame



*Shadow Man the Prince of Voodoo
Linda Ehrenfried*



*Guess Who – Pooh
Dolores Austin*



*Lizette
Marina Bondarenko*



*Sir Reginald IV, Fairy Catcher
Michele Freeman*



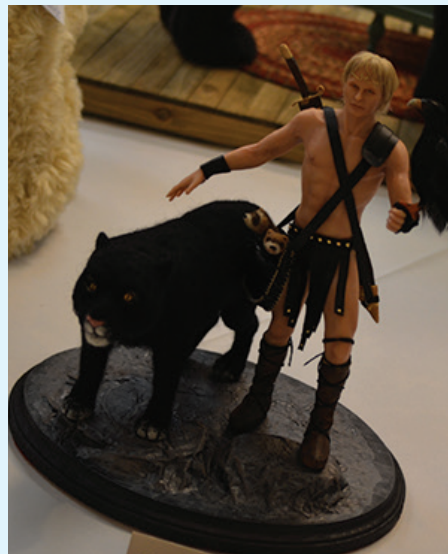
*Mother Goose
Lillian Alberti*



*Darrius Kipner Sky Warrior
Wanda Carson*



*Bits and Pieces
Andrea Marcucci*



*The Beastmaster
Naomi Smith*



*The Tables Turn
Darlene Allen*



Faster! Faster! Faster!
Vicki Stephan



Silly Olde Bear
Jackie Melerski



Goin' Up the Country
Maggie Newman

The highlight of the Thursday banquet was the announcements and presentations of the Professional Doll Makers Art Guild (PDMAG) Awards to PDMAG member doll artists who entered the PDMAG annual on-line Gold Contest in five different categories in three different skill levels. PDMAG also presented a President Choice, Artist Choice and Master Doll Artist Awards among their members, as well as a Best in Show Award among all Quinlan Show participating doll and bear artists.



Recipients of 2017 Professional Doll Makers Art Guild Awards

Mark Dennis was presented with the PDMAG Lifetime Award, which gave Susan Quinlan a chance finally to have her picture taken with Mark Dennis who had given her portrait dolls of her and husband Terry Quinlan that is pictured on her t-shirt.



Front and Back Shots of Mark Dennis and the Quinlans



One of the three busy rooms used for the Market Place

After a hearty buffet breakfast Saturday morning, everyone descended on the Artist and Collector Market Place where you can buy trims, material, furs, supplies, trinkets, do-dads and silly things for designing, creating and accessorizing your own dolls and teddy bears. Regular size dolls and bears are not allowed to be sold at the Market – that is only allowed at the Friday exhibits and Saturday Show & Sale.

Among the most anticipated events at the convention are the Special Artist Exhibits – all pieces are signed, one-of-a-kind and for sale. The purpose of these exhibits 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 exhibits:

- Figures from the Dark Side Exhibit (Day of the Dead, vampires, witches, zombies)
- Metal or Wood Figures Exhibit (partially or entirely)
- Make Me Smile Exhibit (brings a smile to your face)
- Bling Figures Exhibit (bobbles, bangles, beads & jewels)
- Figures with Interchangeable Parts Exhibit (heads, arms, legs, outfits, accessories)
- All from the SAME Pattern Teddy Bear Challenge Exhibit (made from the same pattern)

Below are some examples of dolls and teddy bears entered in the various special theme exhibits for attendees to view, photograph and purchase.

Figures from the Dark Side Exhibit



*Chick N' Bones
Amy Thornton*



*Dex the Zombie
Tyler Crain-Davis*



Esther Manso



*Day of the Dead Cage Doll
Linda Ehrenfried*



*A Pirate's Life for Me!
Jillian Reeves*



*Day of the Dead Bones Bear
Michele Freeman*

Metal or Wood Figures Exhibit



*Leona
Lynne Burnett*



*Three Bears
Cindy McGuire*



*Icarus
Michaeleen Munrow*



*Shanley's Defense Story
Debbie Weimert*



*Shanley's Defense Doll
Debbie Weimert*



Maggie Anderson

Make Me Smile Exhibit



Cindy Lou & the Fowl Water
Donna Manthey



Elves Olan & Mills "Say Cheese"
Sandie Phillips



Blind Date?
Tina Parsons

Bling Figures Exhibit



Party Time!
Shelia Westerfield



Noir
Katherine Hallam



Mother Earth Sparkling Tree of Life
Linda Ehrenfried



Bianca Bling
Amy Yascavage



Crystal
Lynne Burnett

Figures with Interchangeable Parts Exhibit



Take-A-Part Teddy Set
Elizabeth Taylor

All from the SAME Pattern Teddy Bear Challenge Exhibit



Martini
Rod Rollins



Bixby
Pam Pontious



Theodore
Agnes Intelicato



Decker
Michelle Lamb



Violet Jean
Kimberly Wendt



Santos
Allen Hsu

At the Friday banquet, the following doll and bear artists took a few minutes to describe their organization and annual event so attendees could learn more about these other leading doll and bear artist shows and organizations:

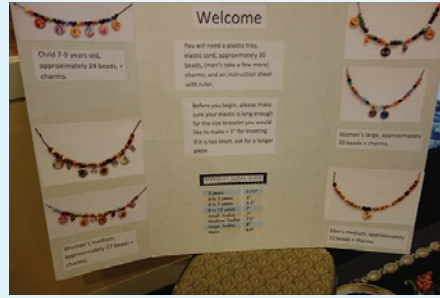
Diane Keeler, National Institute of American Doll Artists
Cindy Malchoff, Teddy Bear Artist Invitational
Donna Nielsen, Hunt Valley Teddy Bear Show
Terrie Stong, Good Bears of the World

All day Saturday there were free concurrent presentations to improve collectors' appreciation of artist dolls and bears and to improve artists' ability to create their pieces and run their business. Some sessions are just to provide some fun, such as, "A Passion for Chocolate Road Trip," "Charm Bracelet Making," "Italy Trip Top to Bottom," and "Spouse's Guide to Life with a Doll Artist." A new fun event was offered this year by bear artists Audrey Howell and Agnes Intelicato who conducted a "Teddy Bear Class to Learn Tai Chi" dur-

ing three of the coffee breaks. They helped relieve some of the stress and anxiety of the “boot camp” pace of the conference.



*The Business of Being an Artist
Panelists (left to right):
Donna Nielsen, Valerie
Gladstone, Darlene Allen,
Cindy McGuire, Vanessa Lee
(standing on right)*



*Charm Bracelet Make and Take Session
Joanne Livingston and Jillian Reeves*



*A Woodworkers Survival Guide
to Life with a Doll Artist Session
Bob Niederer*



*Keeping the Doll Industry Going
One Apprentice at a Time Panel
Left to right: Debbie Weimert, Linda
Ehrenfried, Jack Johnston, Cherie Fretto,
Roxanna Maria*



*Coffee Break Tai Chi Exercises
conducted by
Agnes Intelicato
and Audrey Howell*

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 doll and teddy bear 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.

The ever popular Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Sale Discount Coupon Drawing provided the collectors an opportunity to buy tickets to win discount coupons for any item from their favorite artists' sales tables at the Saturday Show & Sale. Discounts ranged from 10% to 30%. Another bonus at the Show & Sale was the pictured Santa Doll created by a number of the members of the Professional Doll Makers Art Guild that was given to the winner of their Word Scramble Scavenger Hunt participants at the Show.

Those attending the Saturday Show & Sale again were rewarded with free drawings each hour to select their prize from over sixty (60) doll and teddy bear related door prizes. But before the doors opened to the Show & Sale, early arrivers were entertained by doll and teddy bear artists John and Linda Trinckes who sang a blend of easy listening, blues, folk, light pop, and inspirational songs including some of the 30+ songs they have written including their teddy bear and doll songs *A Collector's Bear*, *Teddy's Memory Lane*, *A Collector Extraordinaire*, and *Long Ago and Till Today*.



Cups Used for the Discount Coupon Drawings



Santa Doll Prize for Winner of the PDMAG Word Scramble Scavenger Hunt



Setting Up 60+ Door Prizes for the Attending Public



*Pre-Show Musical Entertainment
Linda and John Trinckes*



Crowd Waiting for Doors to Open



Martha Bumala Traveling Mouse and Susan Quinlan's Traveling Bear Reunion

Just before the Show opened, bear artist Martha Bumala's traveling mouse and Susan Quinlan's traveling bear, "Mini Me," hooked up again at the 2017 Quinlan Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Convention. They first met at the 2016 Teddy Bear Artist Invitational Convention held annually in Syracuse, NY to support endangered species.

The Saturday Artist Doll & Teddy Bear Show & Sales is the largest of its kind – 130 doll and teddy bear artist sales tables. There are no vendors or dealers selling at this Show. Fifty percent (50%) of those attending the Show & Sale are from states other than Pennsylvania, which shows the wide attraction and popularity of this event on the east coast. Forty percent (40%) of the attendees are new attendees since the prior year, which is a healthy sign for any show, as success is based on a large number of new buyers in addition to the regulars. One-third of the attendees are doll collectors, one-third are teddy bear collectors, and one-third collect both dolls and teddy bears – an excellent mix for all sellers.



Gwen Fedor Sales Table Display



"The Teddy Bear Maker" on Jack Johnston's Sales Table



Marguerite Surich Noschese Festive Sales Table Display

The Good Bears of the World (GBW) held a charity Silent Auction (conducted by Marlene Thomas) in the morning and afternoon that gave you a wonderful opportunity to add a beautiful doll or bear to your collection and support GBW, a 501c3 charity, at the same time. The winning bids go toward bringing comfort to children going through traumatic experiences.

Early Saturday afternoon, convention attendees were treated to a special event. Terrie Stong donated two cases of teddy bears on behalf of Good Bears of the World to the Tincum Township Police Department in Essington, PA. The bears are used by the police to comfort children who need love and hugs. Policemen, firemen, emergency workers and grief counselors agree that the teddy bear's magical healing power is invaluable when given to children and their families in traumatic situations.



Terrie Stong donating bears to the local police department

On Thursday evening, the convention attendees judged and voted on recipients of the 2017 Helen Bullard and Beverly Port Awards for Excellence. At the Saturday banquet, the main event was the announcement and presentation of the awards to the award winners.

Recipients of the 2017 Helen Bullard Doll Awards for Excellence



Left to right: Lillian Alberti, Joy Calhoon, Diane Keeler, Rafael Nuri, Natalie Ruiz

Recipients of the 2017 Beverly Port Teddy Bear Awards for Excellence



*Left to right: Svetlana Khabarova, Tami Eveslage, Ginger Brame,
Wanda Carson, Joanne O'Hanlon, Michelle Lamb*

One of the convention's hallmarks is drawing to an end this year. This will be the last time that we will have the invaluable help of the "Blue Crew" assisting Susan and Terry Quinlan in running the event. Every year the Quinlan's nephews and nieces performed the numerous convention functions necessary for a successful and fun event, but the time has come that we could no longer impose on their lives to fly out from Washington and California and spend a week preparing and conducting the convention. I know all of you who have attended in the past will miss them too.



*Left to right: brothers John Fleener and Tom Fleener, Cindy Fleener
and Sue Fleener (Bob Quinlan missed the 2017 convention)*

Susan and Terry Quinlan also want to thank Lloyd Wilson, who was again the in-house photographer at the 2017 convention, for so many of the pictures used in this newsletter. He will be back in 2018. We also wish to thank all of the artists and collectors who attended our event this year and hope the rest of you will put this event on your "bucket list" to attend this unique experience on Thursday-Saturday April 12-14, 2018. You never know how many more opportunities you will have to do so.