

When You Dare to Dream ... Anything is Possible

BY SANDI SMITH



Miss Lillie by Kim Russell - Russell Bears. Challenged by her inability to make girl bears, inspired by a gorgeous piece of hand dyed mohair and some beautiful blue eyes, Kim could see Miss Lillie's personality evolving far before she was finished.



Dead Fred by Lyn Parker - Parker Bears. Lyn has put an overactive imagination and short attention span to good use and turned it into her greatest asset, the inspiration for this creation came from the Calla Lilies she found while attending a teddy bear workshop.



Orphan Olivia by Julie Quon - Rag Tag Teddies. Wanting to make a girl for her Orphan Collection, Julie found a five year old piece of mohair stash and a pristine white crocheted dress were the perfect inspiration. Never imagining when she bought the dress, that one day she would want to drastically stain it with parisienne essence.

I have spent a good part of my life reading what my husband calls “technical books”. Books that help me improve my skills and my attitude towards my work and everyday life. I think of them as inspirational, motivational or positive thinking books, and after recently reading one of these books, I asked myself a question that was discussed in one of them. “Why do I work, why do get up in the morning?” The answer was simple; I love what I do. I no longer need to work and have often been regarded as being successful. I do what I do because this is what I enjoy most, creating. Whether it

be sewing teddy bears, designing an advertisement, working on a website layout or preparing a show, I am in my element when I am being creative.

As a child I was a dreamer, a doodler and was constantly chastised for not paying attention in class. However, I learned very early if you are going to dream at all, dream big. One of my favourite quotes is “What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve” and I think this is very true, especially in the field of endeavour that I now enjoy.

I then began thinking about the Teddy Bear Artists who have “made it” and quickly came to the

conclusion, I am definitely not alone. Australia has some of the most wonderful artists in very similar situations, those who live for their artistry and would be lost without that reason for getting up in the morning. They love designing bears and critters as much as I do, they enjoy the challenge of taking a piece of fabric and turning it into something exquisite, almost life like, of making something that will warm someone’s heart and bring joy to those who hug it and take it home.

It was then I decided to plan “When You Dare to Dream”, an exhibition of Australian Master Artists who will share



Annie by Lesley Stipanov - Les Bears. A love of old bears and the desire to create that “certain look” was all the inspiration Lesley needed to make this beautiful miniature.



Foxy at Fifty by Brigit Charles - Brigit's Bears. Made to order for a 50th birthday, Brigit was inspired by the beautiful colour and texture of the fur.



Joseph by Lisa Dopking - Megelles. The desire to make the perfect face led Lisa to design this very traditional, beautiful bear that just smiles back at you.

their “dreams” with you through their artistic creations.

The artists invited to participate in this show, do not concern themselves with monetary gain so much as they do with the service they provide to their customers and the industry. Yes, they work hard, dream and create. However, they do it while giving back, by teaching their skills to others so this art form doesn’t get lost over time, by designing projects for teddy bear magazines and through networking with other

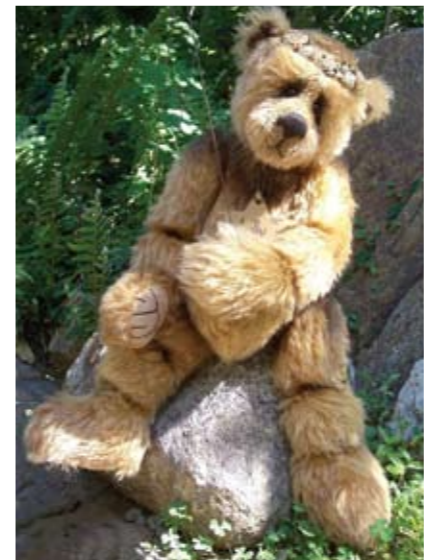
artists to promote the world of bears as a whole.

I feel very privileged to have these artists as my colleagues and I am proud to do my part in promoting them both here and overseas. They are all successful because they are positive, caring people and each of them has “Dared to Dream”. Please join us on 5-6th September for our online show.

Contact:
Sandi Smith sdsbears@bigpond.net.au
Web: www.teddybearsandcritters.com



Kumo by Linda Benson - Benson Bears. Driven by a desire to achieve more realism in her bears, more realistic movement and always trying for that elusive perfection, Linda is always happy with a new design, til the next bear is complete.



Lilly by Katrina Ndrejica - Bumble Bears. This award winning innovation is from The Bearonette Collection; Katrina was inspired by the lack of shelf space for her own collection, Lilly has 13 wobble joints, can be hung from the ceiling and was very challenging to make.



La Rousse by Silvia Durrer of Durrer Bears and More. When asked by a student to design a red panda, Silvia liked the idea as she could incorporate sculpting, painting and bendable fingers in this workshop. She did not want the red panda to be 100% life-like, as she likes to add a comical feature to her designs.



Acorn by Sandi Smith - Bearly Sane®. Children's story books are often inspiration for Sandi, add this to the challenge of needle felting and a ball of Faux Fur fibre and this lovely whimsical bear from her Folk in the Forest Range was the result.