

# Don't Throw Away Those Stuffed Animals!

By Sue Proulx, Phoenix, Arizona

Small World Miniatures Club of Phoenix, Arizona, was presented with a delightful project, which turned out to be a club favorite. The idea for the project originated when a large batch of Attic Treasures arrived in the toy and miniature store, Auntie Em's Miniatures. Tish Ballangee, the owner and one of our members, came up with a project for the club which would incorporate these adorable, stuffed toys: each animal holding a little house, which could reflect a variety of scenes. I finished two samples to inspire the different ways that the project could be done. I selected a peach-colored rabbit and turned the house into a 1/144th scale scene of tiny bunnies inside and outside of their home. I also selected a panda, which is holding a house full of adorable pandas, most of which created by Cheryl's Creations, to demonstrate an option for those not wishing to work in such a tiny scale. At our November meeting, I took pictures of the finished projects and was excited by the variety and creativity of our members' imaginations.

Joyce Puma thought that a patriotic/nautical theme would be clever with the sailor bear and added a unique base with her red pillow. Her favorite items in her design are the dresses and the bed.



"All About Ducks" was completed by Diane Bodjanac. She selected the duck in order to create an addition to her son's duck-themed bathroom; he really enjoyed the finished project. Having always loved bears, Diane also completed



"Bears' Summer Holiday," developing a bear theme around the bear with the life saver. Her favorite minis are the tiny ducks and the floating bear.



Maureen Van Ripper loves rabbits and was inspired by her love of fall colors. Her favorite minis are the "bunnies in the head of lettuce." She also had a



reaction many miniaturists have experienced: "It began as a simple project, but it just kept growing. Every time I looked at it, I added something else."



Desiree Hall created "The White Rabbit's Dollhouse" because she loved the allusion to Wonderland. This was



her first attempt at working in such a tiny scale, but she liked being challenged by the "realistic floor plan" of the house, and her enthusiasm

resulted in a winning project. She made the rabbit people by modifying railroad scale dolls and adding the rabbit ears. In addition to loving the beanie rabbit itself, her favorite part of the project was using "the beautiful wall-papers, which are Japanese craft paper."



Sally Lonn selected the sunflower bear because she loves sunflowers, a



"happy flower," and the color yellow, a color she views as complementary to almost all colors. As she was working on the project, she remembered the "fields and

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fields of sunflowers with their heads all turned to the sun" that she had seen. She especially enjoyed making the tiny sunflowers she added along the side of the of the house.



Maureen McPherson chose the pink rabbit because she loves pink. She also enjoyed making the little house "look realistic" and her favorite mini is "the little bed with the people in it."



Rosemary Arthur picked the raccoon because it related to a personal event in her life. "Several years ago, (her son and she) were at a park at dusk and several



raccoons started poking their heads out of the holes in the block wall fence and bushes, and were adorable." Her favorite mini is "the mouse on the top floor."

Rosemary also utilized a paper bag, a clever way to enclose her project.

Helen Sparks is a cat person, so the fuzzy, gray cat was a natural selection for her. Her inspiration came from the cat itself, and she had fun collecting



and adding the mini cats to her display. Her favorite mini is "the mouse eating the taco."



Claudia Vigness decided to name her project "Mrs. Rita Carrot Cake." Her favorite minis are "all the furniture that (she) made from scratch." She, too, enjoyed working for the first time in this petite scale.

Diane Adams chose the scarecrow bear, and made a delightful scene with her scarecrow guarding a glorious garden patch.



And finally, I chose the rabbit because when I looked at it, it made me laugh, it was so cute.



Finding the incredibly small bunnies was a challenge, but I thoroughly enjoyed creating the scene, "Time to Swing," a title which reflects

my favorite mini of the rabbit swinging in the front tree. I chose the panda because I have always loved pandas, so collecting the pandas was a delight. I also attempted creating a 3-D panda out of paper, which is attached to the left side of the house. I hope readers are inspired by this variety of work that speaks to the incredible creativity that miniaturists possess. And don't throw away a delightful stuffed animal! Look at it through the eyes of a miniaturist.

