

Artist Studio Project from Nikki Donahue for Miniatures West

Photographs by Monin Dreebin

Our annual club project for 2007 for Miniatures West of Culver City was a lovely artist's studio developed by Nikki Donahue, workshop chairperson for that year. It was a year-long project. Members received a simple room box at the beginning of the year for the studio itself. Each month at the club meetings, Nikki had a different kit for us for some part of the studio. There was a beautiful easel, art box, palette, tin cans, paint brushes, stretcher bars and canvas, picture frames, tubes of paint, tables and many more. We received kits which were made mostly from scratch using readily



Cindy Resnik's Artist Studio



Nikki Donahue's Artist Studio

available materials, such as aluminum foil, styrene, cosmetics brushes, strip wood, collars from wine bottles and such. Nikki did a lot of research in art stores and galleries to develop the kits and make sure that the items were realistic and true to form. It was a great success and enjoyed by all. The total experience was challenging and very satisfying. Thank you, Nikki.

The finished studios were exhibited at our Annual Miniature Fantasy show in Culver City in February of 2008. Miniatures West is thrilled to be able to share it with all NAME members everywhere. We hope you enjoy doing the projects as much as we did.



Liz Rattan's Artist Studio



Monin Dreebin, President, Miniatures West

1" scale

Artist Studio Room Box

A Miniatures West Club Project by Nikki Donahue • Photographed and edited by Monin Dreebin

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Room box kit
- 3/16" foam core
- Spackle
- 1/32" x 1/8" x 24" strip wood
- Black paint
- Raw sienna paint
- Off-white paint

An artist's studio can be created in any simple box.

1. Assemble your room box kit.
2. To make the walls, showing damage with exposed lath, glue sheets of foam core to the inside walls. Let dry thoroughly. Draw the damaged areas where you want them on the foam core.
3. Dig out holes in the foam core with an X-acto or craft knife. Paint inside the hole with black paint and allow to dry.



Nikki Donahue's Artist Studio

4. Cut pieces of the strip wood to fit inside the hole. Wedging them into the foam slightly lay them in place horizontally about 1/32" to 1/16" apart. Keep the spacing consistent to suggest lath.
5. When you have finished making all of your damaged areas, spackle the walls up to the holes. A little of the spackle can slop over. You want it to look like broken plaster. Very carefully apply a thin layer of spackle to the lath and rub it off a little. Allow everything to dry thoroughly for about 24 hours.
6. Paint two coats of off-white over the spackled walls and allow to dry. Now you can age your walls. Apply thin washes of Raw Sienna and black over the walls to taste. You can dab some areas heavier than others, particularly in corners, around the damaged areas, under windows, etc.

Variation: Instead of lath, you might want to lay brick inside the carved out areas to suggest a brick wall underneath.

For questions about this workproject please contact: Nikki Donahue, 245 S. Westgate Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90049



Sample of hole dug into the wall with lath showing

