

NIADA
Art Dolls



RICH TRADITIONS, NEW IDEAS

Beyond the support and encouragement of its own members, and beyond the promotion of dolls as art, NIADA's goals have been to teach, to discuss and critique work, and to mentor and inspire emerging artists. Master classes and critiques are offered at annual conferences for anyone wanting to learn from NIADA artists.

begun as an American institute, NIADA has now expanded to a worldwide organization, embracing members from Canada, England, Denmark, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Russia, Australia, and Japan, as well as the United States. The first NIADA artists from outside the United States were elected as associate members in 1974, and since 1994 all members, American or not, have been awarded full member status. Where there was once a focus on American artists making dolls that reflected their lives and culture, there is now a focus on the potential of universal human expression inherent in art dolls. This international expansion affords members the exquisite opportunity to be inspired by colleagues from around the world and different cultures, greatly enriching NIADA both as a community supportive of kindred spirits and as a learning forum.

THE ART DOLL LABEL

Since the beginning of NIADA, there has been a controversy among artists as to what their work should be called. The label, "art dolls," on the cover of this book is still something of a compromise, and one that not every NIADA artist identifies with. Helen Bullard wrote in 1974 that "NIADA would like to discontinue use of the word 'doll' and substitute the term 'people figure'; however, the preferred designation has not yet been accepted by collectors."⁴ Some artists believe that the only way to be viewed as makers of art instead of makers of objects with diminutive hierarchical value is to disassociate themselves entirely from the label "doll." In the opinion of George Stuart, "...the fine arts market (collectors and galleries) will never accept anything that is associated with 'dolls' as 'fine art'! This may be a sorry state of events, but for the foreseeable future, it is the situation. No matter how unique, inventive, beautifully crafted or exquisite in concept, if there is an association with dolls, the work will be rejected as fine art!"⁵



George S. Stuart ~ Oscar Wilde, 1968



George S. Stuart ~ *Queen Caroline von Anspach*, 1967



George S. Stuart - *Ch'ien Lung Emperor*, 1975



Natalia Pobedina ~ *Fish Fairy*, 2006



Charlotte Zeeprat ~ *Queen Victoria and Edward VII*



Nancy Wiley ~ *Mary Cord*, 2004



George S. Stuart ~ *Queen Marie Antoinette with Children*, 1964



George S. Stuart ~ *King Louis XIV (equestrian)*, 1969



George S. Stuart ~ *Louis XVII Dauphin (1785-1795)*, 2001

NIADA Art Dolls: Rich Traditions, New Ideas



This captivating book celebrates the work of world-class artists who have chosen dolls and handmade figures as their medium of expression. The National Institute of American Doll Artists (NIADA), an organization committed to the highest artistic standards for its peer-elected members, presents the work of 160 artists who have been awarded membership since the group's founding in 1965. A stunning array of more than 650 pieces portrays the changing scenery of the art-doll world, from traditional realistic styles to the cutting-edge figurative art of today. These extraordinary, inspiring images are a dynamic testimony for the doll as art.

As Krystyna Poray Goddu writes in her foreword, this volume "serves not merely as a showcase for the richness of the work of NIADA's members, but—like any fine work of art—delights, moves, and inspires all those who encounter it."

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