

CHARACTER DOLLS

Happy Heart and Eli Comfort are Dolls made by Sandra Bohtlingk. She introduces her work here.

Words and Photography
by Sandra Bohtlingk

My name is Sandra. From the age of three I grew up watching a great deal of stage performances. Both parents were engaged with local amateur Gilbert and Sullivan operettas full of colour, song, music and storytelling. I had no idea then I was being inspired towards my own craft work. Embroidery was my favourite pastime then, creating a story with needle and thread.

I happily left school at fifteen to explore my next steps. I took an apprenticeship in window display in a ladies fashion shop. Dressing the models, learning how to bring flare to them with accessories, and creating backdrops to expand the colour palette. Including bridal wear. I felt the angels had taken care to secure me a personal slot in my favourite world of creativity.

In the late '60's I started to study my intuitive nature and began helping / counselling others by using that deeper intuition. It was not until many years later I felt inspired to create Character Dolls. I felt my particular craft, and love of sewing, could be used to help others see their own inner beauty.

Whatever pains and troubles we may have there is a real beauty to be found within us.



So, what is the purpose of my craft work now? It is about storytelling and communication. Song, dance, paintings, books, are all forms of communicating a story. My dolls are the same.



From the Jester, to Kings and Queens, or colourful Gnomes and Fairies.

Birthday and Wedding gifts, to simple fun characters to adorn the home or work-place.

Commissions are more especially designed with you personally in mind.

Most of my Dolls don't have fixed facial details. This is done on purpose. It allows us to create our own story about the Doll. Everyone has their own unique translation of the features and that allows our own specific imagery to blossom.

I love my craft and feel sure the theatre of my youth has assisted me in shaping the designs and gestures of each model. I work from my heartfelt passion in the hope that my Doll work touches the hearts of those who see them.

You can contact me on:

www.carefirstworld.com/character-dolls