



The Fisherman



Coco and friend



Choirboys



Dapper Old Man



The Clauses

When you look at Julie Campbell's dolls, it's hard not to smile. All her 1" - 1/12th scale dolls, from prim older ladies, to proper gentlemen, mischievous looking children and charming young women, have that same wide-eyed charm that is not only Julie's signature mark, but is what gives her dolls such appeal.

"I love a wide-eyed look," says Julie, who works from her kitchen table when her three busy teens and her two cats let her, that is.

Julie admits that art - any kind of drawing or creating - has been a lifelong passion. "I have always been what my family calls 'arty crafty'," she says. "I loved art at school, and would draw and paint for hours as a child. As soon as I could sew I was making patchwork, finger puppets and clothes for my dolls to wear. As I grew older I learned dressmaking and enjoyed cross-stitching, too. I have had no formal art training, I just love to create things!"

Dolls, of course, have

been a favorite since childhood. She always liked dollhouses, too, so when she received one for Christmas, she knew it had to have dolls. One problem...

"I had such fun putting it together



Triplets

DOLLS WITH WIDE-EYED APPEAL

By Christine A. Verstraete

"I do find sculpting comes naturally to me, however I am constantly trying to improve my work," she says. "I don't know if I will ever make that elusive 'perfect' doll.

- decorating it and turning it into a tiny home - but when it came to putting dolls into it I couldn't find any that I could afford," she says. "So I decided I would make my own."

Two years ago she picked up a copy of artisan James Carrington's book on dolls and went to work. "It really inspired me," she says. "I bought some polymer clay and made my first doll. He turned out rather well, so I kept going. Friends encouraged me to try selling one on eBay, which I did, and things took off from there."

And things just keep looking up, Julie says. She sells her dolls under the business name BellaBelle Creations for £18- 45, depending on the doll's costume and size, usually 3 1/2" for children and 5 1/2" tall for women. Sets like her mother and daughter are £50. "I try to price reasonably, so they are affordable to everyone," she says.

Clockwise from left: All dolls are hand-sculpted of polymer clay without molds in the standard 1"-1/12th scale.

The Fisherman is back from sea with tales of seeing "Nessie" though no one believes him.

New clowns, Coco and friend, do their best clowning around.

Not a sour note between these two innocent-looking choirboys.

The Clauses rest at home between the holiday rush.

The charming Cook This dapper old man has his eye on Cook; does she know it since she keeps giving him extra slices of pie?

Eenie, Meenie, Moe - there's no easy way to pick the cutest of these triplets.



The Cook



Tudor
Baker Woman



Mother and
daughter



Edward
and Elise

"I do find sculpting comes naturally to me, however I am constantly trying to improve my work," she says. "I don't know if I will ever make that elusive 'perfect' doll. My dolls are all jointed and poseable, but I am planning to make some full sculpt dolls which will be exciting for me."

Julie's creations have run the gamut from a Goth couple, to a portrait doll of a lady's policewoman daughter, and commissions for Rigoletto and Othello for an opera lover. She is now working on her "Little Sweethearts," anatomically correct babies inspired by Anne Geddes' baby photos.

Having left school at age 16 to work for British Gas, Julie didn't find much time for creativity until she left work after having her first child. Now she enjoys working on her dolls every chance she gets and loves exploring all kinds of new ideas: "One of the things I like best about dollmaking is that I can be making a medieval knight one week and a smiling baby the next! It's such fun!"



Caught Gossiping!

The Tudor Baker Woman even comes with a covering of flour!

Mother is naturally proud of her adorable daughter.

Edward and Elise enjoy quiet evenings at home, happy to have found each other.

Mr. Goodfellow is a proper sort and loves a good brandy in the den.

Two women look guilty - or is that a mischievous look? - for being caught gossiping.



Mr. Goodfellow

Julie Campbell • BellaBelle Dolls
www.bellabelledolls.co.uk
belljulie1@aol.com
Phone: 0775 7789 927