

Introductory Panel

On Instagram, my dioramas and dolls became a form of escapism and Instagram became the vehicle for me to exhibit them.

I've been collecting and/or playing with dolls for most of my life, but with social media, especially Instagram, it has changed the way in which I view my collection. On Instagram especially during 2020, I began to talk more to other doll collectors and miniaturists. We would talk about things such as new dolls coming out, people selling their miniature collection, or the hum drum of daily life. Instagram connected to other adults, who share the same passion in dolls and/or miniatures and in return, I'm encouraged by creators and my followers to share my diorama and doll images.

My works deal with creating miniature environments in 1/6th scale that my dolls, who are approximately 11-1/2 inches, can interact. Slightly cluttered, with numerous miniatures either sitting on bookshelves, gathered in piles on the floor, are tossed around the room, my dolls are immersed in rooms (dioramas) that reflect another world that invites the viewers to be a part of. With my dolls flare for styles such as cute or gothic, people on Instagram have expressed their joy of seeing their images or reels. My dolls have become stars in their miniature worlds with people requesting to see them or have an image of them in real life.

I invite viewers to immerse themselves into my miniature dioramas and take a break from the stresses of their everyday lives.

Labels

Konbini, 2020

plastic, metal, paper, glue

One of the things I love in Japan are the convenience stores (konbini). Unlike United States convenience stores, the Japan konbini have amazing food (like bento boxes and breads) and wonderful toys (including authentic Sailor Moon and Sanrio products.) I love to stop by the konbini after a long day of sightseeing and shopping and grab a yummy dish to eat at home.

This diorama is a salute to those konbini in Japan, but on a MEGA scale. This store sells not just a small amount of products such as foods and toys, but a HUGE amount. The store is stocked with Zuru, MGA, Disney, and handmade miniatures for my dolls to peruse. If you're looking for it, the Konbini has it! If you don't see it, the Konbini will have it soon.

Chrissie in Wonderland, 2023

wood, fabric, plastic, glue, metal

A friend showed me the Hachette publishing company's Disney Doll's House, where miniatures that come with the magazine are used to create a massive doll house that's themed to various Disney characters such as Alice in Wonderland, The Little Mermaid, and Beauty and the Beast. The house and furniture are in 1/16th scale, so it's out of proportion with my scale. But the Alice in Wonderland room caught my attention because I thought it would look visually interesting to see one of my 1/6th scale dolls dressed up as Alice with the conundrum of her contemplating "Eat Me" or "Drink Me" in a 1/16th scale room.

The Kitchen, 2023

wood, fabric, plastic, glue, metal

After making a bedroom, a konbini (convenience store in Japanese), and a hobby room, I decided to make a kitchen. I wanted it to match with my kawaii (cute in Japanese) girls, but their aesthetic doesn't match my goth dolls. So I decided to go with a neutral refrigerator, countertops and cabinets, but decorate the kitchen to the style of the dolls that I would be photographing.

Dorm Room, 2022

wood, fabric, plastic, glue, metal

In 2022, I participated in a group exhibition titled **A Gallery Within A Gallery: Peeler Miniature Art Exhibition**. The exhibit was inspired by people extending their creative practices during the pandemic and exploring ways in which they could create their own environments in miniature. Myself along with four miniaturists (Betty Allen, Lene Dee Dragon, Robin Gee, and Nadia Michaux) created works for the exhibit.

I decided to create a dorm room that is packed with all the essentials including, computer, games, books, pillow, bed, basket full of bathroom essentials, desk, chair, and all the things needed to make a person feel at home, while away from home.

***Hobby Room*, 2019**

wood, fabric, plastic, glue, metal

After my first diorama which was a bedroom, I wanted to create something different. Being inspired by my own crafting/doll room, I decided to make a hobby room for my kawaii (cute in Japanese) girls. The room is a place where the girls can gather all the things they love into one place as well as work on projects such as sewing, drawing, and crafting. The room is ever changing with objects being removed from the table and the shelving units. Like in real life, projects, hobbies, and inspirations can change and I want to reflect that in their hobby room.

***Chrissie's room*, 2015**

wood, fabric, plastic, glue, metal

After a Barbie collecting hiatus of over 13 years, I purchased a Barbie Fashionista who reminded me of a doll I had when I was younger and named her Chrissie. Why Chrissie? I can't precisely say why that name fits her. I just know that despite being similar to my name, something about that name seemed to work for her. When giving my dolls names, I wait for the doll to give me its name. Sometimes it takes several days and/or over a year for the right name to come to me.

During that time, I was watching a number of doll YouTube videos and looking at Instagram photos and thought, "Chrissie needs a room." With help, I constructed a diorama that suited her size and since I had just returned from Japan, for the first time, I knew I wanted her room to be kawaii and pastel.

Over the years, I have accumulated a lot for her bedroom. I purchased furniture online, handmade things (such as her blanket and shelves), as well as received miniatures from other people. Chrissie's room is an ongoing project, like most of my dioramas.