THE MUSEUM OF MINIATURE HOUSES AND OTHER COLLECTIONS INC.

FRIENDS Newsletter
November 2020

111 E. Main St. Carmel, IN 46032

Open Fri-Sat 11am-4pm, Sun 1pm-4pm

www.museumofminiatures.org

(317) 575-9466 Museum

(317) 575-0240 Office

Exhibits – Now through January 3rd

The Smallest of the Small: 1/2" & 1/4" Creations

This exhibit is a tribute to the 1/2" and 1/4" pieces in the Museum's collection. From an upholstered wicker settee the size of a small paperclip to the piano *(pictured right)* that's half the length of a toothpick, visitors can marvel at the intricate work created by some of the best miniature artisans in the world. These smaller scales are becoming increasingly popular with miniaturists – the finished displays take up much less space in the home and they present a greater challenge to the artist.

Dragons in Paper

This exhibit features stunningly colorful 3-dimensional paper dragons. Puff the Magic Dragon makes an appearance, but the rest of these creatures are of the scary fire-breathing variety!

Museum Copes with Covid-19

From Operations Manager Jennifer Borman: We're now open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays and precautions are in place to help limit the spread of the dastardly Corona virus. We're providing an additional hand-washing station and using a sanitizing spray to remove fingerprints from Plexiglass. Hand sanitizer is everywhere. Masks are mandatory for ages four and up. And to encourage social distancing, each room in the building has signage indicating its maximum capacity. Attendance is back to pre-Covid levels (almost) and shoppers have returned, anxious to get their "fix." Let's hope we can get back to our regular schedule soon!

Grants Update

The Museum is fortunate to have been awarded several grants to support it through the pandemic. These grants help to retain staff, conduct virtual outreach, sell miniatures from the shop and eBay, and, since the end of August, be open three days a week. In October, the Museum learned it would get one of its largest single grants ever. These federal funds, totaling $19,480.01, came from the Arts, Cultural and Destination Marketing Organization Grant Program of the Indiana Destination Development Corporation led by Lt. Governor **Suzanne Crouch**. Other COVID-related grants received included the Emergency Fund from the Indiana Arts Commission and a CARES grant from Indiana Humanities.

INDIANA Est. 1816

indiana humanities
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
MAKING THE ARTS HAPPEN

Shop & eBay News

From Vice-President and Shop Manager Kathy Birk: The shop is full of new inventory – gorgeous Christmas trees, a blue bedroom set from **Anne Ruff**, lots of handpainted furniture, **Jason Getzan** copper cookware, and more. And, starting in January, you'll be able to book a Tuesday appointment to shop in one of the museum's Third Avenue offices where the backup inventory is stored! While there, you can view houses and room boxes not currently on display in the museum – a great way to come up with new ideas for your own miniature making. Details forthcoming.

Pictured left: Magnolia-themed Christmas tree on sale for $45

From eBay Manager Dorinda Dick: The museum's eBay store continues to be a good source of revenue, with seventy or so items listed at any one time. Most pieces are handcrafted from artists such as **Ted Norton**, **Janet Reyburn**, **Vince Stapleton**, **Jim Clark**, and **Carol Kubesh**. To visit our page, click on "Advanced" on the upper right corner of the main screen, scroll down to "Sellers" and enter carmelminiaturemuseum. Items range from $35 - $750 and new listings are added every couple of weeks. *The Museum has a 100% satisfaction feedback from customers of past sales.*

*Pictured above: Artist **June Clinkscales'** upholstered linen chair listed for $225 on eBay.*

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News

MORE PARKING AVAILABLE

The Museum has received permission to use the vacant lot next door (east of the Museum building) for parking. As soon as possible the farthest (most southern) section of the fence will be removed, and signage will be installed inviting folks to park on the packed gravel heading north from the alley. In the meantime, Friends are welcome to begin using those spaces now.

NEW WEBSITE FEATURE

From Executive Director Elaine Mancini: In 2019 we started posting a Feature of the Week on our website to showcase items from our collection and to reach a new audience. In March 2020, this type of outreach became even more important when the museum had to close due to Covid. We rebranded our initiative as Our Virtual Gallery and placed postings daily. When we reopened, we amended the frequency to two or three times a week. In the past few months, we have posted more than one hundred topics, ranging from sgraffito pottery to clocks to lamps to toys, or to focus on individual artisans. Please visit www.museumofminiatures.org, click on the Exhibits page, then click on Permanent Exhibits to view them. Our Virtual Gallery also appears on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/MuseumofMiniatures.

NEW AUDIO TOUR

The Museum is excited to offer a new, state-of-the-art audio tour system, funded by a grant from the **Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation**. After much discussion and research about types of audio tours, including apps, the Board decided to go with an easy-to-use handheld wand. The script was rewritten, and dozens of items were added to the tour. Visitors' guest book comments include "the audio tour is great" and "wonderful audio tour."

Social Media & How Members Can Help

Success on social media depends entirely on engagement of readers and viewers. The more likes, comments, shares and impressions one gets, the wider the audience becomes and the greater the influence.

The Museum has an active and wide-reaching presence on the internet:

- The web site http://www.museumofminiatures.org
- Business listings on Google and TripAdvisor which include nearly 500 photographs of items in the collection
- Facebook https://www.facebook.com/MuseumofMiniatures
- Instagram https://www.instagram.com/museum_of_mini_houses/
- Pinterest https://www.pinterest.com/minimuseumIN/pins/
- YouTube where we have videos of Celebrations of Creativity and Craftsmanship programs https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdOeLq6z4seThKWMyr_E5Gg/videos?disable_polymer=true

Members can help the museum by visiting these sites, sharing the content to their own page, liking, and following the Museum, and commenting on its posts. For example, those nearly 500 photos mentioned above got 73,432 total views just in the last month.

Love Conquers All

Collection Manager **Caitlin Rogers** has left the Museum and moved out of state. Caitlin had a choice to make – to continue working at the Museum or live closer to her boyfriend. Love won out! The Board members and employees thank Caitlin for her years of service, her commitment to the collection, her excellence at mounting exhibits, her dedication to her duties, and her hard work ethic. She will be missed.

Pictured left: Caitlin in front of Le Chateau in Room 3.

In Memoriam

Helen Flowers 1920 - 2020
Born in Anderson, Indiana, Helen was a faithful docent at the Museum during the early years. She enjoyed meeting the visitors and her friendly personality endeared her to guests and volunteers alike. Helen was very artistically gifted and enjoyed dollhouses, sewing, crafts, crochet, and cross stitch. Helen was a longtime member of First Trinity Lutheran Church. She worked as a manicurist at the Antlers Hotel Salon.

Caddy Lord
1936 - 2020

From President Suzie Moffett: Caddy (Catherine) Lord was with the Museum from the very beginning. She and I hosted the first event held in the Museum building. When there were very few attendees, we ate the treats ourselves. Caddy and her husband Bill have contributed their considerable talents to the success of the Museum in many ways through the years. Even after she "retired" Caddy continued to send membership cards and thank you notes to Friends members. We will be among the many people and organizations who will miss her greatly.

Miniatures by Candlelight Cancelled

The Museum will be unable to host Miniatures by Candlelight this year. This event has been popular over the years. Guests were able to enjoy looking at the exhibits in a whole new way. But the number of visitors this event usually draws would make social distancing impossible. The Board looks forward to continuing this annual tradition in 2021.