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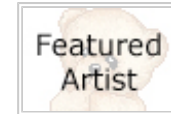
## Mini Teddy Hugs™ From Around The World



MiniTeddyHugs.com

Your Online Miniature Bears & Friends Magazine

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## Artist Creations

(Click on picture to see larger image)

### Mother Goose



### Candy



### Teddies



### Pammie

## Artist:

### Linda Haydu of Original Felted Folksies

## Profile:

**How did you get started into making miniature bears? Were you a collector of teddies, or anything else? What was the starting point? Why and when?**

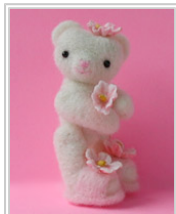
I have always loved Teddy Bears since I was a child. I had a teddy bear picnic record that I would play over and over again. I always loved to craft and create, paint with oils and do all sorts of mediums. I read about felting in the Spring of 2003 and was scheduled for major surgery on my foot so I figured I would be laid up for a while so I purchased everything to teach myself and by the time I was healed I was felting away. My first ideas were to make original dolls with felting but those Teddy Bears made sure they got included and before long -- I was felting them as well.

**Was it difficult getting started? Did you design your own patterns or use other bear artists designs? Do you design your own patterns now? Why did you decide on your preferred medium?**

Being the crafty one in my family-- I didn't have any difficulty getting started and found out I had my own style right away which is so important to being an artist. I have always designed my own patterns and have never used any other bear patterns. I still proceed this way- children's books from the 50's influence me. Victorian and antique style influence me as well. I do a lot of different mediums but felting is the main one I use for bear making. It is very addicting and fun to do!

**Why did you decide to make miniature bears rather than larger bears?**

Flower



Scout



I absolutely adore miniatures, I have studied and taught myself miniature millinery work so a lot of my miniatures usually have some kind of handmade straw bonnet or hat and some don't - it all depends on my creation and what I feel would look best.

**Do you make a variety of different styles? Are they One-Of-A-Kind, Limited Editions or part of a Series? Do you name them, give them birth certificates, etc? Are they fantasy, whimsy or 'realistic'?**

Yes I do make a variety of different styles... They are all one of a kind or series. I always name them as they look at me and the name pops right in my head, no birth certificates but a nice paper hangtag comes with them with all the information on what they were made with and my signature and date. I think I include fantasy, whimsy and realistic in most of them. sometimes combining more of two together or just one type or maybe not that type at all. You never know what I will come up with.

**Do you dress your bears or give accessories, companions, accents, etc?**

Almost all the time my creations, which I call folksies, are given accessories, companions and wonderful accents. I always try to include something vintage also but some have been created too with getting nothing at all but them.

**Do you concentrate solely on one bear at a time or have several being made at different stages of completion? Do you do everything yourself or have assistance?**

I work on one bear at a time, very particular and have the nasty perfection problem---which can drive you koo-koo and I won't start another one until I am finished. No Assistance...I want them to be all me and my likings.

**Is there one bear above all others that is your favorite, and if so, why?**

Well I love pretty much everything and sometimes it is hard to part with them, don't know if i can say I have a favorite as I love them all... but some are harder to depart with than others. but being an artist you are creating for someone else to enjoy your work and make them happy! This is what I like to do.

**Have you been influenced by any bear artist in particular? Any one you admire?**

No all though I love some bear artists and absolutely love their work, I wanted mine to be a part of me so I create them alone.

I truly admire a lot of bear artists -- there are so many -- I can name a few- although none of them have influenced me on my work. I still do truly admire them..... Sheryl Wells, Peng Peng Designs, Quiet Companions Bears by Karen O'Brien.

## **What does bear making mean to you? Is it a job or a passion?**

Bear making is a relaxing fun time to create and express your art into a sculpture or a little miniature. Is it a job or a passion? It is a passion for sure!

## **How would you describe your bears to other people? What are their special characteristics that set them apart from others on the market? Do they make people smile? Are they little friends you trust and can tell your troubles to? etc. What are your feelings about your bears?**

They are little miniatures with a personality all their own- some are worn and loved, some more whimsical, some anime style and as long as they put a smile on someone's face. It is all worth while! I want others to enjoy them in their collection.

Well They are sculptured by 100% wool that comes off the spinning wheel and then takes a process called dry felting on which i use many needles to sculpt my creation into what i would like him/her to be.

I love them and totally enjoy making them- I have to feel what I want to create and then I just go for it.

## **Do you sell your bears? Where and how do you sell...fairs, shows, internet, private commissions, mail order? How can people contact you if they want one of your bears?**

Yes I do sell my bears. As my pieces are all one of a kind. I have made similar ones but still different. I sell them on my website, fairs and shows. I do two or more a year and on the internet. Once in a while i will pop one on Ebay®. My creations are also sold at BearPaths in Cleveland, Ohio and now recently they will be selling at Abracadabra Shoppe in the United Kingdom

You can freely join my mailing list for when new ones are presented and also when my shoppes have new ones. You will be notified by me and can purchase them through the shoppe. All information is on my website.

## **Contact Information:**

**Email: [BOOKWRM999@aol.com](mailto:BOOKWRM999@aol.com)**

**Website: [www.originalfelledfolksies.com](http://www.originalfelledfolksies.com)**

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