

Gloria J. "Mimi" Winer

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Gloria J. "Mimi" Winer Biography of a Doll Artist

Gloria J. "Mimi" Winer has been an original cloth doll artist since 1983. She has studied fine arts at the *National Academy of Arts and Design*, the *School of Visual Arts*, the *New School/Parson's School of Design*, and with Pe Ling Liang of NYU. She studied sculpture at *Monmouth College*. She has studied dollmaking with *NIADA* artists Lisa Lichtenfels, Bob McKinley, Martha Armstrong Hand, Mr. George Stuart, Antonete Cely, and many others.

Gloria was a member of the *Society of Creative Designers* for 25 years before it was disbanded in 2007. She is an artist member of the *Original Doll Artists Council of America (ODACA)*, the *Canadian Doll Artists Association (CDAA)*, the *Textile Study Group of New York City*, and is Past President of the *National Doll and Toy Collector's Club of New York City (UFDC)*. Her business is a member of the *Creative Industries of America Association*. She is or has been a member of the Board of Directors of several Doll Art Organizations.

Her work as a doll artist represents the leading edge of what can be done with her medium. She is constantly seeking out and testing new materials, has developed many new techniques and invented some exclusive tools. Gloria shares her information with the doll and craft world through her (retired) quarterly magazine, *Let's Talk About Dollmaking*, columns and frequent articles in many Doll, Art and Craft magazines, her web site at *Mimidolls.com*, and through the books and patterns she writes with her husband and partner for more than 30 years. Among their publications are many instructional patterns and an in-depth study of the new clays, *Mimi's New Clays for Dollmaking*.

Gloria's doll patterns include lengthy step-by-step instructions so that even beginning dollmakers can successfully complete a doll. Effectively they are instructional books that allow many variations over and above the specific doll. They typify her outstanding ability as a teacher. She loves sharing her techniques and it shows in all her work. Gloria is in constant demand throughout the U.S.A, Canada and Australia to teach at conferences, seminars, and doll clubs.

Gloria Winer's work has been well recognized by her peers. She received a special award for her contributions to cloth doll making from the *National Cloth Doll Makers Association*, and a Presidential Award from the *National Institute of American Doll Artists (NIADA)*, and for her contributions to that organization. Most recently she received the First Award in Excellence for the significant contribution made in the development of the first *Masters Magic and Apprentices Workshops* held at Maroochydore, Australia in 2005.

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Gloria's prizes for her original dolls include a 1st and 2nd award in the Artist Division at the *UFDC National Conference* in 1994 and 1993, and 1st place in the 1994 competition at *Dimensions in Cloth*, an annual exhibit and competition for cloth dollmakers.

Gloria's work has been part of *Dollmaker's Magic* and *The Figure in Cloth*; shows that traveled throughout the United States to galleries and museums. Her work has also been on exhibit at the *Wenham Museum*, Wenham, MA, in two exhibits of *Dolls of the 21st Century* at the *Springfield Museum*, Springfield, OR, and by invitation at the *Musée des arts décoratifs, Palais du Louvre*, in Paris.

Gloria's work has been featured in several books by her peers including: *The Anatomy of a Doll* by Susanna Oroyan, *Mother Plays With Dolls*, by elinor peace bailey, *Cloth Dolls From Ancient to Modern, A Collector's Guide with Values* by Linda Edwards, and in numerous doll magazines.

Since 2004, Gloria has created and donated a yearly bear to the *Broadway Bears Annual Auction*, a part of *Broadway Cares, Equity Fights AIDS Foundation*. This charity raises funds for Broadway theatrical employees suffering with AIDS and HIV by auctioning teddy bears dressed in recreations of original Broadway theater costumes.