

Bear

Beautiful

Issue 2

Artist Profiles

Meet the Artists who
create the bears...
rabbits, kittens, birds
elephants...and more

Create-your-own:

- ❖ Ironing Board cover
- ❖ Pin Roll
- ❖ Framed Shelf



A Teddy Bear "Friends" Issue



Cover:

"Logan's Mouse"

Happy 1st Birthday Logan!

Shantock Bears

Artist: "Mum" Elanor Andrews

This page:

Isla

Mic Bären & Hasen

Artist: Jutta Michels

Submissions:

Submit your business to be included in future editions of Bear Beautiful email:

helen@barecubdesigns.com

Information:

www.bearbeautifulmag.com

Mic Bären & Hasen

By Jutta Michels

"Amazingly crafted realistic birds, ducks and other beautiful friends by artist Jutta Michels."



Gypsy - Kingfisher

How did your love for bear artistry start?

My father was an amateur painter and I learnt from him when I was a child and we had some exhibitions together. My favorite themes were animals and when I was grown up I did an education in comic drawing. My mother was a dressmaker and from her I learned sewing and made a lot of my clothing on my own. In 1996 I heard from a workshop "Teddy bear making" in the community college and participated. There I got the virus - that was the kind of art to combine drawing and sewing. Soon I made my own patterns and turned to other animals than bears, at first hares and then a lot of other animals.



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Starklar



Kasperle - Toby 2015!

Describe your design style:

First all of my creations were sewn, then I learnt the technique of needle felting during a teddy bear exhibition and was so excited about the possibilities which were offered by that. I made needle felted animals and then combined sewing and felting. I love to felt parts of the face, so every animal is one of a kind and very individual. The face is the important part and when it gives me a smile it is so satisfying and motivates me to get the animal finished. Most of my creations are very natural but I love also to make little sets with more animals or with suitable accessories. And most of my creations are miniatures.



Can we talk?

Are you Technically trained or naturally talented?

I think I got the talents of my parents but it is also necessary to learn the different techniques and never stop learning. I went to the base courses and then developed on my own. To swap ideas on bear making with other artists is wonderful. You can learn from everybody.

Take us through a typical day in your life:

Since our two sons left the house for studying I have much more time to work in my little studio. I can start in the morn-

ing with checking emails and process, then continue after lunch. I do the whole sewing while watching TV in the evening. My oldest son is my web master but I do the photos on my own.

what or who motivates you:

The best ideas are shown from nature. There are so many animals I want to make, but often a day has not enough hours. I also love to look for the little things of doll-houses and buy them as accessories for my creations. I see interesting accessories and get the idea for my new creation. Or I see a special stone or piece of wood and make a squirrel or something like that to sit on.

what's one of the biggest lessons you have learned in your career as a Bear Artist?

Of course it's to find out that I never get finished with learning. You can learn from other artists and you can develop your own skills but the point to reach absolute perfection is not possible for me.

what's your greatest bear making triumph?

In the last years I got a lot of different awards: Golden George, European Championship, Ted worldwide, Swiss Teddy,



Gestiefelter kater



Floepchen



Al Capone



Romero



Nutkin

Moscow diamond bear. This year for the first time I entered the British contest Excellence in Bear Artistry Award and my kingfisher was the winner in the category realistic bears and animals. That is great and I am very happy.

Share your top tip:

That is a difficult question. I think the most important thing is to believe in yourself and try to make the things that inspire you. If you don't succeed at once don't give up and ask for help. There are so many kind artists who can help if you ask. Or you can enter the different workshops during the exhibitions or on-line.

what tool could you not live without?

It is important that eyes and fingers don't get hurt. All other tools you can buy. I do not use a sewing machine, because my favorite size is mini.

where do you sell your collections?

I have my own website and I go to the biggest German exhibitions: Teddy bear world, Teddy bear Total and Euro teddy. The last years I also worked out little limitations of birds for Ian Pout (Teddy bears of Witney).



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