

BLACK & WHITE DOLL CHALLENGE RESULTS!

ART DOLL

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ODACA:

Behind the Scenes PART 2

by Lillian Alberti

*Sim Shalom
by Janet Bodin*



ODACA (Original Doll Artists Council of America) has long celebrated the art of the doll. ODACA, along with NIADA (National Institute of American Doll Artists) and DABIDA (Dutch and Belgian Institute of Doll Artists) has upheld the mark of excellence in the art doll world. For many doll artists, ODACA is an organization they'd like to be affiliated with, and eagerly seek the constructive criticism and thoughtful advice from its celebrated and knowledgeable members.

While the admission process for the other organizations may vary, membership to ODACA requires passing three separate stages. First, a candidate submits digital photos of their work, which are then reviewed, evaluated, and scored by a panel of existing members. Candidates who advance to the second round are asked to digitally document the creation of one doll, allowing the panel to see their armature construction, costuming techniques, and overall creative process. Finally, if their work shows promise and has attained the level of excellence required, the candidate is then asked to meet the panel of judges in person at the annual ODACA Day convention for a final review and possible induction.

In this, our second installment of "ODACA: Behind the Scenes," we feature the art of three talented doll makers, one-time candidates, who took up the ODACA challenge and are now juried members of our wonderfully talented and eclectic group of artists!

Janet Bodin

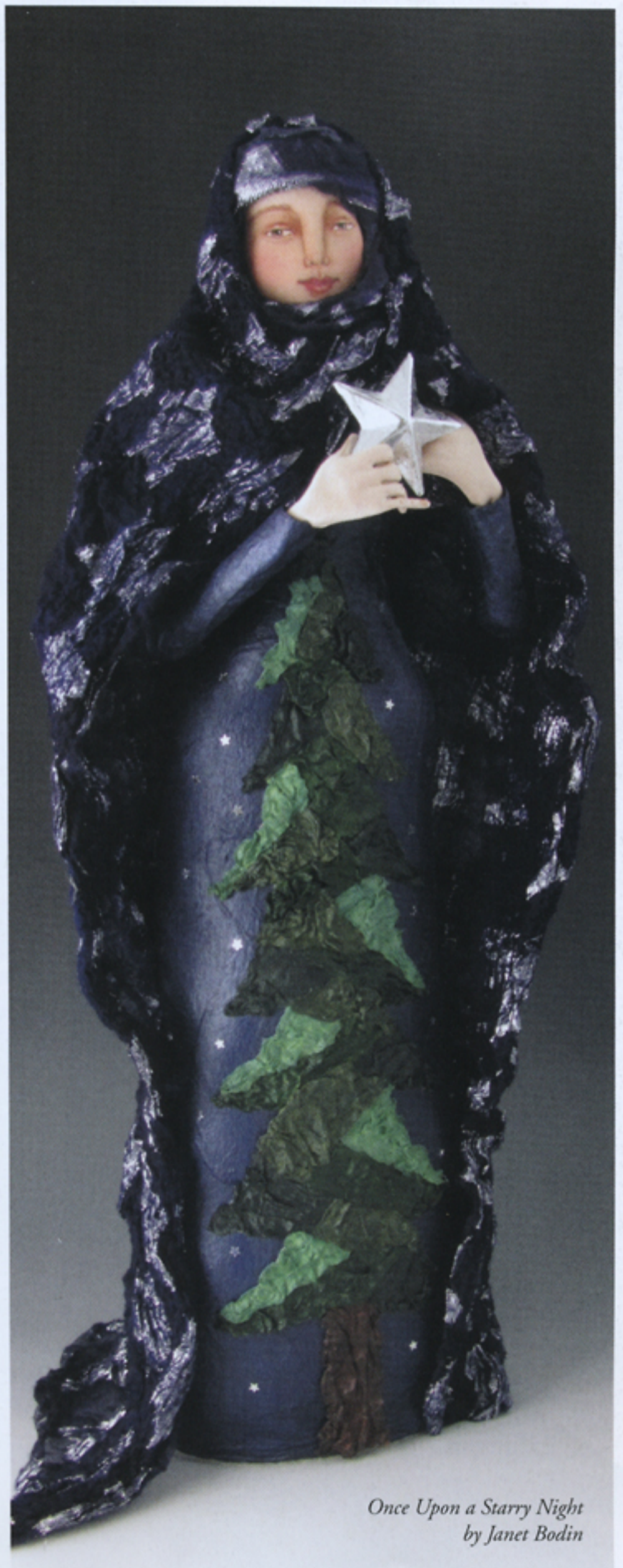
janetbodin.com, janetbodin.blogspot.com

Janet Bodin first discovered art dolls at a quilt festival in the late 1990s. Completely captivated by what she saw, Janet knew that creating art dolls was what she wanted to do, and she set out to learn everything she could about doll making.

Inspiration comes from many places says this Houston native: "A poem, a song lyric, a color, an expression on someone's face." Her interest in sewing and embroidery began in childhood "As an adult, my interests expanded into the areas of fabric dyeing and painting, needlework, beading, felting, and silk fusion," says Janet. "I enjoy incorporating these various fiber arts into my figurative sculptures."

No doubt spending time living in Mexico City and Rome broadened her awareness of color and texture as she uses these creatively in her work. Janet began creating her unique dolls in 1998 and her work continues to evolve, from finely-detailed dolls, to her latest organically shaped "column dolls," (featured in this issue) each with its own message. An ODACA member since 2008, Janet continues to exhibit her art dolls in the Houston area and her work has appeared in numerous doll-related publications.

For Janet, "Making dolls is a way to blend fantasy with fiber art in the human form. The possibilities of color and texture that working with fiber provides are endless." The process of making these figures is always exciting to her; she says, "It is always new and a journey into self-discovery." →



Once Upon a Starry Night
by Janet Bodin

Lady Traveler
by Sarah Maldonado



Sarah Moldanado

msmollieo.com

As a child, Sarah Moldanado taught herself the art of fine handwork: sewing, embroidery, knitting, etc. She explains, "Although my love of science and medicine was what shaped my career in research and healthcare, it was costume, fabric, and fashion that were enduring interests and sources of inspiration."

After leaving the healthcare industry, she rediscovered the joy of creating with her hands. "On a whim I took a class in porcelain doll making and was hooked." She explains, "I made reproduction dolls, both modern and antique, for several years. This gave me some insight into the joys and pitfalls of working with porcelain. Sculpting the human figure and creating molds required mastering new skills. I am mostly self-taught through books, trial and error, and building on tips and techniques generously shared by talented doll artists in workshops and seminars. I continue to use porcelain as my medium, despite its intricacy, because of how it takes paint and its translucent quality."

*Lady of the Venetian Court
by Sarah Maldanado*



*Rose
by Sarah Maldanado*

To date, all of Sarah's exquisite dolls are adult women depicting many periods in history and various cultures through accurate representation of costume and ethnic dress. "It is my intention that the dolls evoke a sense of elegance, intelligence, dignity, and serenity." Sarah's creations do exhibit a great sense of grace, a quality sought after by many collectors of her work.

Her early years honing her fine handwork has served her well. Sarah says, "Each creation teaches something new, and every doll challenges me to be a better sculptor, a more realistic painter, cobbler, milliner, costume designer, hairdresser, and engineer!" →

Barbara Schoenoff

bschonff@illinois.edu

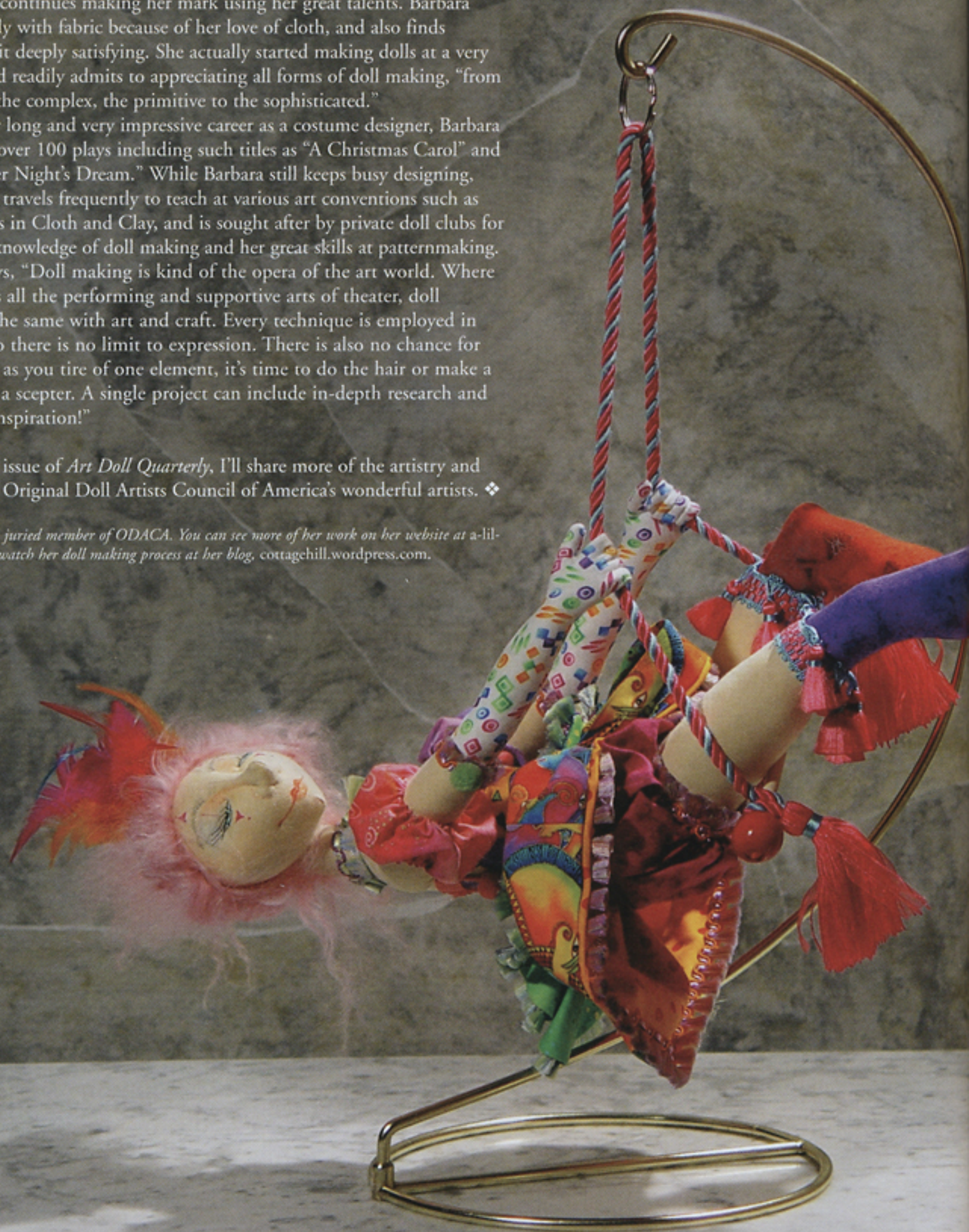
Although Barbara Schoenoff received her master's degree in costume design years ago, she continues making her mark using her great talents. Barbara works primarily with fabric because of her love of cloth, and also finds working with it deeply satisfying. She actually started making dolls at a very young age, and readily admits to appreciating all forms of doll making, "from the simple to the complex, the primitive to the sophisticated."

During her long and very impressive career as a costume designer, Barbara designed well over 100 plays including such titles as "A Christmas Carol" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." While Barbara still keeps busy designing, nowadays, she travels frequently to teach at various art conventions such as Artistic Figures in Cloth and Clay, and is sought after by private doll clubs for her extensive knowledge of doll making and her great skills at patternmaking.

Barbara says, "Doll making is kind of the opera of the art world. Where opera includes all the performing and supportive arts of theater, doll making does the same with art and craft. Every technique is employed in doll making so there is no limit to expression. There is also no chance for boredom, just as you tire of one element, it's time to do the hair or make a cane or create a scepter. A single project can include in-depth research and spontaneous inspiration!"

In the next issue of *Art Doll Quarterly*, I'll share more of the artistry and inspirations of Original Doll Artists Council of America's wonderful artists. ❖

Lillian Alberti is a juried member of ODACA. You can see more of her work on her website at a-lil-whimsy.com and watch her doll making process at her blog, cottagehill.wordpress.com.





*Lucinda on Her Trapeze by
Barbara Schoenoff*



*Pas de Deux
by Barbara Schoenoff*

