

DollHouse

and Miniature Scene

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Unlocking Shakespeare

Lillian Alberti celebrates the genius of Shakespeare in celebration of his up and coming birthday anniversary.

This spring, people all over the globe will be preparing to celebrate William Shakespeare's 450th birthday. Libraries will launch reading circles, elementary school classrooms will begin teaching young readers the importance of

his literary contribution and high school students everywhere will, no doubt, be staging some of his well-known plays. My own daughter is currently reading 'Romeo and Juliet' with her English class. Needless to say, I also wanted to honour him in

my own small way, by way of a shadow box.

Unlike other shadow boxes I've created, I had a particular thought in mind when creating this one - unlocking the moment in time when Shakespeare, deep in thought, created his most beloved

characters: Romeo & Juliet. In order to accomplish this, I decided to put aside the three basic rules in creating a shadow box: scale, perspective, and depth. After doing some research, I discovered, surprisingly, that no one is really quite sure of what the man himself looked like. While most agree that he was bald, some say he had dark hair and probably wore a small beard and moustache. Others claimed he had a full beard with fawn-coloured hair. Since nothing was set in stone, I decided to create my own composite. This gave me the liberty to have fun and go with the flow!

You will need:

- 8"x10" (200mm x 254mm) wood shadow box
- Titebond crackle finish or similar product
- Aleene's craft glue or similar product
- 3" (75mm) Styrofoam egg
- Creative Paper clay
- Polyester stuffing
- Assorted sculpting tools
- Assorted craft paints
- Assorted paint brushes
- X2 15" (380mm) length 22 gauge galvanised floral wire for each hand
- 14" (355mm) piece of 14 gauge galvanised wire
- 8" x 8" (200mm x 200mm) square of muslin
- Assorted thread
- Sewing needles
- Scrap book paper preferably with a script background
- Assorted remnant fabrics for clothing
- A tiny feather
- Faux hair /fibre of choice



Step 1

I began by taking the length of 14 gauge galvanised wire, the Styrofoam egg, the polyester stuffing and muslin square and used them to fashion a simple armature consisting of a small bodice with obvious neck and shoulders.

**Step 2**

After securing the egg with glue onto the exposed edge of the wire, I began layering the egg 'head' and neck with Creative Paper clay and defining the chin.

**Step 3**

Next, I made separate clay egg shaped 'eyeballs', glued them onto the head and began layering the facial details.

NB: I allowed several hours or days between these steps for sufficient drying time.

**Step 4**

When completely satisfied with the image I had created, I painted the eyes and the facial details.

**Step 5**

I made the hands using the 22 gauge galvanised floral wire as an armature and layered them with Creative Paper clay allowing sufficient drying time between layers. The exposed excess wires were then used as arms and later, after attaching them to the body, covered with polyester stuffing followed by my ornate fabric.

**Step 6**

I gathered together a few remnants of ornate fabrics that I thought would look appropriate for the time period and created a simple outfit. I then sewed this directly onto the bust, then embellished it with beads and other trim.

**Step 7**

I then fashioned his beard by gluing snippets of dyed lamb's wool to his chin.

**Step 8**

I followed this by gluing on his wig. When dried, I put him aside.

**Step 9**

I then moved on to preparing the tiny figures of Juliet, Romeo and the nurse by fashioning a simple armature for each character out of 22 gauge floral wire.

**Step 10**

Using small amounts of clay and glue, I built the head and body details.

**Step 11**

I then crafted their tiny costumes. After completing all three characters, I put them aside.

**Step 12**

For the interior of the box, I chose a 'script' scrap book paper which was in keeping with my theme. It's interesting yet simple enough not to detract from the action going on within the box: Romeo and Juliet expressing their love for each other as the nurse looks on in horror! I lined the box (back and all four sides) using my favourite glue.



Step 13

Following the instructions on the back of the bottle, I applied the crackle finish medium to the exterior of the box.



Step 14

When dried, I applied my colour of choice... black. This dark, crackled finish will give the exterior of the box a nice aged effect.



Step 15

Shakespeare now returns to the scene of action as I glue him in place centre stage... of course!



Step 16

I then placed the other characters in their proper positions.



Step 17

The inside is now complete. For that final finishing touch, I added a bronze escutcheon which reinforces the 'unlocked' theme and completes my ideal



INFORMATION

To see more of Lillian Alberti's work, please visit her website and blog:

W: www.a-lil-whimsy.com

W: cottagehill.wordpress.com

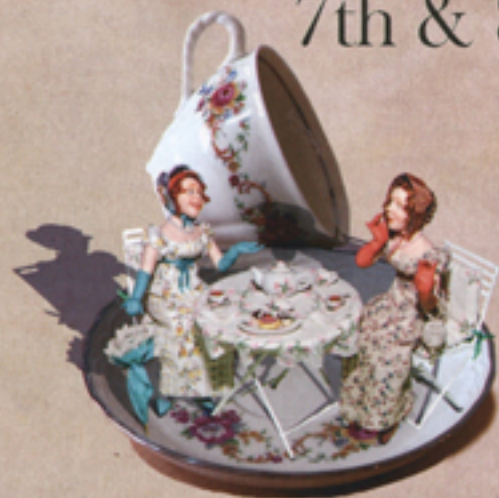
E: albersich@yahoo.com

INTERNATIONAL DOLLS HOUSE SHOW

ANDALUCÍA 2014

Fuengirola, Málaga

7th & 8th JUNE



HOTEL LAS PALMERAS
Village Promenade (Facing the Yachting Harbour)

SATURDAY 10,30 - 14,30
and then 17,00 - 20,30

SUNDAY 11,00 - 16,00

fuengirola
Area Tourism
and Events

<http://feria-miniaturas-andalucia.jimdo.com/>