



issue no. 14 Thursday, April 14, 2011

1ST EVER KITBASHING CONTEST

Location: The Mini-Time Machine Museum of Miniatures

CONTEST KIT BASHING

Come one, come all to behold the miniature masterpieces created within the Tucson community! The Mini-Time Machine Museum's very first Kit Bashing Contest was a sensational success, with 18 entries from a variety of ages and miniature-making experience levels. To begin, "kit bashing" is a term used by hobbyists to describe the process of altering a pre-existing kit to suit one's own hobby needs. In the miniature world, this process often alters the original object to create a one-of-a-kind model. Here at the museum, contestants purchased one of our Cross Buck Door Kits, which they were asked to "bash" and then return to the museum no later than Saturday, March 26, 2011.



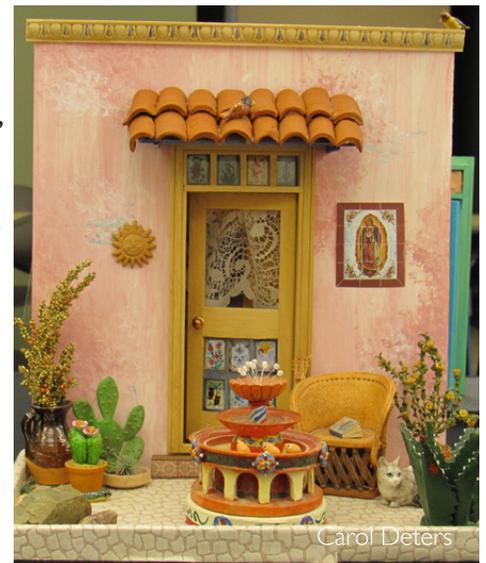
There would be three judging categories: Most Creative Use of Scale, Best Use of Additional Materials, and Most Original Concept or Theme. The Grand Prize Winner would receive \$100 gift certificate to Michael's, and Honorable Mentions in each of the three judging categories were awarded \$10 gift certificates to Miniature Memories, courtesy of the store's proprietors, Bob and Cindy Hinske. All of the entries would then be on display here at the museum April 16, 2011.

Judging for the contest took place on Monday, March 28, 2011. Our panel of judges was comprised of Pat Arnell, our Museum's Founder; Clare Rowe, Associate Professor of Theater Arts at the University of Arizona; and both Cindy & Bob Hinske. The judges had their work cut out for them,

narrowing down winners from a broad range of concepts, including a surf shop, a clubhouse- even a re-creation of the Mr. Ed TV show, complete with sound effects! Judges took careful notes on each piece, discussing their favorites with one another and making their final decisions. And the winners are...

Honorable Mention for Most Creative Use of Scale: Backyard Barrio Oasis, by Carol Deters. "I love the color and warmth of many of Tucson's barrios," wrote Deters. "After seeing the three doors in the museum collection, I was eager to design a barrio door, and the contest offered the perfect opportunity." Deters used the lid of a cigar box, foam core, and hand-made miniature Spanish roof tiles,

among her many materials. The result is a barrio scene as pretty as a postcard, authentic in each detail. Viewers can almost feel the sun's warmth on the adobe wall, or hear the rhythmic tap of summer rain on the tiles. It is a scene that is comforting in its familiarity and a testament to Tucson's cultural charms.



Honorable Mention for Best Use of Additional Materials: Stephanie Parker. Parker created an open-air scene of a small house and yard bursting with color. "The idea is to show a yard in the early stages of Spring, when the plants are just beginning to bud and the grass is short," wrote Parker. "This further suggested to me a beginning and a welcoming." The word welcoming is certainly the best description of this charming scene: the furniture looks comfortable and love-worn; the yard has a played-in tenderness; all of the homey touches blend to create the sense of being cared for and much enjoyed. The entry was a

whole is a delightful blend of textures, both old and new, patterned and shiny. It is the home of an eccentric world explorer or a quirky great-aunt, perhaps- and most certainly a place where any visitor would be offered a warm cup of tea and a sunny spot to read. Parker herself is a busy mom who worked on her entry whenever she could grab a few extra minutes, using the contest as a creative outlet. She also didn't buy anything new for her creation, choosing to work with what she had around the house- which must provide a real sense of accomplishment, considering she won for best use of additional materials! Her hodgepodge list included velvet, Styrofoam, paperclay, coffee grounds and shredded garden hose!



Stephanie Parker

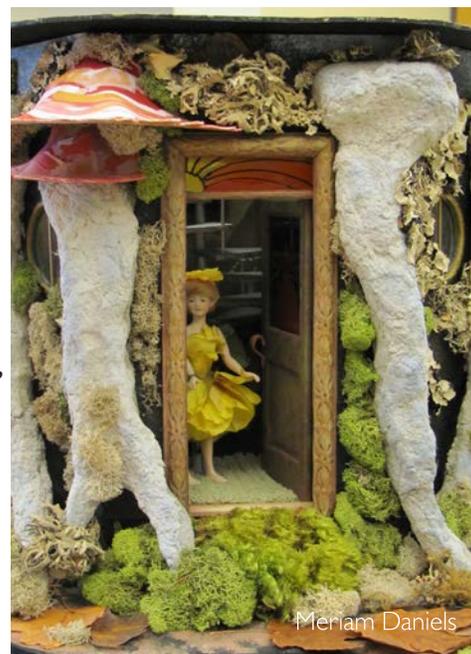
Honorable Mention for Most Original Concept or Theme: Jeannie Patiño. Patiño, who is a member of the Tucson Miniature Society, created an entry which was certainly a crowd pleaser. Standing out among the competition, hers was the only entry to use the door as anything other than, well, a door. Instead, Patiño's door was converted into a table, completed by a scrumptious spread of hand-made desserts. The weathering on the entry's floorboards is expertly done, as is the aged look of the doorframe. Overall, the feeling of the piece could be likened to an outdoor picnic on a spring day. One could easily imagine this to be a full-size feature How-To in Better Homes & Gardens, depicting clever ways



Jeannie Patiño

to repurpose beloved furniture! When asked her thoughts on winning, Patiño exclaimed, "I'm very surprised! This was my first time entering a contest." She noted that she had put a great deal of thought into her table, not wanting it to look overdone. Her artistic sensibilities did not go unnoticed by the judges.

Last but not least, The Grand Prize Winner: Meriam Daniels. Daniels created a tree stump fairy house worthy of the finest secret garden. Using a varied host of materials including plywood, toothpicks, drinking straws and one green sock, Daniels dazzled the judges with her imagination and attention to fantastical detail. Hand-painted metallic gold rings



Meriam Daniels

mimic the pattern of sliced wood, and stained glass images of a sunrise and bouquet of flowers greet visitors from the door frame. Charming round windows allow beams of light into the dwelling, while moss, lichen and leaves add the finishing touches to an overall organic texture. As beautiful as the house is to look at, the roof of the tree stump can actually be removed, allowing access to the home's interior- an important feature for the artist. "I wanted to make something which could actually be played with," confessed Daniels, who is the 3rd generation of a family of doll makers. "I still love to play with dolls," she laughed. "Do you think that gave me an unfair advantage?"

The judges party and reception was held on the evening of March 31st, and a good time was had by all. Artists were able to see their competition, mingle with the other artists and enjoy the delicious wine and hors d'œuvres. On the patio, the band Mustang Two entertained museum guests throughout the evening. The real delight, however, has been in being able to showcase community artwork here at the museum, hopefully inspiring a new generation of miniature artists and enthusiasts. We just can't wait for our next contest!

Visit our facebook page to view the rest of the entries and other photos from the evening.