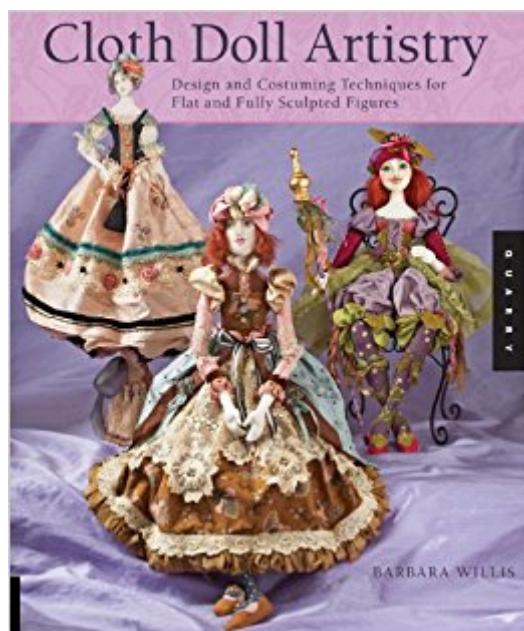


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# **Cloth Doll Artistry: Design And Costuming Techniques For Flat And Fully Sculpted Figures**



## **Synopsis**

In this unique and beautiful book, beloved doll-designer Barbara Willis guides readers through various approaches to doll design and basic and advanced construction techniques. Through the creation of three complete step-by-step projects, readers will develop color boards, learn to use vintage images, create both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional cloth dolls, learn sophisticated costuming techniques, and gain knowledge of elaborate soft sculpting. A gallery shares the inspirational work of several well-known doll artists who have created their own versions of each project. Complete patterns and templates are included.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Quarry Books (June 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1592535135

ISBN-13: 978-1592535132

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #709,749 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Puppets & Puppetry #56 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Toys & Models > Dolls & Doll Clothing #295 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Toys & Models > Toymaking

## **Customer Reviews**

Willis, Barbara. Cloth Doll Artistry: Design and Costuming Techniques for Flat and Fully Sculpted Figures. Quarry: Quayside. 2009. c.128p. illus. ISBN 978-1-59253-513-2. pap. \$24.99. FIBER CRAFTS This guide to cloth-doll making provides step-by-step instruction from idea to creation, as well as a gallery of inspirational art pieces. A variety of design techniques are presented, especially for the dolls' faces. While the designs are not for beginners, the photographs representing the best of the craft give beginners something to aspire to. --Library Journal , August 2009

Barbara Willis has been creating dolls and teaching nationally and internationally for over 30 years. She has been associated with the quilting industry, fiber guilds, embroidery guilds and clubs, International Quilt Market, The Knitting and Stitching Show (UK) doll clubs, and workshop events for

all of her career. She has been featured and published in many magazines including Sew Beautiful, Cloth Dolls and Animals, Dolls Bears and Collectibles, Better Homes and Gardens, Dolls and many others over her career. She lives in Northern California.

I am reviewing the Kindle version specifically. I started out very enthused about this book, and excited to make the projects. Three days later, I'm extremely disappointed and frustrated. The pattern pieces don't seem to be sized accurately for Kindle. I traced them from a full desktop computer screen, but they seem to be too small. Either that, or the instructions for you to waste a lot of fabric. Regardless of the Kindle, some of the templates make NO sense: for example, the shoes are enormous, no matter how you look at it. Proportionately they are ten times the size of the feet. The patterns recommend copying two pieces at 200% - if one does that the doll would disappear into the skirt. Nuts! In the back of the book was a link for a PDF download of templates; however, the link does NOT work. The publisher no longer carries the book, or evidently any templates to download. So I went to the author's website to contact her directly. As of several days now, I have received no reply. I wish I had not wasted money on this book; worse, I cut up a lot of nice fabric trying to get this nonsense to work. That's a waste of money and my time too. One more thing: this book presupposes quite a bit of knowledge. There are very few illustrations, and the written instructions skip a lot and are terribly non-detailed or specific; for someone more unfamiliar with sewing dolls, this would be a nightmare. Definitely not a beginning book.

I originally saw this book in a local craft/quilting store. When I went back to buy it, it was out of stock, so I bought it through instead of waiting. First of all, the book is pretty basic with two dolls, but multiple variations made by a number of fiber artists. The photography is beautiful, the images are inspiring, the patterns and directions are pretty clear. I've been wanting to try dollmaking, and this is giving me a good starting point. I haven't actually made anything yet, however, I'm pretty sure that I can get some good results with the aid of this book. The first doll is a flat doll, much like paper dolls, but executed in fabric with stiff backing, then clothed and decorated three-dimensionally. I've been sewing a long time, so I don't anticipate any problems with this project or any variations. Personally, I think the flat doll might make a great decorative gift for someone who has everything - just theme it to your friends favorite colors and possibly dream image. The second doll is more traditional, with basic techniques for needle sculpting the face and attaching hair. Again, the directions are so clear, I don't anticipate any problems attempting this project either. Looks like a lot of fun, and since the holidays are coming up, what better excuse to try these dolls out?

This book was well thought out and planned prior to publishing it. It is very beautifully detailed, very explanatory even for beginners and an interesting read. Mrs. Willis gives her all in this book. She even gives the beginner a facial template to copy and print out on printable iron-on paper, if the beginner or advance doll maker can not draw the faces or even paint them. A cheat sheet so to speak. All three of the doll patterns and examples are done in vintage fabrics in this book but one can choose their own fabric layout for the doll they are making. Patterns for all three dolls are included and even a facial/body print for the flat doll can be used from the book or it can be scanned and copied. I would highly recommend this book for ALL doll makers regardless if you are interested in making one of her dolls or not and for those whom are considering making a doll of this type for the first time is will greatly enrich your beginner skills. It is well worth the price which is low compared to other doll books I have purchase. It is now the best doll making book in my library!

This is a very good book for doll makers venturing into the world of creating art dolls. The directions are clear, with many tips, hints, and tricks for improving construction and personalizing your doll. I would have given it 5 stars except for two things. One, the author does take for granted that the reader has at least an intermediate understanding of fabrics, fibers, sewing and sewing terminology, stuffing techniques, and soft sculpting. Second, there is an assumption that the reader has ready access to exotic and hard to find fabrics and trims, and offers little advice on the use of more readily available alternatives. While I do agree that fine fabrics and trims tend to result in more beautiful outcomes, a novice art doll creator may be hesitant to invest heavily in expensive materials. On the whole, anyone following the instructions, who has a solid working knowledge of sewing, will be able to jump right in and successfully create art dolls, so I have no hesitation in giving it a strong recommendation to that audience. If you are looking for a book on making dolls for play, have not previously made a cloth doll, or have had little or no sewing experience, then the projects herein might not suit your purpose or skill level. This book also has much to offer those who like to collect cloth art dolls, as it gives good insight into their design, planning, and creation.

This is only one of the doll books I have gotten recently. I have made dolls for many years, and always look for a fresh approach. I really like the clothing inspiration in this book, and even though the doll bodies are simple, they are easy to embellish, and can have real personality. I look at books as a beginning point for my own designs, so even though I will not make any dolls just like the ones in this book, I will look at it for inspiration.

This is a well written book and the pictures are wonderful. The instructions are well thought out and are easy to follow with the pictures to guide you. The only thing that would make this an even more exceptional book, would be to be able to actually touch all the fabulous fabrics and notions used on each doll. Each of the different artists that were given the assignment to make a doll from Barbara's patterns did a beautiful job on their dolls. This book is right up there with Patti Culea's and Susanna Oroyan's books as must have to any dollmaker's library.

anything to do with dolls is just fun!

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