



MACABRE TIMES

The Latest In Odd Things from Cherie's Macabre Minis

Issue #1
8/14/2024

It's...ALIVE!!!

CheriesMacabreMinis.com

Welcome to the GRAND OPENING and VERY FIRST newsletter for Cherie's Macabre Minis!

It is *astounding* to me that we are even here today. Years ago I had stumbled on a partially built Greenleaf "Beacon Hill" dollhouse kit at a rummage sale(!) and knew that the classic Second Empire style house had to become a ratty old haunted mansion. My brother Dave finished the shell for me and I started the interior looking for odd little things to go inside thus entering the world of miniatures.

As I looked for items in retail stores and online, everything was so shiny and pretty and perfect...and wrong! For my house anyway. I needed old worn-out furniture with broken legs and stained and torn upholstery. Dark and foreboding paintings. Dust and grime. And most important of all, things with glinty eyes, just visible, peering out at me in the darkest corners. I wanted creepy little things that made it look like something was actually living in that dollhouse...and made me glad I wasn't.

At the time haunted dollhouses were just catching on and most of the items available were Halloween themed...and cute. Jolly Jack-o-



Lanterns, trays of adorable ghostie cookies. Everything orange and black. Blah. So I started to make my own things, many based on my favorite human-sized props.

Somewhere along the way I managed to infect my poor brother Dave with this odd-mini-fever and he started making his own things as well.

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Creepy New Items

Sneak Peek at What's Cooking in our Macabre Labs

Dave and I are busy working on new Macabre minis for your display!

One of the most exciting items I am working to introduce are dollhouse (1:12) and half-scale (1:24) polymer clay figurines! I have purchased several polymer clay press-molds from *Patricia Rose Studios* as well as gained her permission to take the beautiful and perfectly proportioned doll blanks that these molds produce to create some rather not beautiful characters.

It's been quite a learning process for me to gently sculpt the pose and facial features of these little figurines...and the hands! OMG the hands are hard!



Then to make the eyes, hair and clothing. I've been practicing a lot and they are getting better! Look for these hopefully in the next few months appearing in the "Tormentors & Victims" section of our store. See "*Patricia Rose Doll Molds*" on page 2 for more details.

I am also working on making some new interesting lighting effects and fixtures to help set the stage for horror-movie type atmospheres including some novel approaches toward crafting different types of shadow people to lurk quietly in the corners.

For animated minis, our now-signature Haunted Ouiji Table will soon be joined by a new animated prop! What is it? What is it? Stay tuned!

Patricia Rose Doll Molds

What are they?

I had an idea to make miniature *horrible* people to populate my displays. That creepy girl with the long tangled hair—backlit, of course. A HUGE man holding an axe and a grudge. And then realized I needed the victims! That startled couple hearing a concerning noise in the middle of the night. Someone cowering away from a living nightmare after they have tripped and fallen to the floor.

Shortly after the excitement over this flood of ideas I realized...I do NOT have the skill to make these! Sigh. But the fates were on my side and I found Patricia Rose Studios' website where she showcased her absolutely lifelike polymer clay dolls. And then found that she makes and sells molds(!). I contacted her and ended up with EIGHT molds that form perfectly proportioned doll blanks that work for both dollhouse and half-scale!

So...what are "doll blanks". The molds produce a basic human body figurine but that is where the work actually begins! The blank has to have excess clay trimmed off, need to be posed without smooching the clay too much thus deforming delicate limbs. Then baked and sanded. Fingers and other fine details need to be added and the doll baked again to harden more. After that the skin requires shading (or grunged up in my case). The hair and eyes have to be added. Last, but not least, clothing. The finished dolls take hours to do but are so satisfying and they look amazing!

I have to admit that I have spent a lot of hours casting various doll blanks and shaping them into different characters to see what I can do with them. There is a learning curve and I am still slogging my way up it. BUT, as I get more practice the dolls will just get better and better.

I'm also working on prototypes to try to make them somewhat poseable as they are more set figurines at the moment.

If you have a moment, please do take a look at Patricia Rose Studios (PatriciaRoseStudios.com) and admire her work! It is inspiring to see what a master at this craft can do. She has tons of **free tutorials** as well for using her press molds AND crafting dolls with polymer clay from scratch(!). I highly recommend her site if you have any interest in making your own tormentors and victims but hurry, she told me she's taking her site down in a few weeks! She will still sell molds on Ebay if you are interested. 😊



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One day we decided to see if anyone else enjoyed these not-your-usual-dollhouse-items as much as we did. An opportunity came up to be vendors at the Lodi, CA [Miniatures In the Wine Country](#) show and we jumped at the chance.

We didn't know if anyone would be interested in what we make at all and were surprised and humbled by all of you and your kind comments!

Because of YOU Cherie's Macabre Minis has officially opened our on-line store and Dave and I now have a great excuse to keep making these *appalling* little things!

If you are interested on being the first to know when we add more cool things to the shop or the latest Tips & Tricks article, be sure to officially subscribe to my email list/newsletters on CheriesMacabreMinis.com! I promise to not sell or abuse your email and you can unsubscribe at any time.