

MECA Miniature Enthusiasts, Craftsmen & Artisans

An Oasis for Miniaturists

Featured Artisan

Carolyn Mohler Kraft



Carolyn's passion began when she was a miniature herself, not yet in school, instilled by her mother, Virginia Mohler. A very talented and resourceful woman, Virginia made what she could not afford to buy, or could not find. Carolyn's very first miniature was a yellow rosebud flannel nightgown her Mom made for her Minnie Mouse doll to match the one she'd made in real-size for Carolyn. It may have been a larger scale, but a miniature version, nonetheless.

Lucky enough to have an older sister, a dollhouse arrived shortly after Minnie Mouse for the girls. Their collection began at Marshall Field's in Chicago with rooms of Toncoss furniture, yet something was lacking. The bedroom was not complete until Carolyn's mom hooked a wool rug and made a cozy ruffled chair with co-ordinating throw pillows. The warm summer sun (from a lamp with a tilted shade sitting on the floor) filtered through her lace kitchen curtains and a slight breeze (from a black Diehl fan perched on the piano and pointing downward) blew through her handmade screen door onto the decorated birthday cake (made from a spool of thread) sitting on the table. Before long, an empty shell had become a cozy home full of handmade, one of a kind treasures, making Carolyn wish she could shrink small enough to live in a house with a canopied bed, a fireplace, and a dog!

Carolyn watched in awe as her mother continued to make more and more accessories, eventually selling them to Marshall Field's and several miniature distributors and attempted to emulate her, until high school took center stage. Not until her mom opened a miniature shop in Illinois, called Gullivers, did the miniature bug bite again. Carolyn began making limited accessories while attending college in Boulder, Colorado, eventually trying her hand at houseplants, likely influenced by the forty houseplants in her small apartment.

By the early 1980s Carolyn was selling her plants though mail order and at shows in Denver and Chicago. In 1987, she was featured in the November issue of Nutshell News. By 1999, her growing family no longer allowed the time and space needed for miniatures, and they were packed away (the miniatures, not her family).

Ten years have passed and Carolyn has killed all but two of the original plants she miniaturized long ago. Her home is still full of houseplants, and the new varieties are screaming to become miniaturized before they wither and die too.

