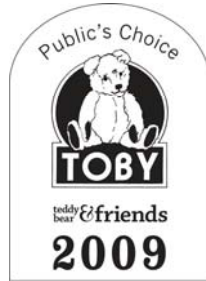


**Teddy Bear & Friends Congratulates its
2009 TOBY® Public's Choice® Award Winners!**



Miniature Artist Bear, Dressed

◀ Samantha Potter, "Grace"

Grace stands about 3½ inches (9.5 cm) tall. This one-of-a-kind bear is partially jointed, her body is made from pale pink long-pile fabric, she has ultrasuede paws, polyester toy stuffing, and onyx bead eyes. *Grace* wears pink cotton dungarees with ruffled trim and heart buttons and a silk flower behind her ear. Check out www.marymyrtleminiatures.co.uk for more.



Miniature Artist Bear, Undressed

◀ Donna Griffin, "Pansy & Rosebud, the Panda Sisters"

Made of mini bear plush, *Pansy* stands 3¾ inches, and *Rosebud* stands 2¾ inches. They have ultrasuede paws, polyfill and steel pellet stuffing, and glass eyes. Both one-of-a-kind bears wear a silk ribbon on their heads. "Being chosen by the judges as a recipient of an Industry's Choice award and then by the voters as the Public's Choice award are honors beyond belief," says Donna. "The recognition has given my work exposure on the worldwide stage. I now have friends – collectors, artists, and suppliers – all over the world. I hope to be able to give them all a hug one of these days." Check out www.donnaandthebears.com for more.



Small Artist Bear, Dressed

◀ Silvia Gilles, "Marcula"

Marcula is 11 inches and was created in an edition size of 3. This jointed bear is made of mohair and alpaca, with molded teeth, polyfiber and mineral pellet stuffing, black glass eyes, and wired arms. Notice the silver earrings. Accessories include a cashmere bat. "Winning this award is a great honor for me" says Silvia. "*Marcula* (the name is a mix of Marc and Dracula) is dedicated to the U.S. singer Marc Terenzi (former front man of the boy group 'Natural'), who is the creator of 'Terenzi Horror Nights' in Germany." For more, visit www.silviagilles.de.



Small Artist Bear, Undressed

◀ Yoko Nakayama, "Milk"

Measuring just under 12 inches, this little jointed alpaca bear has cotton and plastic pellet filling and glass eyes.



Large Artist Bear, Dressed

◀ Melissa Zemeski, "Captain Zinfangar"

Standing a tall 35 inches, *Captain Zinfangar* has a mohair body, mohair backed paws, polyfiber stuffing, and hand-painted glass eyes. He wears an early period costume made of a Sensuede material. His hat is trimmed with ostrich feathers. He also holds an antique painted brass telescope, brass and copper boatswain whistle, compass, sword, and sold and silver metal pins. "I'm honored to have been chosen by the public in this challenging competition," says Melissa. "I feel like I finally have reached the stars and all my hard work paid off!" For more, check out www.atticheirloomtreasures.com.



Large Artist Bear, Undressed

◀ Karin De Lorenzo, "Bubbele"

Bubbele is 16 inches tall, jointed, and made of alpaca. He's a one-of-a-kind piece with a mouth that can open and close, glass eyes, and comes with the plastic bamboo in his paw. "To win the 'Best in Show' TOBY Award really means a lot to me," says Karin. "It is a wonderful recognition of my work." For more, go to www.karindelorenzo.de.



Artist Vignette

◀ Karin De Lorenzo, "Be Friends? Yes we can!!!"

This one-of-a-kind collection took home the "Best in Show" award. The bears are made from alpaca and partially hand-dyed. Winning the TOBY Public's Choice award, says Karin, means "people understood the message I wanted to portray, namely that all races (of course, related on us humans) could be peaceful together." Visit www.karindelorenzo.de.



Artist "Friends"

◀ Karen Lyons, "Cat and the Fiddle"

This cat stands 15 inches and is made of Belgium hand-colored faux fur. He wears a silk scarf, black tie, and comes with a violin, case, mouse, and glass candle. He was created in an edition size of 2. "I feel the TOBY Awards Ceremony is the highlight of the year for many artists and collectors. I love the excitement and drama," says Karen. Check out www.kjlyons.com.



Artist Creation, Nontraditional Materials

◀ Berta Hesen-Minten, "Elf"

Elf stands 8 inches tall. This jointed piece is crocheted with wool/kid mohair and wool and stainless steelshot stuffing. His handmade costume consists of a wool felted hat, shoes, and jacket. He carries a wet felted bag and was made in an edition size of 3. "I am thrilled!" says Berta. "It means to me that one day, all the efforts to make something special and good enough for an award, will pay back. Not in money, but in the vote of the public, to know they love my bears is just great!" Visit www.threadteds.com.



Small Manufactured Bear, Dressed

◀ Bearington Collection, Ltd., "Ms. Abracadabra"

Standing 14 inches, *Ms. Abracadabra* is made of plush fur with velour paws and plastic eyes. She wears an orange and black Halloween gown with matching hat. She also holds a masquerade mask. For more, go to www.bearingtoncollection.com.



**Small Manufactured Bear, Undressed
◀ Gund Inc., "Zhen Zhen"**

Zhen Zhen is a 7-inch acrylic plush panda bear. "Gund is thrilled to be honored with the 2009 Public's Choice Award," says Bryan Bendavid, SVP of marketing & sales at Gund. "Our mission has been, and always will be to create outstanding designs of superior quality and we thank the readers of *Teddy Bear & Friends* for acknowledging our efforts with this prestigious award." Check out www.gund.com.



**Large Manufactured Bear, Dressed
◀ Hermann-Spielwaren GmbH, "Old Bavarian Bear"**

Old Bavarian Bear is 14½ inches tall, jointed, and is made of golden-brown mohair, excelsior stuffing, and has a growler. His paws are artificial leather, and his costume is made in the Bavarian style. He was made in an edition size of 250. For more, check out www.hermann.de.



**Large Manufactured Bear, Undressed
◀ Steiff North America, Inc., "Alexander, the Trademark Bear"**

Alexander, the Trademark Bear is 17 inches tall and jointed. This mohair bear has ultrasuede paws and was made in an edition size of 1,950. He wears a genuine leather collar. Go to www.steiffusa.com.



**Manufactured "Friends"
◀ Steiff North America, Inc., "Snoopy and Woodstock, the Best Friends"**

Snoopy stands 13 inches tall. This mohair piece was made in an edition size of 1,500 and comes with *Woodstock*. Visit www.steiffusa.com.