

Guise and Dolls

Figurative Sculpture Class with Melissa Ichiuji

Location: Grace Episcopal Church, The Plains, Virginia

6 weeks: April 23 - June 4, 2019 (No class May 14)

Tuesday 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Guise and Dolls is a figurative sculpture class that uses self reflection and revelation (removal of the guise) as a starting point for the creation of a unique art doll. Dolls are relational objects that function as an extension of the self, the spirit and the psyche and have been used throughout history as spiritual intermediaries and powerful tools for self-transformation and ritual.

Your art doll will be a reflection of your own singular vision and personal history. We will begin the creation process with a prescribed foundation, however as we progress you are free to improvise. Your process and final project is open to personal interpretation. I would like for you to think of your doll as a portrait. It can depict a version of yourself (past, present or future), a loved one, a spirit, an emotion, a fictional character or any figurative representation that holds meaning for you. We will use movement, journaling, sketching and guided visualization to unlock the body and mind and tap into personal imagery as a source of inspiration.

The creation of your doll is a building process that will involve joining various materials of your choosing. We will begin with a basic skeletal armature made of wire, wood and polyester batting. Next we will use a needle and thread to attached fabrics and artifacts to the armature. I encourage you to incorporate materials and small items that resonate with you and support the theme of your portrait. Items such as buttons, small toys, beads, feathers, dried or silk flowers, bone, teeth, fur, found objects, ephemera and any other small objects of your choosing are perfect. As we progress you are free to choose how realistic or abstract you would like your figure to be. There are no rules!

Please dress comfortably. At the beginning of each class we will do a gentle physical warm up. By warming up our bodies we prepare our minds to be more receptive. Our warm up ritual is an important component of our class community so please arrive on time.

On our final day of class we will have a formal presentation where each participant will have an opportunity to share the story and inspiration behind their artwork.

I sincerely look forward to working with you!!

- Melissa Ichiuji

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Supply List

Please bring the following items with you to our first class

- 1 spool 16 guage galvanized wire - Amazon (\$8.73)
- 1 package 3/16 round craft dowels - Walmart (\$1.48)
- 1 wood panel 8x10x1.5 inches - DickBlick (\$6.74)
- 1 bag Poly-fil Extra Loft Quit batting - Amazon (Fairfield \$17.60)
- Thread - nylon is best, cotton will do, any colors
- Upholstery T-pins or quilters pins 1 3/4 inch - Amazon (Dritz \$5.60)
- Wire cutters (needle nose pliers are also very helpful)
- Curved needles (Walmart,Amazon...)
- Scissors
- Fabrics, remnants, scraps or swatches - any materials that can be sewn together. These can be store bought or salvaged from clothing, home decor, etc...
- Small notions, objects and/or personal artifacts- small enough to fit in your hand- ie: buttons, beads, toys, found natural objects, bone, fur, coins, teeth, stones, hair, ephemera, feathers, costume jewelry, tools, shells etc...

Happy gathering!!

See you soon!

Melissa Ichiuji
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