

Especially for young readers



The Mini Page

Member of
EDPRESS

Distinguished Achievement Awards Winner 1975

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Their "people figures" are not for kids

The Super Doll Makers



Helen Bullard makes her dolls of wood. Using an old photo as a guide, she is making a family group of 18 dolls to be sold to a museum. Mrs. Bullard is 74 years old. She started NIADA in 1963. She has written many books about doll making. She used to live in Ozone, Tennessee, but now lives near Washington, D.C.

The country's best doll makers belong to a group called NIADA (NEE-ah-dah).

NIADA stands for the National Institute of American Doll Artists.

There are only 49 members in the United States.

You can't just join NIADA. You have to be invited.

From 200 to 500 artists try to join each year. Last year the group only took in four new people.

These dolls are not for kids to play with.

These "people figures" sell from \$150 to \$1,200.

These dolls are for collectors. They are also made for museums.

These are not mass-produced dolls. They are one of a kind, or a few of a kind dolls. The artists break the molds so no other dolls can be made like the original.

NIADA artists put on doll shows.

They also appear at department stores and talk about their dolls.



Judith Condon, of Naples, Florida, works in porcelain and papier mache. Porcelain is made by baking fine clay and painting it. Her dolls have as many as 15 parts.



Faith Wick of Grand Rapids, Michigan, works in porcelain. Some people say that doll designers make dolls that look very much like themselves. What do you think?



Lita Wilson of Lorain, Ohio, also works in porcelain. She makes many portrait dolls that look like real people.



Maggie Head of Joelton, Tennessee, uses clay and porcelain. She used to manage a doll department in a furniture store.