



Japanese House

14 x 12 x 10.5 inches

Craft Mixed Media

Price available upon request

Natalie Olsen

Bio

I have always been a crafter. I can not remember a time in my life when I wasn't making something. I have done needlework including embroidery, needlepoint, crochet and knitting. I have owned cameras since the age of 10 and am an avid photographer. I make jewelry and especially enjoy beadworking.

I have been working with miniatures for 20-plus years. I started painting 28mm fantasy figures and then made tabletop gaming scenery and buildings from dental plaster cast building blocks. I am new to doll houses, having started ordering kits to build during the COVID lockdown.

In my professional life, I was a graphic artist, print production manager and held other management positions in the communications field. I am currently retired and enjoy crafting and making a home here in Fayetteville with my husband of 30 years.

Artist Statement

How I spent COVID lockdown – doll house kitbashing. I have a life-long love of all things miniature, but these are my first hand-built doll houses. The basic structures and most furniture are part of the full assembly required kits, but the “set decoration,” additional lighting and accessories are my originals. It is impossible to capture all the details in one photograph. The scale is approximately 1/24th scale meaning one foot is about one-half inch.

For the Japanese home, I added additional LED light throughout and hand made the lanterns and pendant fixtures. For the pond, I made polymer clay koi and stone lanterns, and added gravel and grass ground coverings. I converted the outside soaking tub to a wisteria-covered zen garden. I made all the planters and bonsai trees.

Inside I chose all new wall art and some of the photos are my original photographs. I upgraded all the fabrics and hand made zabuton seating. For the bathroom, I made towels, a towel bar, toilet paper rolls and a handheld shower fixture. I decorated the dining room and made the sushi dinner, plates and sake set.

The “Coffee and Cake Shop” kit I rethemed to “Café Noël Pâtisserie.” All Christmas decorations and Café Noël signage are originals. My polymer clay pastries include bûche de Noël, macarons, croquembouche, mille-feuille and tarts.

I converted an upstairs bedroom into a coffee bar with additional outdoor seating. I made the antique espresso machine, cups, saucers, candles, tables and chairs.