

NATHALIE GIREAU

shelves made out of foam board, it's not unusual for Nathalie to have 600-700 delightful items from which to choose.

Daily demands

Back home in Provence, Nathalie must balance her art with her career—that of a full time teacher and a household where the demands of hubby, three children, and two cats keep her busy. Fortunately she can escape to a tiny, well lit attic studio, “a little room under the roof, difficult to stand up in - just in the middle” but adequate enough to hold a work table and chair, three walls crowded with shelving up to the rafters that hold all her supplies, and hundreds of miniature magazines.

Like many artisans who work in clay, Nathalie often has several things in progress at one time, making numerous items in a single batch she can store for later. Turning out several hundred pieces each year, many of her items tend to be one-offs since she rarely if ever draws up plans or sketches, preferring to work from scratch and

designing as she goes along.

The majority of her items are 1/12th scale, which represent 90% of her sales, but she has recently increased the number of 1/24th and 1/48th scale items due to rising demand. French bread, cheeses, chocolates, and tortes are favorites in all scales. Living in France where food is an art form, inspiration for food items is everywhere.

Successful workshops

Her children's toys provide an infinite number of ideas and French fashion magazines offer limitless possibilities for leather goods, fashion accessories, and dolls. By making items in several genres, Nathalie and her customers are never bored! At the moment her modest prices, which range from £2 to £12 for food items, £40

to £100 for display vignettes, and £70 to £150 for her one-off dolls. She has also enjoyed teaching several workshops in France, a roundtable at Alexandra Palace, written several online tutorials, and published a book in France last year on crafting miniatures in Fimo (“Miniatures en pâte Fimo”, ed. Dessain et Tolra, ISBN 9782295002181). So what does she do in her spare time?

“I don't have any!” Nathalie laughs. But I do love to read and I also collect antique perfume bottles and blotter cards, and miniatures of course. “I buy glasses, pottery, dolls, china, and I own a large number of teapots.”

If Nathalie has her way, she and like-minded French artisans will help put their country on the map as a destination to find fine miniatures. It's a goal all of us will be able to enjoy and appreciate. ◀

Selection of leather handbags and jewellery.



Selection of fresh vegetables, fruits, and fine cheeses.



Doll and doll's trunk.



1/12th scale fairy

Information

Nathalie's work can be seen on her web site at www.provenceminiatures.com.

Provence Miniatures

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