

ENJOY AN OVERVIEW OF THE MINIATURE SHOW IN CHICAGO.

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July / August 17 ISSUE 58

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A Nashville retreat

Scene by Michele Volonino

The Miniature Show recap

Artists from around the globe showed their finest pieces at The Miniature Show in Chicago this spring, resulting in another successful event.

By Lauren Nielsen

Excitement was in the air as miniaturists lined the hallway leading up to the ballroom foyer. The Miniature Show was about to start. Held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Schaumburg, Illinois, The Miniature Show spanned the course of three days, April 20-22, 2017.

The second annual show and sale began with a delectable luncheon buffet available to all Preview Day attendees. Buffet options included baked pasta, roasted herb chicken breast, spicy sausage, steamed vegetables, Caesar salad, and to top it



TOP: An impressive hand-painted piece by Joachim Kuehner. **ABOVE:** A busy showroom with many focused miniaturists. **LEFT:** Miniature artist Jennifer Osmond Hatt specialized in finely detailed miniatures that have a story and are always exceptionally realistic.



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Jennifer Osmond Hatt
Looking Glass Miniature
Website: www.lookingglassminiature.com
Etsy: www.etsy.com/ca/shop/lookingglassminiature
eBay: www.ebay.com/usr/looking_glass_miniature
Facebook: www.facebook.com/LookingGlassMiniature



off-Tiramisu. Preview Day guests were delighted with the offerings, trying a little of everything before their full day of shopping.

When the clock struck noon, doors opened to a flurry of miniaturists waiting to discover what was inside. To the shoppers' delight, artists from all over the world and their creations awaited them as well as the creations of over 100 more artisans represented in the Swan House Suite.

There were many moments of old friends reconnecting as well as long-time

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Needle Felted Animals
Anna Ryasnova
WhatsApp: +34696068623
Email: artesianianry@gmail.com
Etsy: www.annaryasnova.etsy.com



LEFT: Anna Ryasnova made this adorable 1:12-scale dog in her cozy bed. **RIGHT:** Jason and Jacqueline Getzan had many wonderful pieces for sale including this work table with copper cookware. **BELOW LEFT:** Serge Augustin Piacentino's masterful 1:12-scale sewing machine.



collectors finally meeting their favorite artists and even a number of new collectors just beginning to discover the magnitude of miniatures.

By the end of the Preview Day, collectors and artists alike had smiles on their faces after a wonderful first day and were all looking forward to two more full days of miniature fun.

Friday morning, the first day of the show open to the public, many new faces and some returning from the Preview Day eagerly waited for the doors to open. Attendees came from all walks of life. Some travelled far,

some lived in the area. Some who attended came with their miniature clubs while others came alone. And a number of avid

LEFT: As always Elise Gillespie had such original and romantic pieces such as this lavish 1:12-scale Parisian bed with lots of pillows to throw around!



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Cutest Things LLC
Elise Gillespie
Phone or Text: 602-695-7223
Email: CutestMiniatureThings@gmail.com
Facebook: [Cutest Things LLC](https://www.facebook.com/CutestThingsLLC)



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J. Getzan Miniatures
Jason & Jacqueline Getzan
Phone: (847) 873-4702
Email: jgminis@yahoo.com
Website: www.jgetzan.com

collectors and artists brought their children and grandchildren with to experience the wonders of the miniatures world.

Throughout the day, shoppers marveled at new pieces and talked with artisans about their work, what they're looking to add to their collection, and even what tips and tricks they could share to make certain miniature items.

Walking through the aisles many items might catch your eye: the detailed oil paintings of Joachim Kuehner; adjustable yarn swifts, sewing machines with working parts, collapsible music stands and more by Piamini; Tiny Towne's remarkable miniature foods; J. Getzan's miniature metal items from copper pots and pans to umbrella stands.



Before the close of the show for the day, attendees and exhibitors were invited to take part in a complimentary Happy Hour that offered a variety of beverages and treats. During this time, artisans shared a variety of chocolates from all over the world at their tables and several gave demonstrations on their craft. Both artisans and guests alike

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loved the extra addition to the show and declared it to be the perfect end to the day.

During the Thursday Preview Day and the Friday Show, visitors to the show were each given a ballot to vote for the Second Annual Miniature Art Prize (M.A.P.). Along the ballroom hallway corridor, displays were set up showcasing the nearly 30 entries for the contest.

Elaborate pieces from across the globe made the decision extremely difficult for voters. On Saturday morning of the event, the winners were announced. The winner of Best in Show, with a prize of \$2000, was Janny Waarnar of Artofmini.com with her

RIGHT: This gorgeous wood table was made by the talented Michael Walton.



ABOVE: A beautiful miniature piece of handmade tribal pottery was displayed at the table of Sarah and Bill West of A Little Something for Everyone.

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A Little Something for Everyone
Sarah & Bill West
7152 S. Platte Canyon Dr
Littleton, CO 80128 USA
Phone: (303) 979-0825
Email: alsfewest@aol.com

ABOVE LEFT: The vendors were kept very busy throughout the show with excited customers. ABOVE: A beautiful miniature piece of handmade tribal pottery was displayed at the table of Sarah and Bill West of A Little Something for Everyone. LEFT: These three stunning clocks in 1:12 scale were also made by Hermann Straeten.

entry, *Magical Sleigh Ride*. Second place winner of \$700 was Dorota Mateusiak of Mini Fanaberia with her entry, *A Fridge Full of Food*. Third place winner, Keith Bougourd of Small Time won \$300 for his entry, *Song Birds and Jeffery*. Congratulations to the winners!

The final day of the show came quickly, but everyone was ready for another full day of both business and fun. Before doors opened, another long line had formed of miniaturists ready to find their final treasures and



Janny Waarnar of Artofmini.com won Best in Show with her entry, *Magical Sleigh Ride*.

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Artofmini.com
Janny Waarnar
Phone: +49 4946-8989663
Email: info@artofmini.com
Website: www.artofmini.com

GET IN TOUCH

MiniFanaberia
Email: minifanaberia@gmail.com
Website: minifanaberia.com
Etsy: [MiniFanaberia](https://www.etsy.com/shop/MiniFanaberia)
Facebook: [MiniFanaberia](https://www.facebook.com/MiniFanaberia)

make their purchases. Numerous attendees were back again, some for the second and some for the third day in a row. As the show came to a close, attendees hurriedly bought their last few precious items, adding them to bags already filled with other miniature pieces. Artisans and shoppers were still chatting

as the show ended, all happily tired from a successful show.

Next year, the Third Annual Miniature Show will be held once again at the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg, Illinois from April 26-28, 2018. Visit www.theminatureshow.com and be sure to save the date! [MiniFanaberia](https://www.facebook.com/MiniFanaberia)

BELOW: Dorota Mateusiak from MiniFanaberia won second place with her entry, *A Fridge Full of Food*. RIGHT: Keith Bougourd won third place for his entry, *Song Birds and Jeffery*.

