



Newsletter

Special Edition 01—2010

Dear Teddy Bear and Doll Friends

And now let us welcome the New Year.

Full of things that have never been.

I wish you a prosperous 2010, emotionally,
materially, and especially creatively.

2009 saw me working almost exclusively on *that big doll project*. It's in the past, may I never get stuck in something like that again. I am looking forward to spending a year devoted to artist bears, dolls and polymer clay creations, and especially looking forward to sharing it with you! Two thousand and ten's guidelines are contained in the pages of this booklet.

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Tin Soldiers is dedicated to everyone who uses our patterns, and participates in our workshops.

Megan

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On the last Saturday of every month Tin Soldiers has a Mini Sale from 9am till 2pm. 10% discount applies on this day! Visitors and shoppers are very welcome at any other time too, just phone or email for an appointment.

www.tinsoldiers.co.za



Valentine Bear

Our Valentine bear in 2010 comes with a touch of nostalgia. The bear will be old fashioned, approximately 22 cm tall, and comes with Victorian accessories. Cost of this half day workshop will be R 280, and includes the kit and refreshments.

The workshop date is Saturday

6 February 9am -12h30, **OR** 13h30 -5pm. There will be some homework to do, homework kits will be ready to collect on the 28th January.

The New Year catches me unprepared, I haven't put away the Christmas stock yet. If you would like an early start to your Christmas bear collection, make use of this offer to get a kit or two.

We are expecting new mohair stock soon, and the temptation to *order more* has once again exceeded the studio's shelf capacity. We are offering 20% discount on all mohair stock until 31 January 2010.

SPECIAL OFFER

20% DISCOUNT ON ALL CHRISTMAS KITS
20% DISCOUNT ON ALL MOHAIR

VALID UNTIL 31 JANUARY 2010

Workshop Program 2010

There will be lots of weekend workshops in 2010. One thing we all seem to have in common is a busy schedule, I'm giving the preliminary dates for weekend workshops for the entire year here so that you can plan ahead. Full day workshops run from 9 till 4, and include lunch and tea, as well as your workshop kit. Half day workshops will be three hours, either in the morning or afternoon, and include a workshop kit and refreshments. I'm going to try not to let the cost for any workshop run over R 400. What specific project we do will be announced in the quarterly Newsletter and on the Tin Soldiers Website (See page 4).

We will also be doing a number of class projects in Sewing Circle. These are decided by voting for projects that you suggest and cover all aspects of bear making. Use the space on page 4 of this newsletter to jot down your ideas and suggestions.

Full Day Workshops 2010

This workshop is intended for beginner bear makers, persons who are making retrospective bears from our collection, and persons who wish to spend a day working on their own projects under my guidance. See the Special Teddy Bear Workshop on our website for available bears, or ask Megan.

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 February

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 March

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 April

Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 May

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 June

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 July

Full Day Workshops 2010 (Continued)

Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 August

Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 September

Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 October

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 November

Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 December

Please note: The Saturday workshop is filled up first, if there are enough attendees, Sunday's workshop is confirmed.

Half Day Workshops 2010

These workshops cover advanced bear making techniques, polymer clay and doll workshops. See the Tin Soldiers website for the projects as they become available, or ask Megan.

Saturday 27 February

Saturday 27 March

Saturday 24 April

Saturday 29 May

Saturday 26 June

Saturday 31 July

Saturday 21 August

Saturday 25 September

Saturday 30 October

Saturday 20 November

Saturday 4 December

Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle is the weekday workshops held at Tin Soldiers. There are five every week. These workshops are not only a lot of fun, they are great for socializing and learning things.

The cost of Sewing Circle workshops remain unchanged.

Note: I have put together 40 topics for discussion in Sewing Circle this year to make sure that we cover as much ground as possible. If you miss a week, don't worry, unless it is a totally hands-on demonstration, the notes for previous weeks will be available @R5 each. Full details of Sewing Circle below.

Sewing Circle - The Place to Become a Skilled Fabric Crafter

Five sewing circle workshops are held at Tin Soldiers every week:

Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 9 to 12

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 10.

Work sessions include a short lecture on a specific aspect of fabric crafting (you'd be surprised how much you can learn when you add up all those 5 minutes!). Thereafter everyone works on their own bears and dolls while chatting and drinking tea. There's always a class project on the go involving an unusual pattern or technique. (Class projects are not compulsory).

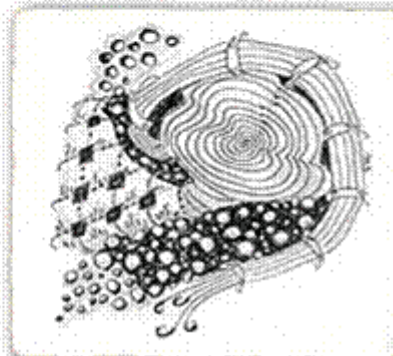
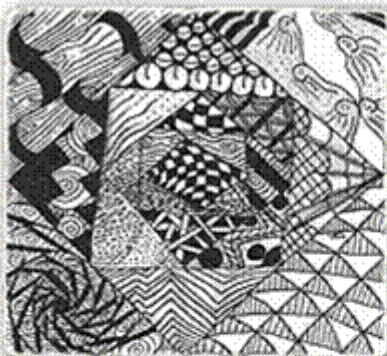
These work sessions are ideal for persons who like to set their own pace - work in class only, or work at home and finish the complicated bits in class. All levels of skill are catered for.

Benefits of regularly attending sewing circle:

- * Get help with the tricky bits whenever you need it. You will feel your confidence and your ability growing with an artist present to guide you to professional teddy bear and doll making.

- * Get to hear about and try out new products and techniques.
- * Our library and sample artwork are available to inspire you.
- * Get to make challenging creations from unpublished artist patterns.
- * A great opportunity for socializing and being inspired by like-minded creative people.

Six sewing circle sessions cost R 240. Once you have paid for sessions they never expire, simply tick one off every time you attend. We also cater for one-time visitors. Enquire about rates for single lessons.



Class Project for Sewing Circle: *Let's Zentangle!*

We are kicking off the year with an embroidered cloth bear. I've been wrestling with the idea that the embroidery should be done on black fabric to best show off the effect, and to prevent the project from becoming too 'biggie best'.

During the December break I came upon the solution. We are going to work on white linen fabric, and we are going to *Zentangle* the bear!

Now, don't panic, you won't get out of breath or have sore muscles. Everyone can Zentangle, you've been doing it since kindergarten. It's a drawing technique based on doodling. You don't have to be an artist, and once you know how to do it, you will zentangle everything from your tekkies to your duvet.

Here's what an expert has to say about Zentangle:

"Tangling the zen, as I like to say, is an experience that detoxifies the mind and relieves thoughts of stress and worries. I like Zentangle because when I draw one, I am absorbed into the wild lines and patterns and find myself oblivious to noise and commotion around me and only concentrating on the art. "

You are going to love it!

The bear will be approximately 40 cm tall, we can reduce your pattern if you would like to make a smaller one. We are going to defer starting on the bear for a few weeks, so that I can teach you how to zentangle on paper first. This means that in addition to white paper and pencils for drawing, you will need to bring your regular sewing project along to class. We will spend a few minutes drawing each week to get your creative juices flowing. We will cover two or three techniques every week until you feel comfortable that you know what to do, then start transferring our design on to the fabric. At that time you will need black permanent markers in various thicknesses. Also, get your seed beads, sequins and embroidery cottons together. We will need those for embellishment. Megan will provide fabric, joints and eyes for the bear.

(See some Zentangle pictures on the previous page)

Sewing Circle

Rules and Practical Arrangements

The rule is that we don't have too many rules here at Tin Soldiers, and mostly we can't be bothered to enforce them. Still, be nice, and try to abide. Thanks!

- Class fees remain unchanged from 2008. R 240 for six lessons when you pay for your first set. R 180 for six lessons thereafter.
- Please help me update everyone's contact details by filling in an address card.
- We would love to celebrate your birthday with you. Can we put your name on the birthday calendar?
- When you ring the bell, please wait until the gate has opened before you drive down, especially in wet weather. The driveway can be slippery at times.
- Parking next to the studio is reserved for people who have valid ama-kroko certificates. The rest, PLEASE park in the parking area at the bottom. There are no more snakes, and we've just put up extra lights too.
- Megan's nap time is between 4pm and 5pm. During this time she will be very grumpy if you phone or turn up unexpectedly. Similarly, the hours between 5am and 8am are a no-no to phone. This is valuable creative time for Megan. We might also mention that she's most creative when wearing her PJ's and with uncombed hair, so don't even think of rocking up at such a rude hour.
- The old arrangement that you should check with the teacher before working in class with patterns/materials that didn't originate at Tin Soldiers applies. There's no nastiness intended, we would like to ensure that no one gets frustrated by patterns that don't work properly or wasting time with inferior materials.
- Please remember to sign the attendance register.
- And to put your name down if you intend attending next week's class. It might one day happen that Megan isn't able to cancel a class herself when something happens. Someone would need your name in the diary to let you know.
- If you need to cancel your Sewing Circle session we won't mind, as long as you let us know in advance. Your friends will worry when you just don't rock up.
- A good time to arrive for class is 15 minutes before the hour. If you occasionally need to arrive a little earlier Megan won't mind, but please let her know that you are on your way.