

Miniature Collector

Cover

Pat Bauder's
COLLECTION

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Around the House with Pat Bauder

By Mary Kaliski

Photography by Mary and Tom Kaliski
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Pat Bauder poses on the porch of her c. 1800s home.

"My miniatures are pretty eclectic, like my life," Pat Bauder noted. "I keep it playful and lighthearted." Displayed throughout her historic 1800s home, the pieces enhance rather than dominate. "The things I've collected are things that I like. Many times I will have different sizes

of the same thing, or a mini version of something that I own in real size. It's not really a specific collection. Maybe I can call it a collection within a collection.

"I like the pieces I collect on dressers, on the mantel, on the walls, in cabinets and bookcases, so that when you walk in it

does not look like a collection, but part of my home."

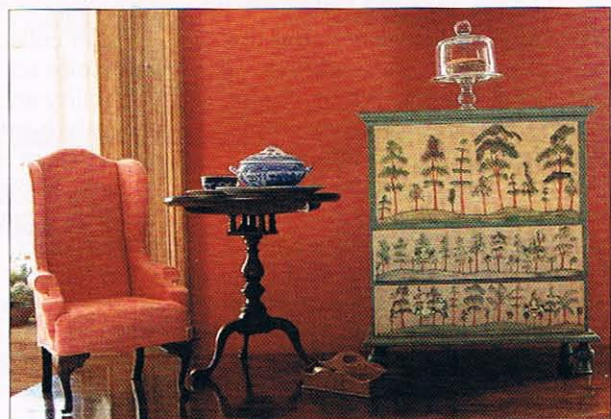
Pat enjoys sharing her miniatures with others. "I just grabbed these things and ran with them," she recalled about showing some pieces once at a Philadelphia Miniaturia exhibit. "I love it when I am asked to exhibit. I raid the shelves and take it dust and all. I would say, if anything, that I have a chair collection. Not intentionally, but over the years I have turned into a chair collector," conceded Pat. "My favorites are the Windsors."

Eons ago, in partnership with Frank Moroz, Pat worked on 1-inch

scale structures, but her real romance with miniatures started when she saw Mell Prescott's half-inch scale houses. "I thought, how wonderful to have a house that you can carry around in your hand." Although captivated by some larger two-inch scale replicas, Pat likes houses in half scale because, "there is enough detail in them to look real. You can still get dishes and accessories that don't look like dots."

As a child, Pat was one of the lucky ones who owned a dollhouse of her own. "It was an FAO Schwarz house. After (my daughter) Kim was born, my par-

With the stunning discovery of a serious illness and subsequent surgery a month before the Philadelphia Miniaturia, show director Pat Bauder knew that while nothing would ever be the same, some things would remain unchanged. As she talked—about her life, her family, her miniatures—Pat laughed and cried in equal measure—sometimes both at the same time. Often, she said, she prayed. Occasionally, in the course of reminiscence, she abandoned the flow of her narrative to say she did not want the caesura imposed by her health to be the dominant focus of her story, "but," she added, "tears are a part of life."



These pieces are also in Pat's dining room. The two-inch scale easy chair is by Bob Bernhard. The pie crust table and chest are Fred Laughan, whose wife painted the chest. The blue willow tureen is an antique from a complete set. Pat bought the cake dish over 20 years ago holding the same cupcake, "by now is petrified."

Photo courtesy of Pat Bauder

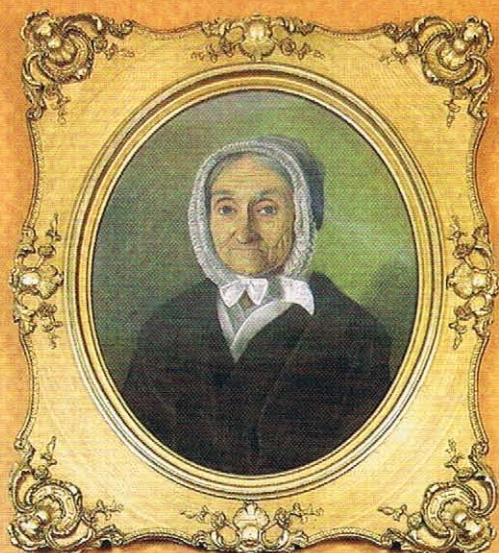


Pat enjoys displaying several scales on her dining room mantel. An antique clock from Le Chateau Interiors stands beside two halves of a bottle dug up from the yard of Pat's 1800s house. The sample size Chippendale chairs and bombe chest are by Fred Laughan, a minister from Virginia, who also made the one-inch scale chair. The woman, a candleholder, is a Dia de los Muertos figure from Mexico by the Castillo family. "These figures hold a fascination for me," Pat said.



The early American chest by Fred Laughan is on top of a very similar piece of furniture in one of Pat's bedrooms.

Over the living room mantel hangs a painting Pat has dubbed Miss Lugly. "When my uncle brought her home I said she was lovely and ugly, thus lugly. The chest is a bank with a false bottom making coins disappear. "When my son Joby was little, he thought it was a great cocktail party trick to ask guests to drop in their money."



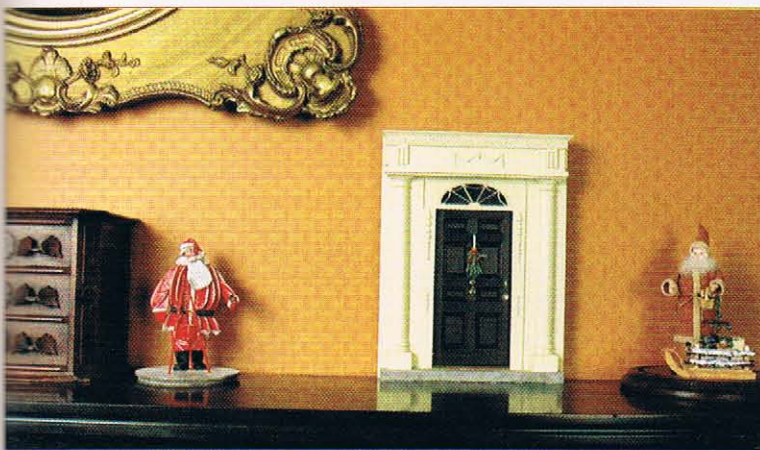
ents built her a replica of that house. At the time, the only place you could buy miniatures was Shackman or Chestnut Hill Studios. Kim was about 3 years old and I bought

Chestnut Hill furniture for her. It was expensive back then, but she enjoyed her dollhouse and she played with it. As she was playing with it, she was breaking it; and as she was

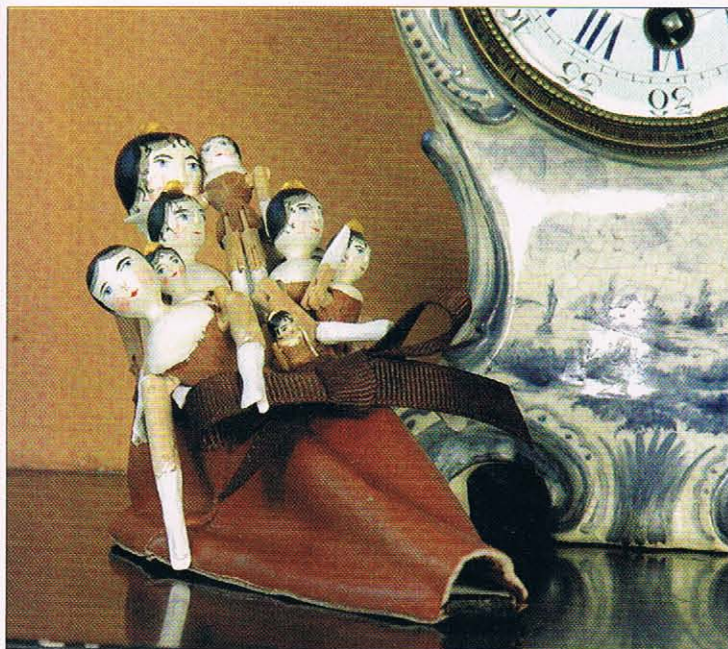
breaking it, I was fixing it. That's how I learned to build. I think it was over 35 years ago.

"As time passed, there were better things out there and I started to collect," mused Pat.

"At one point I went to a miniatures show and spent every cent I had. I ran out of gas coming home. I called my husband to come and get me and he said I better find a way to support



The center Santa is by Natasha, the Santa on the end is by the Kummerows. The one-inch scale doorway is by Peter Kendal.



The old woman in the shoe and her children, next to a clock on the living room mantel, are by Fred Laughan.

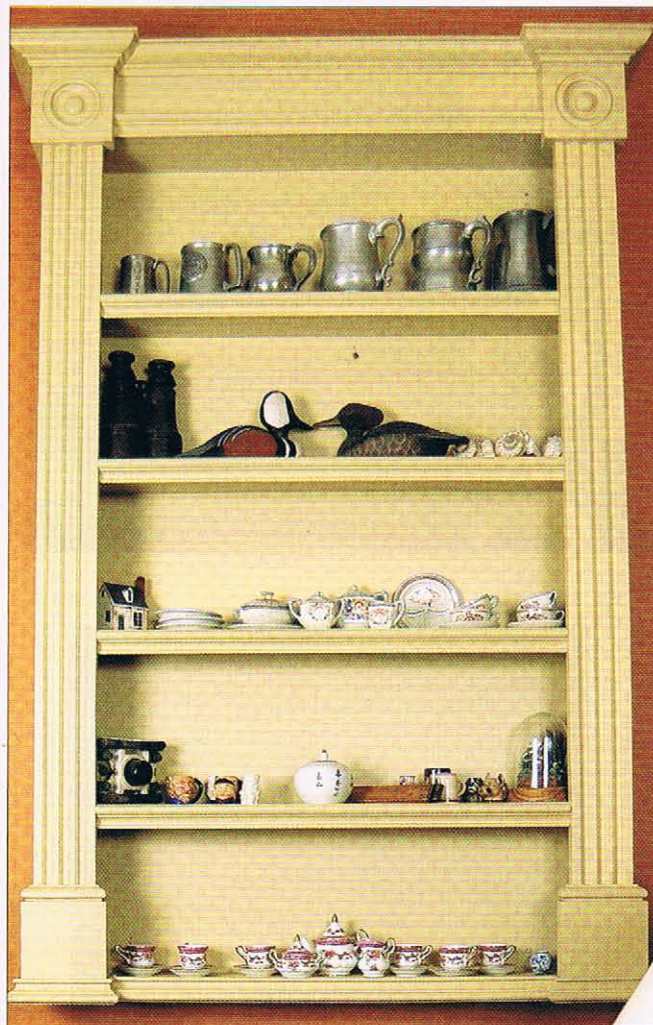


A vintage one-inch scale piano from one of Pat's shelves.

this habit. I figured what the heck, I was making things for Kim, I might as well go into business."

With her then-busi-

ness partner, Frank Moroz, Pat became a regular at shows, selling roomboxes of her own creation. "The best part of all of this was that it



The wall-hung bookcase, one of many in Pat's home displaying miniatures, holds some of her favorite miniature and doll-size china.

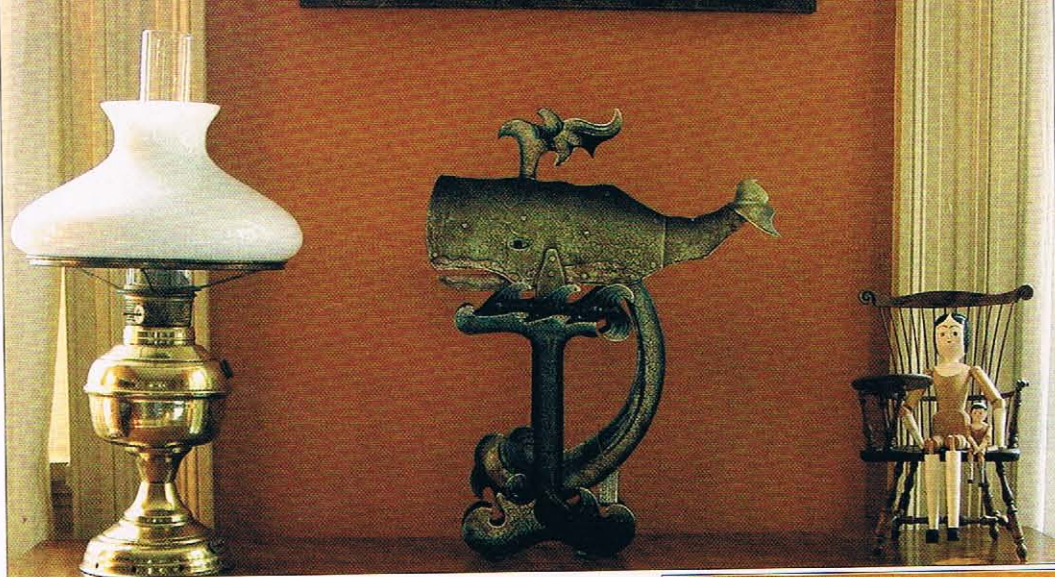


The vintage divided plate, part of a set, is her favorite.

was the start of Bauder Pine, which was actually Cassidy Creations at first," named after Pat's uncle who had needlepointed many accessories for Kim's dollhouse.

Pat's first miniature house, a half-scale Betsy Ross style brick structure, became very popular and Pat found herself teaching in her home. "There was not much around in half scale at the time. All

these ladies with half-scale houses needed furniture to put in them so I started to cut half-scale furniture kits." Sometimes Pat's son Joe would be having breakfast when the first of the ladies arrived. "They would still be there when I got home from school," Joe recalled. "Mom's workshop was on the third floor and we used to hoist things up to them on a pulley."



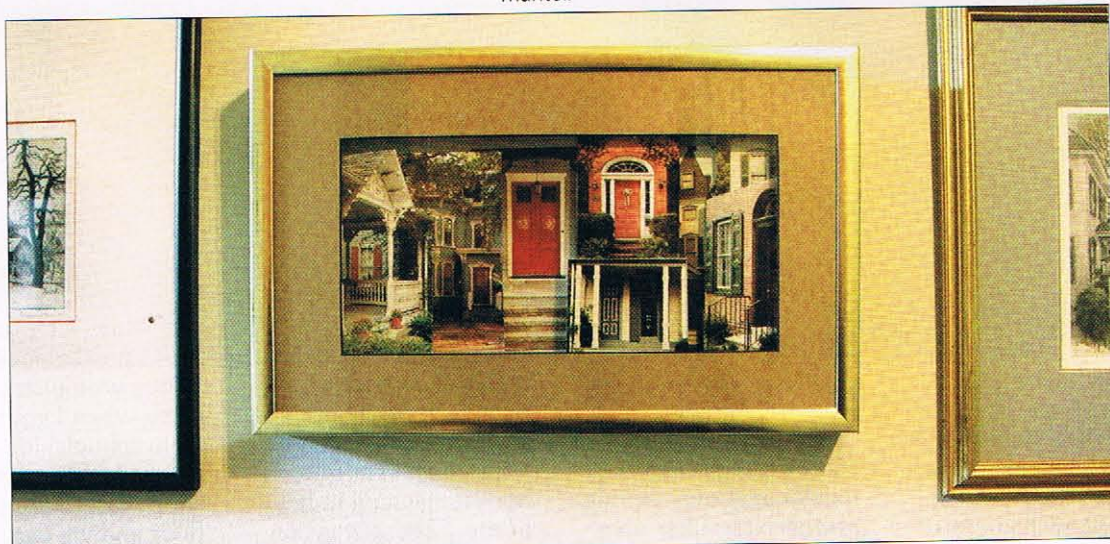
Pat has a collection of peg dolls in various sizes. This one sharing table space in her living room is by Eric Horne. The Windsor chair is by Sam Laity.



Pat has numerous Natasha works around her home.



The sled is an antique. The one-inch scale painted chair by Fred Laughan and Vienna Bronze cat were borrowed from the dining room mantel.



A composite three-dimensional work of Pat's street, hangs in her entryway.



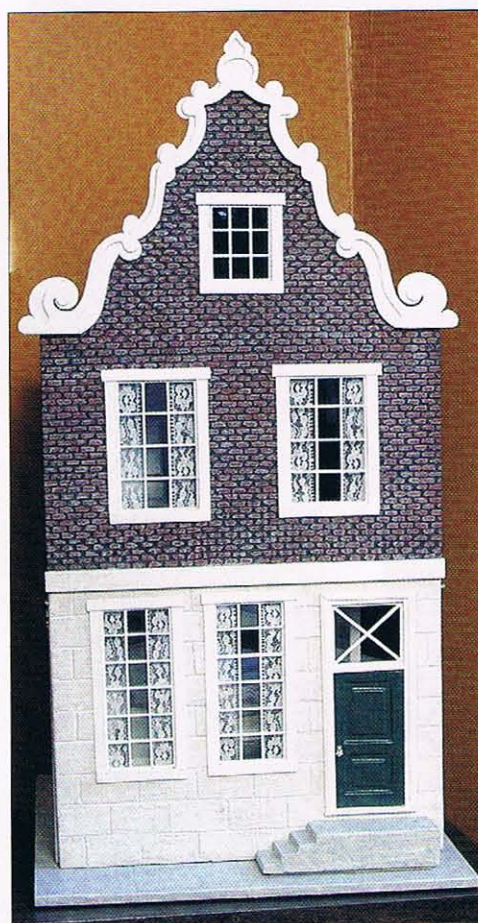
Bill Lankford's half-inch scale garage is nestled in a bedroom filled with folk art.



Bill made *Pat's Texaco* specifically for his client.



Half-inch scale houses by Bob Bernhard sit on Pat's television set. They are based on *Plain Lane Christmas*.



Furnishings are by assorted artists.

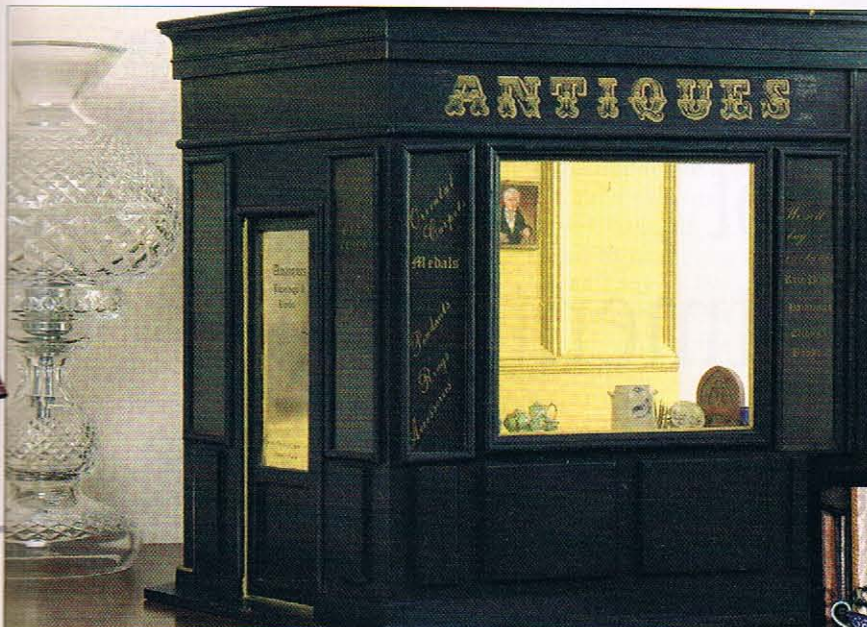
The half-inch scale Amsterdam house by Bob Bernhard is based on a book called *Plain Lane Christmas*.

Several years into the Bauder Pine partnership, Pat and Frank were offered the Philadelphia Miniaturia by Carolyn Sunstein.

"We used to do Carolyn's show, and when she called us to buy it, I thought she was kidding. It was the biggest show on the

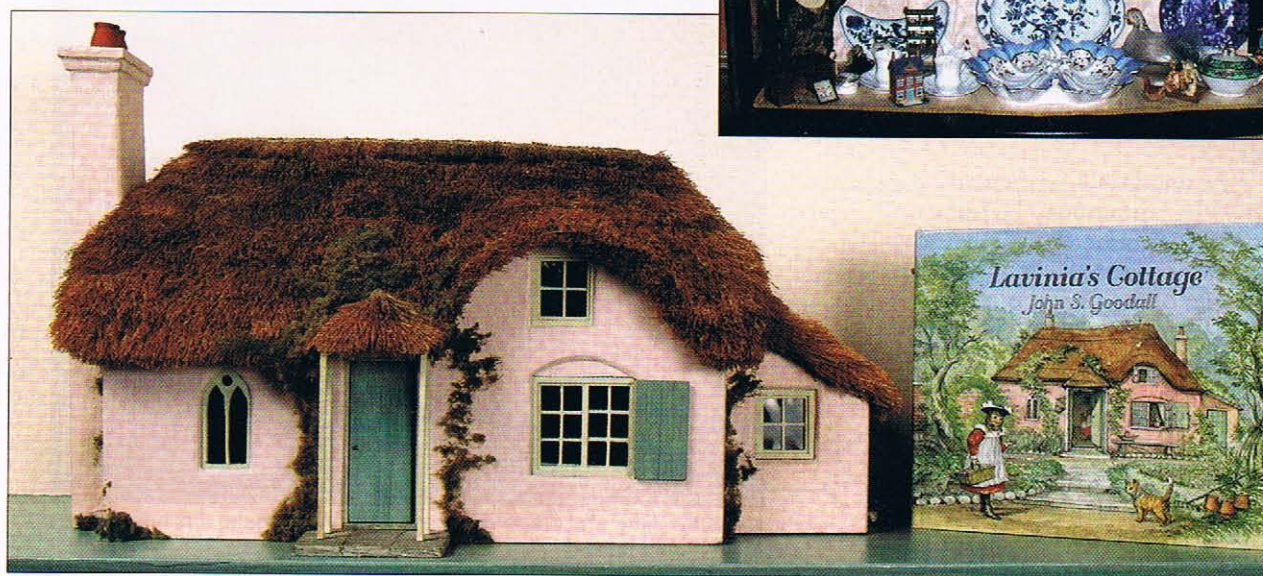
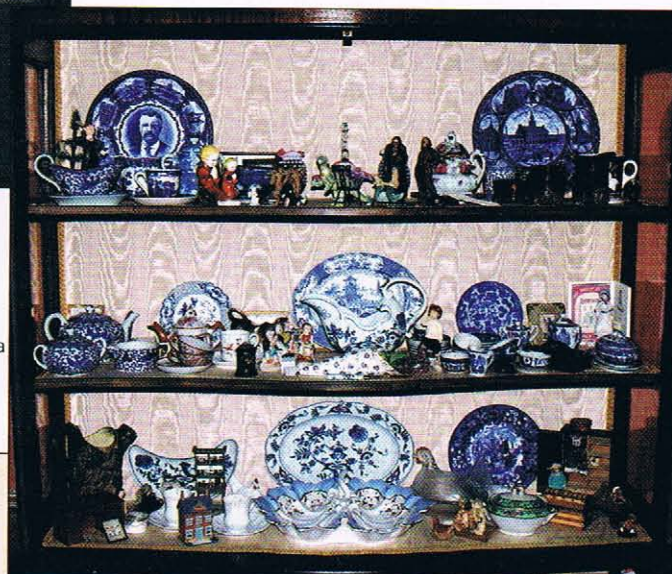
East Coast at that time." Sole owner of the Philadelphia Miniaturia since 2002 (see "What's Up?" Feb. '07), Pat is ready to scale back.

"Work hard, but most of all, have fun," remains the melody behind Pat Bauder's success, whether personal or professional. ■



Many years ago, these one-inch scale antique shops were imported from England and sold through the John Wanamaker department stores.

Right, Pat collects china and tea sets in several scales.



Lavinia's cottage by Bob Bernhard sits on a bedroom mantel.

National Miniatures Trust

Ever looking forward, Pat Bauder has become involved with a fairly new organization whose mission is to increase awareness of and appreciation for miniatures—as historic art forms as well as popular collectibles. “Right now my most important project is The National Miniatures Trust and raising funds for a miniatures museum at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan,” Pat said. “It will hold the collections of Mary Fisher, Nancy Van Horn and several other prominent collectors.”

Readers interested in learning more about the Trust and its fund-raising activities are invited to contact Julie Christensen, 616-447-3319.