

GALLERY GUIDE

Welcome to the Museum!

Please wear your mask, stay with your group, and socially distance.



TOYS

Toys have been part of childhood throughout history. Whether it is simple games to improve hand-eye coordination and teach life skills, or complicated video games, play has been part of society.

TOY SOLDIERS

Created in 1964, G.I. Joe is part of a long tradition of toy soldiers. G.I. Joe was marketed as an action figure, not a doll. Joe was scaled down to 3.75 inches in the 1980s.



SCIENCE TOYS

Items like microscopes and chemistry sets are the most obvious of science toys, but what can you learn from building toys, mazes, and puzzles? The expansion of plastic manufacturing after WWII changed toys forever.





LOCAL TALENT

Miniatures are a thriving hobby! These roomboxes were all made by local artists and friends of the Museum. Many artists meet up monthly to share skills, collaborate on projects and talk minis!

If you are interested in making minis, look for Museum workshops, or check out the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts and the International Guild of Miniature Artisans.



BOARD GAMES!

Some board games are classics, like Chess, Monopoly and Parcheesi, but others are only made for a few years. Either way, they are often great examples of graphic design.



KINGSCOTE MANSION

The exterior of this dollhouse is modeled after a real house in Newport R.I.! What real house would you turn into a dollhouse?



FASHION DOLLS

Fashion Dolls found their start when dolls would be used to share the latest styles of the day to customers and dressmakers who lived far away from the big cities and the latest style trends.

Fashion dolls usually depict grownups in the latest styles. Barbie Dolls became very popular in the 1960s and remain so today.

Did you ever design clothes for a doll?

BLACK DOLLS

Black dolls and other dolls depicting people of color can be hard to find. Not as many were made, and many that were made depict stereotypes or use the molds from dolls with white heads and are painted with darker skin tones. Today, toy companies are recruiting people of color to ensure that toys more accurately reflect all people.



HISTORIC DOLLS

Dolls are a fun window into history! They can not only tell us what kids were playing with, but popular styles, available resources, and how new technology, such as plastic and sound recording, changed the industry.



CHILD AGE DOLLS

Are you a doll collector? Do you know a doll collector? Doll collecting is a popular hobby. Organizations like the United Federation of Doll Clubs organize local clubs, conventions and meet ups for people passionate about dolls to share their collections and learn more about dolls.

Child age dolls are popular with all ages of collectors.



BABY DOLLS

Baby dolls are often used to help teach young children parenting skills. They're also just so cute!



SOMEWHERE IN TIME

This amazing Bill Lankford piece has more going on than a perfect day in a quaint town. See how many mishaps, misdeeds and shenanigans you can find!

A photograph of the interior of the Santa Fe House, showing a room with a tiled floor, a large rug, a wooden cabinet, and a religious shrine with a statue of the Virgin Mary.

THE SANTA FE HOUSE

The Santa Fe house is a visitor favorite. Make sure you get up close so you can see all of the detail.

Southwest and Native American artists are popular in the American Southwest. This beautiful house is a great way to explore Spanish Colonial style as well as some truly amazing Native American art.

A photograph of the interior of the Gun Case, showing a room with a wooden bed, a rug, and a chair, all made from repurposed furniture.

THE GUN CASE

Can you believe that this is a remodeled Gun Case? Looks more like a fancy loft apartment to us! Using cabinets and other furniture for dollhouses has been going on since the 1700s.

A close-up photograph of a small, round, hand-painted pottery piece with a colorful geometric design, resting on a blue fabric.

SOUTHWEST MINIS

Take a minute to explore the detail of the art in these two roomboxes.

Handmade artisan minis made by Native American artists are highly coveted in the miniature world.



CABINET HOUSE

What did a 1700s house look like in Germany? As you can see from this dollhouse from the era, very dark. Many houses only had windows at the front and the back and all other light would have been from candles and fireplaces.

You'll notice that this house, like many antique pieces, uses different scales of furniture and decorations. Creating a house that was "in scale" became much more popular starting in the 1970s.



VICTORIAN MANSION

What a great day to see this new fangled thing called an automobile! Everyone in this house has put on their best outfits and the staff have prepared a feast to celebrate this modern wonder.



BIG BEN AND FAMILY

Big Ben and family are handmade mohair bears. Big Ben stands over 6 feet tall! Teddy Bears are a classic toy these days, but they weren't invented until the early 1900s!



FARMHOUSE

Farmhouses are busy places! This house is based on a family home of the Cameron Family. You can even see their photographs in the yard. Do you have a favorite part? Is it the kitchen? The collection of antique farm equipment? Or maybe it is all the animals, or the farm stand. Which every it is, this house will have you dreaming of lemonade on the porch after a days work.

ANTIQUe MINIS

Miniatures have been around for a long time. Small scale representations can be found in Egyptian tombs. We don't have anything that old, but we do love the Grocery and Milliners shop from the 1800s.



SOUTHWEST GALLERY

This is the newest artisan roombox in our collection. This gallery has so many amazing Native American and Southwest art pieces, we barely know where to start!

THE SOMEDAY HOUSE

This grand house is based on a real house in Denver! It was the childhood home of Bets O'Meara. She always said "Someday I'm going to have a dollhouse of the house I grew up in", and in the late 1970s her husband Al, worked with local dollhouse artist Norm Nielsen to create this amazing piece.



ARTISAN MINIS

It is hard to believe that the miniatures in the two gold cases are handmade. Miniature Artisans work for years to perfect their small scale skills. From knitting, to carving, to silver work, each artisan is committed to perfect detail.



THE FUTURE OF THE MUSEUM

This is just Phase 1 of our re-opening. The Museum is working hard to raise additional funds to open classroom space, and 4,000 additional square feet of galleries. With your support, we know we can get there.

