

International Peace Doll Project

Contributed by Birgitte Krag Hansen

This spring I was asked if I would make a doll for the local Soroptimist club. (See below).

The basic figure I got to work on, is the same for everyone who is joining this project: It is a very simple little figure made out of cotton and you can decorate it as you like, only you must give it a Dow of peace to hold in its hand.

I found out that I could poke directly into the cotton material with pieces of wool and that way I could cover the whole surface of the doll and also needle the face with relief technique.

I was very glad to get this opportunity to make my contribution to the project.

Soroptimist International (gengivet fra organisationens hjemmeside)

Soroptimist International is a worldwide organisation for women in management and the professions, working through service projects to advance human rights and the status of women. The word Soroptimist comes from the Latin words soror meaning "sister" and optima meaning "best", and loosely translates as "best for women".

Soroptimist International was founded in 1921, when eighty women formed the first Soroptimist club in Oakland, California. Since then, membership has grown to nearly 95,000 women across the world. This makes us the world's largest classified service organisation for women.

Each Soroptimist International club is based in a geographical area, such as a town or city. Club members meet locally on a regular basis. These clubs are grouped into Regions or National Associations, and grouped further into the four Federations. These Federations are Great Britain and Ireland, the Americas, Europe, and the South West Pacific.

Members are women of all ages, cultures and ethnic groups, who join their local clubs to give service to others. Each club identifies the needs of its community, then establishes specific projects to address those needs.

Peace Dolls of the World

The Children's Show of Peace Dolls is organised in the context of the 'Day of the Rights of the Child'. There are hundreds of dolls in the CODA (Cultural Centre Apeldoorn) exhibition space, a truly colourful display! See also the website: www.peacedolls.nl

After the assassination of Dutch journalist and filmmaker Theo van Gogh the Peace Dolls have gained a special dimension. Peace is more important than ever, for everybody, especially for young people.

Apeldoorn has many multicultural elementary schools. In one of them, children of 22 nations worked on the peace dolls. The dolls have sparked discussions about friendship, tolerance, respect for each other and a sense of community, all important topics in these uncertain times. A selection will be shown in the exhibition "Peace Dolls of the World" in the same CODA-venue. It opens 2005 April 27 with a short ceremony.