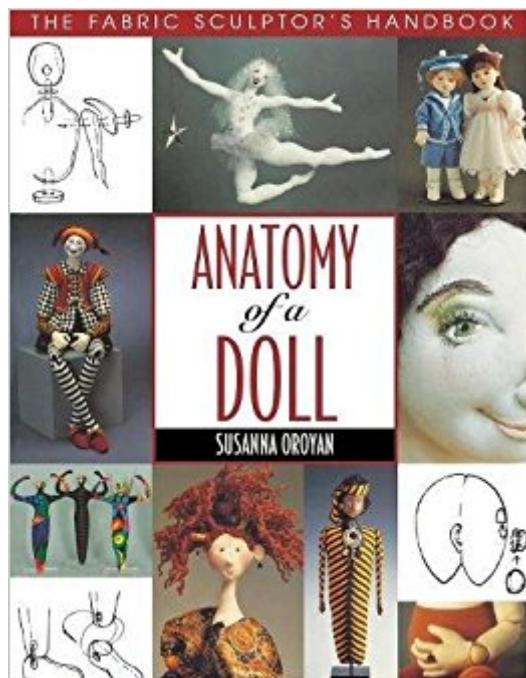


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# Anatomy Of A Doll: The Fabric Sculptor's Handbook



## Synopsis

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## Customer Reviews

More than just a dollmaking book, *Anatomy of a Doll* provides a fascinating overview of the creative process that has gone into dollmaking for centuries. With nearly 300 excellent photographs of her own dolls and those of many other accomplished artists, noted doll expert Susanna Oroyan offers instructions and ideas for a tremendous variety of cloth dolls. Separate chapters are devoted to the head, the body (including hands and feet), body joints, assemblies, and finishing details. There is enough practical information on all aspects of basic techniques to help the novice dollmaker, and even experts will discover an abundance of new ideas. Everyone will marvel at the unbounded creativity reflected in these remarkable figures.

Dollmaker Susanna Oroyan has made some 500 original dolls. Her book shows in color the diverse work of 100 and more contemporary artist-dollmakers. Like any sensible philosopher, she delays defining a doll for quite a few pages. "I am sure ... I don't know what a doll is. It seems to be a

representation of the human figure." One of the author's own dolls, "Angel," is an 18-inch tangle of airily gleaming wire around a copper chest plate and a solid white head, hands and feet. Another artist has built a colloquy between two life-size half-figures seated at a table covered with real books on the arts. They face each other against a painted, glowering sky, as each points a stylish finger at the other. A third artist has made a far simpler pair of seven-inch "Star Ladies," each a stuffed piece of painted cloth, in five-pointed, hair-flying star shape, all points so artfully extended and curved that the illusion of comic flight is intense. How would you write an anatomy textbook for so complex an art? This is one. It begins with graded study of the fundamentals--scale, materials, colors, joints, faces. Line drawings show how legs, for instance, can be made to suggest the true complex form. Molding of plastic media; needle sculpture by multiple piercing and tautening a stuffed cloth head; body joints by stitching, tying, hinging, ball-and-socket; wire armatures; draped clothing--all strive to approximate the living body. This is not the place for mere patterns but for a choice of resources presented to the reader, open to the needs of both beginners and experts. Using ordinary cloth, threads, buttons, yarn, one of us has been caught in this net, finding her way to small portraits of character. Your male reviewer has made no dolls yet but has enjoyed this book as a peerless museum guide, as a user's manual of the inventive hand and mind, and as a parable of science. High school needleworkers, artists and their teachers who use Oroyan will soon concur. In sum, the best learning is doing; feedback from failure is often the path to success; take time and path to suit yourself--but the act of creation is often messy! Success is not won simply by whim...

The Bible of cloth dolls! A source of inspiration and imagination. When your creative spark dims, a quick peek at the wonderful doll photographs and you are up and running again. Down to earth, the creativity becomes attainable...if you are a doll maker, a future doll maker, or a doll lover, this book is a must read.

Fantastic for the experienced artist or craftperson. The book is designed to help the reader understand different dollmaking techniques so that they may create their own dolls. It does not contain much in the way of specific designs; it is to help the reader learn how to create their own visions.

Such a classic - I have all the books in this series as they are both informative and inspirational. Susanna is very knowledgeable, very generous with her advice and the information provided, and there are lots of tips and techniques as well as patterns and great galleries of other people's

creations.

Great overview of the range of techniques available. Not a ton of detail, but enough to get you searching in the right direction for most anything you'd want a doll to be or appear.

The author tackles a big problem in this book, its more than just cloth dolls. It is a history of doll making in general and doll sculpture in specific. There are web sites that do not handle the material nearly as well. I bought this book along with "Designing the Doll." While each book has some shortcomings the two together make a satisfying whole. in both the author is clear and specific. The author takes the reader through a brief history and then examples of several kinds of dolls from primitive effigy to complex sculptural creations that are breathtakingly beautiful. She addresses the basic construction styles of each of several kinds of dolls. This is an enjoyable thoroughly entertaining introduction to doll making in its various forms.

loved every single page

I love every book in this series. It's worth buying just for the pictures of beautiful art dolls. The pages of instructions give you very basic information of a huge variety of doll making techniques. No particular section has overly in depth instructions, but are more of a starting point to trying new ideas.

Great book for those wanting to explore the idea of creating cloth dolls in various ways. I know that according to many previous reviews others were not happy that there were no patterns included. For me it helped me to create my own ideas. And the book looked almost brand new. Thank you.

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