



NOMSa

Xhosa word meaning "Graceful"
The Traditional Magic Doll

AFRICAN CULTURE DOLLS

Internationally acclaimed artist, Patricia Schaeerer, recently returned home to South Africa after more than two decades of extensive travel to enhance her doll-making skills. Amongst other fascinating commissions, Patricia created a large doll collection for Saudi Arabian Princess Nura during her travels - but has now chosen to combine her international experience with her own African roots. The result? **The African Culture Doll Collection**, an exquisite collection of original, hand made, Black African porcelain dolls who are already finding loving homes all over the world.

In addition to the beautiful dolls Patricia handcrafts herself, she also empowers and educates others to create their own doll in her popular doll-making workshops. There are many stages involved in creating a doll and the different processes can last anywhere between 3 weeks and 3 months.

Traditional healers and sangoma's continue to flourish in both urban and rural settings in Africa. In a culture where the boundaries between fact and fantasy, medicine and magic, are blurred - and where the supernatural is completely accepted as a part of life, it is not surprising to find that the work of healers encompasses a wide spectrum of activities, ranging from the mundane to the miraculous. A healer will set a broken

limb, but will with equal self-assurance supply a client with deadly magical medicine to be used against an enemy said to be sending ill luck or death to the home. He may dose an ailing patient with herbal medicine, which may have a beneficial effect, but almost certainly his diagnosis of the disease will take into account the displeasure of a dead relative or the machinations of a witch.



Patricia Schaeerer



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"My handmade dolls are available to order, just go to www.theblackdoll.co.za for further details. And if you wish to spend some time in beautiful Cape Town, and work in my studio to create your own Black Doll under my supervision in a creative and inspiring environment, please contact me for details."

Patricia's most recent and arguably most exquisite, collection, **The African Culture Dolls**, exemplifies her 30 years of doll-making experience. The collection is a must for the avid doll collector and a treasure for anyone who wants to own a piece of African culture and history in the making. These dolls will touch you and pull at your heartstrings - they are so real! Each one is unique and dressed in keeping with either traditional or modern (or a cross-over fusion, as is often seen) African dress. Every doll has her own name and birth number with the artist's signature and booklet describing his/her origins, birth date and the materials used in making the doll. Although these dolls hail from Africa, they are sought-after all over the world so each one is packed in a solid box for safe travel.



AFRICAN CULTURE

HAND MADE DOLL COLLECTION



THUTHUKA

A New Bride wearing Traditional Zulu Dress

The Zulus (the word means people of heaven) are a proud nation that treasures their heritage. The Zulu language is rich and expressive, very often punctuated with distinctive click sounds.

Zulu beadwork is one of the most ancient traditional skills in Africa. It is held in high esteem amongst the Zulu people because the entire community benefits from the Zulu women producing this unique and exquisite beadwork. Beading as a group also serves to strengthen cultural bonds. It is important to understand that the beadwork is not just decorative - each piece contains a message or communicates an emotion.

The various beliefs and practices of the African people are made visible in special clothing - such as the ceremonial dress of the new Zulu bride worn by Thuthuka, pictured on the left. In Africa, to wear ceremonial clothing is to respect the culture and traditions of your people.

That is why Patricia has gone to great pains to research and faithfully reproduce all the clothing worn by her dolls.



The traditions of the black people of Southern Africa are rich and enormously varied, deeply rooted in the soil of the past but still a vital force in the present. But while these traditions remain virtually unaltered in the rural areas - in the cities there has been assimilation with modern Western culture. Nevertheless, whether traditional or modern, the African way of life is characterized by certain common rituals and beliefs. For example, almost all believe that their ancestors watch over, and interact with, the living - and that a person with a high temperature is 'unclean' and must undergo a purification ceremony. These rituals and beliefs, that constitute a way of life for the majority of African people, form an integral part of the artist's cultural understanding of the Traditional Style Doll.



NOMHLE

The Traditional Style Doll



FEMI

African word meaning "Love Me"
The African Child Doll

The African culture creates an immense sense of belonging and support because each child, from an early age, is encouraged to get involved in providing for the essential needs of the family. Little boys aged four or five years become herders of sheep and goats, whilst a little girl may help her mother, accompanying her to the waterhole to fill a tin and carry it back to the home. As the male and female children grow up they are made to feel special, as they are a real asset to their homes and families.

When an African boy reaches puberty he is circumcised and the operation marks the boy's transition into manhood. In being circumcised he has symbolically shed a part of himself and parted with his mother image. He is no longer a complete and self-sufficient being, but now requires membership in society and union with a woman to attain wholeness.

The African culture has much to share with the rest of the world - the dolls of the African Culture Collection, and the stories they have to tell, have been designed to help keep these values alive.



Patricia in her studio creating an original clay model to be used for casting