



## Marla Niederer – Hammond, New York

I am a self-taught figurative fiber artist and have been engaged in creating art dolls for the past 26 years with 21 years of experience in education. “I could no less stop creating art than I can stop breathing.” My art reflects inspiration from dreams, colors, sounds, nature, people, other art work, and a love for antiques. Figurative art provides me with something beautiful, calm, and peaceful to focus on. It is this experience that I choose to share in the classes that I teach. I have had the honor of exhibiting my works internationally and have been published in A for Artistic Quarterly Magazine, Art Trader Magazine, and Contemporary Doll Collector. [www.orsinisangels.blogspot.com](http://www.orsinisangels.blogspot.com)

### Marla Niederer \* Goddess

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday #3D2  
3 Day Workshop - 9am-4 or 4:30pm**

**Workshop– Cloth  
Level—Intermediate & Advanced**

**Pre class work – Yes**  
Sewing machine not needed in class if your homework is done.

**Size 19 inches  
Kit Fee \$35.00**

The Goddess is a 19” tall needle sculpted, hand painted art doll with ball joints and a facial cloth overlay. The head has very unique sculpted eyes. This is an advanced technique that gives the appearance of inset eyes. In the class you will learn a variety of unique needle sculpting techniques such as how to attach a cloth overlay on the face, ball joints at the hips, knees, ankles, elbows and wrist. Marla has included these unique ball joints, but as a special bonus in this class you will learn how to make a joint to produce a swivel neck. The class will present instruction on how to utilize tube and pencil watercolors for skin tone and facial coloration. This workshop is designed to stretch your cloth art skills to a whole new level.



*Special bonus and techniques on next page*

**Bonus \*\*\*** Demonstration of needle felting the hair and discussion of costuming will be provided as time permits. As part of the kit fee, students will receive a CD tutorial; costuming the doll will be included.



### **Techniques taught in Class**

1. How to use a facial template for the correct placement of facial features
2. Needle sculpt a cloth doll head using a variety of unique needle sculpting techniques.
3. Needle sculpt eyes, an advanced technique which creates the appearance of an inset eye.
4. Attaching a cloth overlay over your sculpted cloth head.
5. Unique ball jointing method for cloth figures including a swivel neck.
6. The use of tube watercolors for skin tone
7. Watercolor & Prisma color pencils and artist pens for facial coloration and their uses.
8. How to create an armature for hands and feet.
9. How to needle sculpt both hands and feet.

*Class homework supplies and class supplies are on next pages*

## **Goddess Workshop Materials List \* By Marla Niederer**

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I just wanted to share with you my philosophy on materials and supplies for doll making. Always use what you have on hand first before you go out and buy more supplies! If you have been creating dolls and or creating art for any period of time you probably have a stash of art and doll making supplies. Many of the materials and supplies I have chosen for this project were materials I gathered from my stash. I have to admit, after being involved in one artistic project or another since my first memories of childhood, and being quite a packrat when it comes to art supplies; I have collected quite a stash! I still do buy art supplies and fabric but that is mainly because I love art supplies and fabric. With that said there are a few materials that I have listed that will make a big difference in the quality of the completed doll. One of the most important materials I recommend for this project is the Moda Marbles cotton fabric for the body and head. The reason I highly recommend this fabric is because the results will not be as successful with a lesser quality, lower thread count cotton. The other reason is that the fabric has a mottled coloring which I find to make a nice base for the watercolor paints. I also highly recommend using Nymo beading thread for the needle sculpting. I have tried other threads but have never liked the results as much as when I use this thread for needle sculpting. And last but not least, if you ever use the Holbein "Irodori" watercolors in tubes you will never be satisfied with anything else. I added two colors of the Holbein watercolors to the materials list that do make quite a difference to the overall quality of the doll as I have used them to create the doll's skin tone and just loved the results.

The materials and supplies recommended here are predominantly artist quality supplies. When choosing supplies I try to utilize artist grade quality supplies because of the resulting effect they present on the final project. If there are materials that you have and are not sure will work as a substitute for any part of the project, please feel free to email [orsinisangels@gmail.com](mailto:orsinisangels@gmail.com) me with your questions.

With warm hugs,  
Marla

### **Homework Materials List**

1. Kitchen shears
2. Straight Sewing Scissors
3. Pinking Scissors
4. Freezer paper
5. A sharp pencil (I generally use a mechanical pencil)
6. Universal 130/705H 60/8 sewing machine needles (I use Schmetz)
7. Clear sewing machine presser foot
8. Fiberfill
9. A 9" length of armature wire for the neck armature. I used a piece of 14 gauge copper wire that I had bought from a hardware store quite some time ago.
10. White florist tape to wrap the armature wire. I bought mine at Michael's.
11. 3/4 yard Moda Marbles Fleshtone fabric. You can buy it online at <http://www.fatquartershop.com>

*Class supplies and kit on next 2 pages*

## Materials and Supplies to Bring to Class:

1. Completed Homework (pre-sewn body parts, overlay, and head)
2. Embroidery scissors, very sharp
3. Straight sewing scissors
4. Thimble if accustomed to using one, I use a leather one for needle sculpting.
5. John James Long Darner # 7 needles (or a European style long darning needle size 7) I use this needle for most of the needle sculpting. You can find them on <http://www.AforArtistic.com>
6. Long doll making needle – try to find one with the thinnest eye possible. <http://www.AforArtistic.com> has some nice ones. Some doll makers use milliner needles but I don't find them long enough.
7. Sewing gauge
8. Very large eyed sewing repair needle with a sharp point (the one I used was a sail repair needle found in a package of 7 repair needles made by Dritz).
9. A 14" length of elastic cord.
10. Dressmaker pins. You will need short ones for the overlay.
11. Size 5mm white pom poms.
12. Cotton pipe cleaners I buy mine at [www.weircrafts.com](http://www.weircrafts.com)
13. Two 5/8" diameter flat two hole light colored buttons.
14. Fray Check I buy mine at JoAnn Fabrics
15. Stuffing tools. My favorite ones are wooden chopsticks and a surgical clamp (hemostat). You can buy surgical clamps at <http://www.joggles.com>
16. Fiberfill I use Airtex and buy directly from them in bulk on their website <http://airtex.com/retail-hobby-products/>
17. Thread Heaven (thread conditioner) both <http://www.fusionbeads.com/> and <http://www.firemountaingems.com/> carry this.
18. Nymo thread size D or a strong thread such as quilting thread in a color matching the flesh tone fabric for needle sculpting. I use baby pink for the needle-sculpting which <http://www.fusionbeads.com/> carries. <http://www.firemountaingems.com/> carries Nymo thread size D in light tan which I have also used for needle sculpting.
19. CaranD'Ache supracolor soft watercolor pencils in the following colors: Brown # 059, Light Blue #161 . You can buy these at <http://www.dickblick.com/>
20. Derwent Watercolor pencils in the following colors: Sepia #53, French Grey #70, Pink Madder Lake #17, Geranium Lake 15, VanDyke Brown #55, Terracotta 64, <http://www.dickblick.com/> carries these also.
21. Color pencil blender marker for oil pencils. I bought mine at Michaels but they can also be found at <http://www.dickblick.com/>
22. Prisma color (oil based) pencils in the following colors: Sienna Brown #945, Pink # 929, Henna # 1031. You can find these at <http://www.dickblick.com/>



23. Copic Multi liner artist pens size 0.5 in the following colors: Sepia, Sakura, Cobalt, Black. You can find these at <http://www.dickblick.com/>
24. A white gel pen (I used Inkssentials opaque white pen that I bought at Michael's).
25. A # 12 round watercolor brush.
26. A very fine small paintbrush (can be a very cheap one) for the fray check.
27. White florist tape

#### **Included in Class Kit**

1. Wooden beads with large holes for ball joints. Two size 14mm, two 16mm, two 20mm, two 10mm, two ½"
2. CD with step by step detailed pictures and instruction on how to complete the costuming of the Goddess.
3. Pattern, homework instruction, and class instruction materials
4. Face Template
5. Use of Instructor's Holbein Tube Watercolors in Antique Jaune Brilliant, and Antique Rose during the class.

#### **Materials needed to complete doll as pictured:**

1. Needle-felting needles, you can use them alone but I always prefer to use a Clover pen style needle felting tool to hold the needles. Plan on having a good amount of needles. I always break a few while needle-felting hair. I buy my needles in bulk from <http://www.weircrafts.com/>
2. A Package of Bamboo Fiber or English Mohair for the hair (I used English Mohair).
3. 24 gauge wire (for headdress and jewelry). I used Bronze wire that I bought at Rio Grande.com
4. Rice paper (small amount for headdress)
5. white glue such as Elmer's
6. Watercolor paint in choice of color to paint headdress rice paper (I used Holbein Antique Peacock Blue tube watercolor)
7. Size 8 watercolor brush
8. Acrylic varnish (for headdress)
9. Flat paintbrush for varnish
10. One package of cheesecloth
11. Acrylic Textile medium
12. Liquid Acrylic paint in 2 colors of choice for costume (I used Golden fluid acrylic paints in Cobalt Teal and Permanent Green Light)
13. Two small jumprings
14. English style long beading needles size 10 – 12. You buy these at Michael's or at <http://www.firemountaingems.com/>
15. Nymo size D thread
16. Glass Pearl beads in sizes: five 4mm beads, four 6mm beads, one 8mm bead. You can buy them at <http://www.firemountaingems.com/>
17. Dynamite silver lined size 11 beads in the colors: Silver Rainbow, Pastel Blue. I bought mine at <http://www.firemountaingems.com/>