



# The Pattern People

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Marywood University

Masters with the  
Masters

# Hello!, Im Katie

## Doll Maker and Teacher

- Graduated from Marywood with a Bachelors of Fine Art (painting concentration with a minor in Art History)) in 2022
- Currently a Middle and High School art teacher at Colonial Academy.
- I teach only students with emotional and behavioral needs, I am very passionate about working with that demographic.
- Currently halfway through a masters in Art Education

Katie  
Dawe



# Why I chose dolls

- I have been interested in dolls since early childhood and have carried that through into adulthood.
- I love the ability dolls have to reflect the goals and aspirations of children, along with how they historically represent beauty standards.
- Collecting and restoring antique dolls has become a side hobby of mine, and the process of learning about restoration seemed to naturally lead to me making dolls from scratch.



# Historical Doll References



## German Bisque Dolls

- Produced between the 1890s- 1910s
- Often known for their open mouths
- Posable joints



## Celluloid Kewpie Dolls

- Produced between the 1910s-1950s
- Given out as carnival prizes
- All one piece except for arms.

# The Process of: Choosing Materials

## Paper Dolls

I was originally intimidated by working three dimensionally, so I started by designing two series of paper dolls. One set with changeable outfits, and one set with posable arms and legs.

## Air Dry Clay

When I decided to sculpt dolls I first started with regular air dry clay.

It was too heavy.

## Foam Clay

Then I tried foam clay.

It was too light and would melt off the form during the drying process.

## Paper Clay

Lastly I tried paper clay. (this is what I have stitch with)

It dried and sanded very well, I was perfect for painting on because its paper qualities helped the paint stick.

# Paper Dolls



# Early Sculpted Dolls

Air Dry Clay



Foam Clay

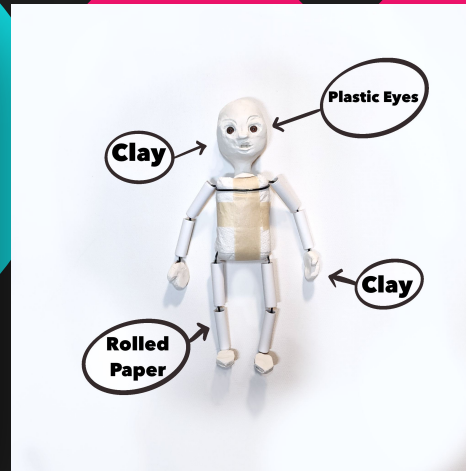
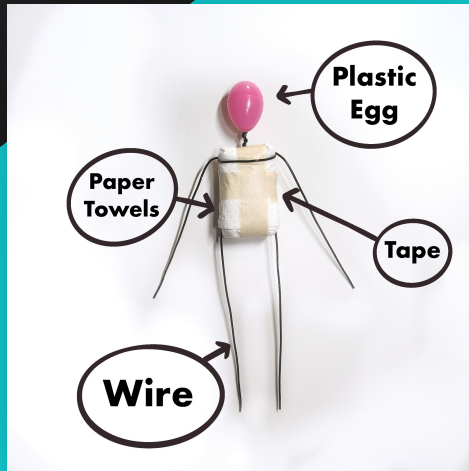


Paper Clay



# Stop Motion Video Link

[https://youtu.be/8qcRy5\\_NZ0s](https://youtu.be/8qcRy5_NZ0s)



# The Three Parts



## Children's Book

A picture book highlighting the dolls and covering a theme of acceptance of differences.



## Masks

3d felt and hot glue designs on paper mache masks.



## Coloring Book

A book of black and white outlines of book characters and other dolls to accompany the children's book.

# Children's Book Inspiration

## The Letter P

I wanted the written portion of the story to be short and sweet, but also be fun to read aloud. I used alliteration of the letter P to achieve this.



## My Students

My students have been the reason I wanted to make this children's book.

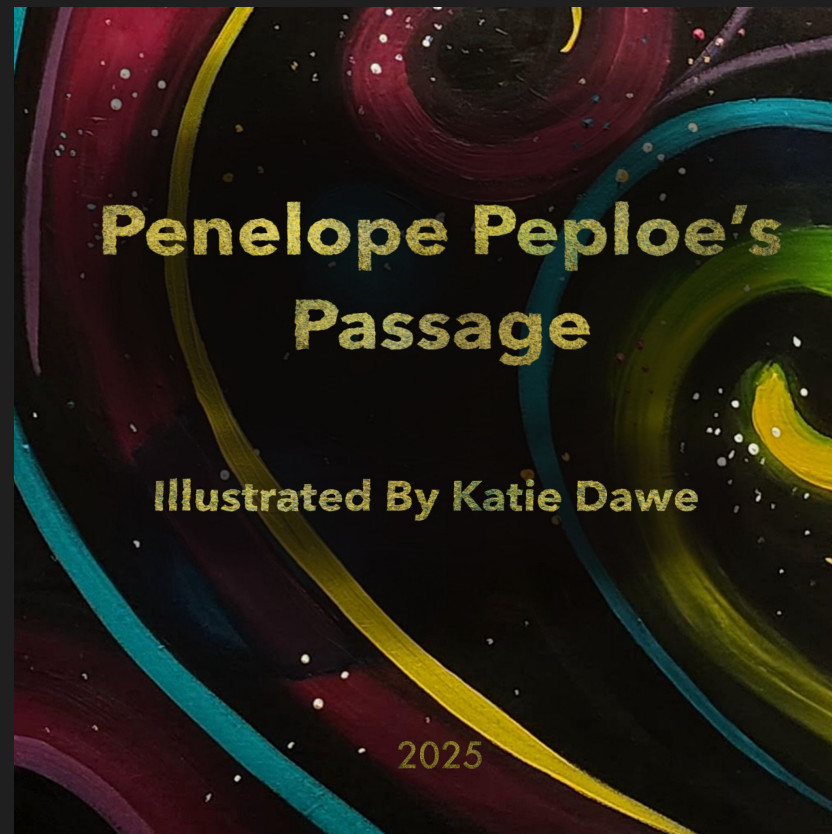
At the time I started this project I was working in an Autistic support classroom, and I loved storytime with the kids. What made this experience unique was that most of my students at the time could not speak or read themselves. They would just page through looking at the pictures.

I wanted to create a book with limited text so that students like that could have a book that they didn't need someone to read for them, that they could experience as intended on their own.



## Space

The use of outer space allowed my colorful patterned dolls to play the part of aliens, therefore letting me create an entirely new world.



## About The Patterned People

The Pattern People are handmade art dolls created from wire, clay, felt, paper, and recycled plastic. Around them has been built a fantasy world full of backgrounds and props, these are seen by the artist as movable paintings. They can be reconfigured and photographed to create endless pieces of art and tell endless stories.

This first story introduces a new planet for children and adults to explore together. Its creation spanned two years, and endless experimentation in doll making techniques.

**P**enelope Peploe peeked at the planets each night before bed. When her parents pulled up her covers, she would push back the pink curtains to peer at the pretty sky.

One night Penelope saw something special. A bright light with a tail of pinstripes and polkadots! It glowed in shades of plum and pastel pink.

Penelope picked up her telescope and saw something that made her pause – a new planet! It was the planet of the patterned people, and it seemed like quite a peculiar place.





















# Special Skills Acquired



## Crochet

I learned to Crochet in order to make doll bed sheets and rugs.

## Shrinky Dinks

I used Shrinky Dinks for the first time to create doll glasses



## Mini Pottery

I challenged myself to make miniature bowls on the pottery wheel for the kitchen set.

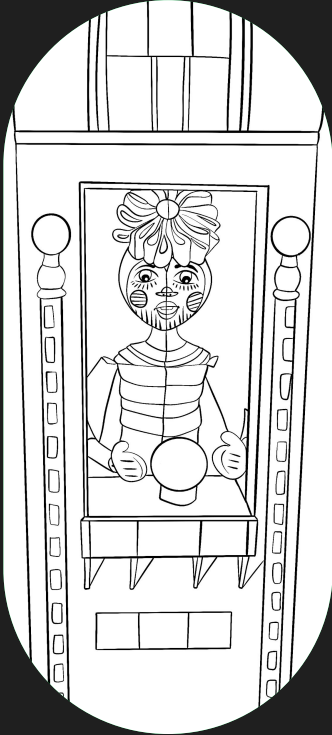
# The Coloring Book

- The coloring book is meant to be the sketchbook that Penelope draws in during the story.
- The coloring pages were made by digitally tracing photographs of the dolls.
- I was inspired to create a coloring book by my students who often benefit from the therapeutic qualities of coloring.

## Penelope Peploe's Sketchbook



# Coloring Pages



# The Masks

- The masks were made to highlight my felt techniques on a larger scale than doll cloths.
- I also wanted them to bring more color and texture to the walls of the gallery, since most of my work would be on tables.
- After the first three produced on store bought masks, I started using paper mache to make my own mask bases.
- There are 13 masks total



# Extras



## Historic Dolls

The historic fashion dolls highlight my love for vintage and antique clothing.

There is an 80's prom dress, A 1920's flapper, and a Marie Antoinette look alike.



## Look Alike Doll

I challenged myself to create a doll that looked like me. The felt hair was curled using hairspray, and the dress is a replica of one of my favorite outfits.



## Holiday Sets

I made a large halloween set with a ghost, witch, and pumpkin character.

I also made a nutcracker set for Christmas.





# Unused Dolls





# The Process Book

- I was adamant about having a handmade book because I wanted people to be able to have a tactile experience.
- Most viewers of my work are unable to experience it fully because they cannot interact with it. They cannot feel the fabric or position the dolls. The handmade book is meant to give viewers a sense of that through samples.



# Frequently Asked Questions

How Many Dolls Are There?

40



How long does it take to make a doll?

4-6 work hours  
+  
Two days for clay to dry.

What do you use to take the photographs?

My Cell Phone

How big are the dolls?

Between  
11-14 in. tall



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**Thank You!**