Cindy Cherry

*CC Bears*

Cindy Cherry lives in the beautiful alpine village of Harrietville, close to Mt. Hotham in Victoria, Australia, where she makes wonderfully expressive original bears, dogs, and kitties in her

spare time. All her creations are her own original designs, made of quality mohair and alpaca. Their bodies are fully jointed, filled with glass beads to give them a realistic weighty feel, and polyester filling to make them cuddly. Glass eyes, hand painted features, with either stitched or needle felted noses, complete their soulful looks.

Cindy started her bear-making in 1997, “My mother was tired of me taking all her newly-made bears, and said it was time I learned to make my own. I started to design my own bears, rather than using someone else's patterns, which gave me far greater satisfaction. Over the years I've done some fantastic workshops with other well-known artists, to improve and refine my own techniques, and to bring into my work the quality they have today. Workshops definitely are the way to go. There is always a technique you pick up from each one that proves invaluable to your own bear making.”

Cindy relies on airbrushing to bring out the personalities of her animals. “That's what gives them their heart and soul,” she emphasized. “My doggies and wild bears usually have needle-felted paws and noses, and leather eye surrounds, and I'm now using in some of them the Loc-Line range of modular hoses and connectors for many posing possibilities. I put a lot of hours into my work, and never skimp on quality.”  
I Cindy's designs have brought her recognition. She has won nine TOBY Industry Choice Awards from 2010 through 2016, and a Golden Teddy Award in 2010.

Cindy envisions new frontiers to conquer in her work. “I have so many designs and characters in my head, many that I hope to get completed this year. I plan on getting some cats done, as I haven't managed to do one for several years. I also hope to complete either a new fox or wolf design, as well as different breeds of dogs. My bear-making is purely a hobby which I enjoy in my spare time, and the most enjoyable part for me is the end result when they finally come to life. I especially love it when my creations give other people pleasure, and are appreciated by their new adoptive parents.”

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er people pleasure and are appreciated by their new adoptive parents. The most enjoyable part for me is the end result when they finally come to life! I still try to make a few bears in between making my doI'm very proud of my first dachshund dog, Honey, that I did as a custom order. I have been honored with doing some beautiful doggies as custom orders to date. I also plan on attending Australia's new major show in Melbourne, The Melbourne Bear Bazaar, which will be held on October 20, 2016, and want to have a few totally new doggies, kitties, and wild bears to show off at this venue.”gs, but I find that at the moment I enjoy making my dogs as I see so many faces I would love to re-create and produce. I'm finding that I am having no trouble in finding homes for my Aussie canines as their individuality & expressions are hard just too hard to resist.

It was my mother who first introduced me to the wonderful world of teddy bears and got me started on my first bears. Over the years I have attended several workshops with well known bear artists such as Jo Greeno, Helen Hill, Loris Hancock, Sonia Heron and Linda Benson. Ikshops are the way to go and there is always a technique you pick up from each one that proves invaluable to your bear making. I definitely recommend them.

None of my creations escape the air-brush as I think this is what brings out their soul and really brings them to life and gives them their beary, puppy and kitty expressions. I have been an animal lover all my life and get a lot of my inspiration from their big kind eyes and happy loving expressions, always eager to please or just a look of happiness and contentment.