

# Anna Potapova

## The digital portfolio

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Hello!

My name is Anna Potapova. I'm from Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod.

In 1994 I graduated from College of Art and Industrial Design. I am a textile designer by training.

My ardour for dolls goes back to my childhood. I was fond of making dresses for my dolls, modeling something in clay and painting. This ardour is still with me in my adult life.

My life as an artist is full of imagines. For their realization there are a lot of different means of painting, graphic arts and sculpture. One day I understood, that paintings are not enough for me because of their small space, and sculptures are not enough either because they are too dim. So I've found a very unusual way: I make original interior dolls, or more exactly they appear to me. Yes, they exactly appear from fantasy, music, books I've read and from everything I see and feel. Some pure wool and a bit of magic are well enough for characters from fairytales and legends, elven, mermaids, bogies and others...

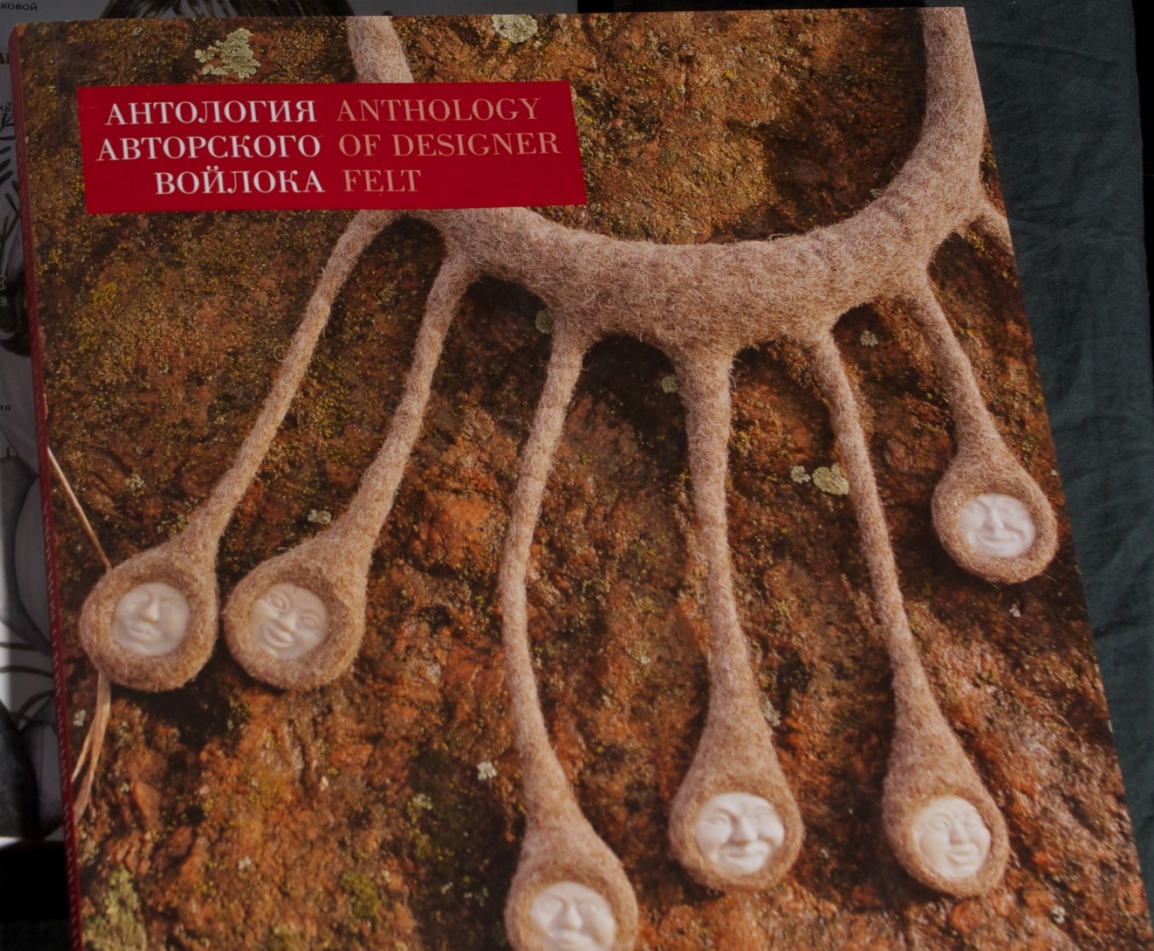
Collection dolls are usually made from plastic, porcelain and textiles. I use unusual material - felt. An upside of such dolls is warm and "living". Wool is very flexible. It combines delicate forms of porcelain and plastic dolls with softness and warmth of textile ones. Wool dolls are ecofriendly and light. They are impossible to break and very pleasant to touch.

About three years ago, I started teaching the art of creating felt dolls. I have a lot of students in Russia and around the world. I would like to develop this school of doll-making art and I do want to see more people learning to create their unique and unusually hearty dolls.





I participate in the international exhibitions held in Russia and abroad: The Art dolls (Moscow), The Dolls Salon in Tishinka (Moscow), The Doll and teddy bear show in Belgium (Brugge), The Puppet show DABIDA (Amsterdam), The Biennale design of dolls and toys (Moscow), The Doll and teddy bear show (Nizhny Novgorod), Christmas exhibition at the castle Nogeboyde (Vienna) and other. In 2016, I was on NIADA conference as a guest artist.



My dolls became winners of the competition "Doll of the Year" by the magazine "The Puppet Master." Photos of my dolls were published in various catalogs, magazines and exhibition catalogs...

# NIADA artist application questionnaire

1. How long have you been creating dolls? *from 2009.*
2. How did you get started in dollmaking? *Since my childhood I love to play with dolls.*
3. How did you find out about NIADA? *I saw on the internet photos of dolls NIADA artist.*
4. Have you met any NIADA artists? *Yes.*
5. List any art, dollmaking, or collecting organizations to which you belong. *I do not belong to any organization.*
6. In what medium do you work? *Wool, silk.*
7. If you work in reproductive media, do you make your own molds? *No.*
8. What type of paint do you use? Do you have a preferred painting technique? *For toning (colour modification) of my dolls' faces, I use colour wool while for eyes hands painting acrylic colours and acrylic lacquer are used..*
9. Do you make your own wigs? Please describe your process. *I do not make wigs. I implant, so to say, hair in the head of a doll. This hair is made usually of viscose or silk fibres.*
10. Do you make your own accessories? Please describe your process. *I use a variety of metal jewelry, beads lemvork, Bisser, sew leather...*

11. Do you make your own clothing? Please detail any help you may have in pattern drafting or construction of clothing. *Yes. I myself sew clothes for my dolls. I like to use nunovoylok (I combine wool and silk). As for pattern and cutout, I do them by myself.*
12. Do you have assistants? What do they contribute to your work? *No.*
13. Have you designed dolls, toys or other work for commercial manufacture? (list) *No.*
14. How do you sell your dolls? (wholesale, retail, consignment, commissioned work)? *Retail and commissioned work*
15. Do you advertise? (if so, where). *Yes: Online shops (ETSY, Fair masters), social networks (Facebook Google+), participation in exhibitions.*
16. To assure a degree of involvement, NIADA requests attendance at its annual conference at least every third year. This and the annual dues of \$50.00 are the main membership requirements. Do you have any problem with this? *No problem.*
17. Why do you want to be a member of NIADA? *Yes. I very much want. This is much credit to me.*



My dolls are made of wool in the dry felting technique.



I do not use a former (carcass) or any junctions for making a doll's body. Neither model I a doll's hands, legs and head separately. I make the comprehensive whole body without dissection.






I myself sew clothes for my dolls. I like to use nunovoylok (I connect wool and silk). I like to use wool, silk, different fabric, beads lampwork, metal ornaments ...



I do not make wigs. I "implanted" the hair into the surface of the head doll. The hair of my dolls are made of silk and viscose fibers.



For toning (colour modification) of my dolls' faces, I use colour wool while for eyes hands painting acrylic colours and acrylic lacquer are used.



**Anariel (daughter of the Sun)**

Height of composition 32 cm.

wool, silk, cotton, viscose, plastic, brass

**2016**

Technical details:

Doll needle felted (or dry felted) with no armature. It is made entirely of wool. Eyes plastic hand-painted. To tone doll face, I used colored wool. Clothing and hair are made of silk and viscose fibers.

Clothes made in nunovoylok technique, and stockinet hose.

Pumpkin is also made of wool. On the doll has a decoration made of brass

## Pippi Longstocking

Height of composition 29 cm  
wool, silk, cotton, viscose,  
plastic, wood

2016

### Technical details:

The doll is needle felted (or dry felted) with no armature. It is made fully out of wool. The eyes are plastic hand-painted. To tone the doll face I used coloured wool. The clothes and the hair are made of silk and viscose fibres. The doll has some hand knitted woollen clothes and stockinet hose.





## Tauriel (daughter Forests)

Height of composition 39 cm  
wool, silk, viscose, plastic, brass

2016

### Technical details:

Doll needle felted (or dry felted) with no armature. It is made entirely of wool. Eyes plastic hand-painted. To tone doll face, I used colored wool. Hair are made of silk and viscose fibers. Clothes made in nunovoylok technique. On the doll has a decoration made of brass. Acorns are made of wool. Caps are real. Stand - oak wood.







## Witch Glafira

Height of composition 43 cm.

wool, silk, cotton, viscose, plastic, brass, copper, wood, leather

2016

### Technical details:

Doll needle felted (or dry felted) with no armature. It is made entirely of wool. Eyes plastic hand-painted. To tone doll face, I used colored wool. Clothing and hair are made of silk and viscose fibers. Skirt made in nunovoylok technique. She is dressed in a leather corset. Pumpkin is also made of wool. On the doll has a decoration made of brass and copper. broom made of branches of linden and maple







### **Lairiel (daughter Summer)**

Height of composition 43 cm

wool, silk, cotton, viscose, plastic, lampwork beads

**2017**

#### Technical details:

Doll needle felted (or dry felted) with no armature. It is made entirely of wool. Eyes plastic hand-painted. To tone doll face, I used colored wool. Clothing and hair are made of silk fibers. Clothes made in nunovoylok technique. Strawberries on the clothes the doll - it lampwork beads. Stand - oak wood.



Thank you for attention. I am much favoured with it. I hope you have been interesting. I'll be glad to answer any questions about my dolls.

With great respect!

Anna.

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