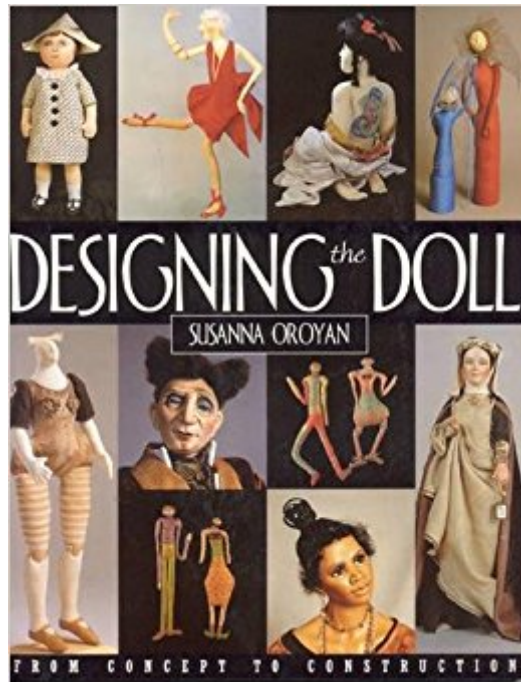


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# Designing The Doll: From Concept To Construction



## Synopsis

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## Customer Reviews

"Once again, Susanna Oroyan gives us a gift by distilling the spirits found in doll/figure art. She encourages us to try, then explains the fundamentals to pave the way. Best of all are the examples, which provide pure inspiration." -- Barbara Campbell, editor, *Soft Dolls & Animals!*

"The doll world has only just recovered from the excitement of having *Anatomy of a Doll* which showed us what was possible. Now we can learn to get it with this new effort, the fabulous *Designing the Doll*. Thank you, Susanna, where would we be without you?"-Elinor Peace Bailey, author, artist

In this book Oroyan takes the concepts she introduces in "*Anatomy of a Doll*" and adds detail, lots of detail. She introduces the doll maker to the mathematical formulae of proportion, balance and

design. Don't let that scare you. She shows you ways to apply all that she has introduced . The examples in here are even more stunning than in "Anatomy..." and more diverse in their topics and construction. While she introduces "mixed media" dolls in her anatomy book, here she explores the range of forms they can take. This book is an excellent addition to any serious student of doll construction's collection or as a resource for someone needing to make figures for some other project.

I purchased this book and read it all the way through. It was very interesting, and delivered the goods on how to design a doll. I loved the conversation on the thought process that a person goes through (or may need to go through) to design a doll. I love that the author left designing the doll in your hands, by giving you the tools to make your idea become a reality! The author understands that each person wanting to make a doll has their "own" way of doing things. She sweetly guides you through all of your options from "your" idea, construction, costuming, face concepts and much more. "Designing the Doll" is a great doll making reference guide for getting your doll out of your head, into your hands, and out into the world.

This book includes some amazing images. There are several artists in this book besides Susanna Oroyan, but it is definitely her work and the details she brought to her pieces that make one want to begin the process of doll crafting. The book's doll images seem a bit dated now as many of them were created to reflect pop culture images from specific time periods. This is a good companion piece to have along with S.O.'s other doll crafting books. It provides excellent instructions on creating the doll's basic form and then ideas on how to proceed once the "skeleton" framework or wire armature is done. Susanna Oroyan was a treasure. Her generosity in sharing her knowledge and skills is sorely missed. Sincerely, rainadelmagick

Most store bought dolls are not articulated. I, bought this book in hopes to building my own articulated dolls. So far it has been a great help

A real pleasure to browse the excellent photographs or follow the explanations of the author, step by step, and his motivational speech for newcomers to the art, or even those who dare not see themselves as creative people.

Easy to understand. Well written.

"Designing the Doll" gives many great examples of remarkable artist dolls, but it also gives some excellent how-tos that will help you realize your own designs. This isn't a project-oriented book; there are no real step-by-step instructions that will help you make a specific doll. Rather, this book gives the artist a good grounding in basic technique. Where you go from there is entirely your own business. Some of the techniques Oroyan covers are: sculpting, jointing, soft bodies, wire armature and materials. You'll come away from this book with enough information to design and follow through with your own projects. It's been a long time since I made a doll, but this book has got me wanting to try all sorts of new things.

For any of you who believe that dolls are just children's toys or cutesy collector's items, you have obviously not seen this book. Oroyan's *Designing the Doll: from Concept to Construction*, is a very impressive book. While it is as advertised, a book on making dolls, it is first and foremost an art book. Throughout the book, the author is addressing the student as artist. She covers issues such as color, texture, drawing, abstract and impressionism, scale, etc. The details of construction are included as are some patterns, but the greatest value of the book is actually in the illustrations of finished dolls, some by the author and some by others. These are exceptional works of art. Some are actual portrait works, capturing in miniature the personalities of those portrayed. Others, while they may have had human models, are designed to capture an essence or spirit, an impression or meaningful event. When one sees dolls such as these, one understands instantly why a person would collect them: they are Michelangelos in miniature.

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