



Barbara Franklin

Multicultural Folk Doll

Artist

Ms. Barbara Franklin began working with her hands at the young age of 7 or 8 years old and has been creating cloth dolls for the past 38 years. She was inspired to create cloth dolls as she was passing the French Quarter and admired a variety of little black dolls. Barbara handcrafts all of her dolls from her home. She has participated in the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, the Black Heritage Festival, the Celebration of the African Child in Congo Square, and others around the state, including Sugarfest in Port Allen, Melrose Arts and Crafts Festival, and FestForAll in Baton Rouge, and she participates in the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge's Arts Market. Ms. Franklin also conducts educational workshops in libraries so that educators can teach their students how to make the dolls. She has stated, "I refer to myself as 'Barbara W. Franklin, African American Multicultural Folk Doll Artist.' That means that I make dolls of all different cultures."

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