

Jolie Gaston

Instagram: @JPWinx

A Knoxville resident, Jolie Gaston has made her home in places as diverse as Orange County, California; Las Vegas, Nevada; Detroit, Michigan; Darwin Australia and Macau, China

After receiving a BA in English Literature in 1983, a JD in 1986, both from the University of Tennessee and a BS in Hotel Administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1987, Jolie taught Hospitality Law at both Northern Arizona University and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where she became a promoted and tenured faculty member.

A miniaturist since the age of 10, Jolie pursued scale miniatures as an avocation until 1999, when she opened an online and retail show miniatures business.

Jolie has been a member of the International Guild of Miniature Artisans since 1999 and has attended IGMA's Guild School in Castine, Maine for 21 years. Jolie has also served as a Board Member and as President of the Guild. Additionally, beginning in 2011, Jolie has helped stage a holiday display of contemporary miniatures at the Knoxville Museum of Art in the Thorne Rooms Gallery during the month of December.

Artist Statement

Miniature art captures my passion for the smallest detail, a love of storytelling and a fascination with the magic that occurs when the creation of illusion on a small scale allows the viewer to enter a world that is at once, both familiar and foreign. The creation of illusion at the circus and creation of illusion in miniature are kith and kin. What you are truly seeing, isn't truly real. Or is it?

Beyond experiencing an entrancing performance of Cirque du Soleil with the other two members of this troupe (Cynthia Markert and Judi Gaston), I am continually influenced by literary works. Specifically for this project, works such as James Joyce's short story, "Araby", the works of Lewis Carroll, Sara Gruen's, "Water for Elephants" and Erin Morgenstern's "The Night Circus" have all crept into the tiny details.