

# Beth's Bears – BEARS MADE BY Elizabeth Leggat



*"I like to think of my little creations as gently worn characters, evoking memories of a time gone by"*

**LEFT:**

Coco 3.5 inches tall, antique dark cinnamon mohair.

**ABOVE RIGHT:**

Teddy B 3.75 inches tall, hand dyed soft white German mohair

**RIGHT:**

Elizabeth at Hugglets Teddy Bear Festival.



## ELIZABETH LEGGAT



Began creating Edwardian style miniature mohair bears in 1995

i create my Edwardian style miniature teddy bears, friends and accessories using only the finest antique mohair and vintage materials.

i feel honoured and proud to my work exhibited the world famous Spielzeug Welten Museum in Basel.

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A little bit about me and my work.....I am a Scottish teddy bear artist who has been designing and creating Edwardian style miniature mohair bears since 1995. I am passionate about old teddy bears and try to incorporate their charm and charisma in my own little creations which range in size from 2-5 inches in mohair and a little smaller in some plush fabrics. Inspiration for this collection comes from German and English teddy bears. Great care and attention to detail

is taken to achieve the overall

look.

The shape of the bears is reminiscent of the early designs with

snout, long arms, boot button style eyes, big feet and a slight hump on the back. I do use a selection of fabrics but mostly mohair which is hand tinted to get an authentic colour. Various special techniques are used to recreate the gently faded and worn look of genuine old bears. On a trip to Germany a few years ago I was fortunate to find some genuine 100 year old mohair in the most wonderful colours, just perfect for creating little old bears. A wide variety of old trimmings and textiles are used

to make clothing, including silks, Edwardian cottons, lace, braids and tiny glass buttons. I constantly

search for unique accessories to compliment the bears. An antique chocolate box can be an ideal home for a tiny teddy, espe-



cially when adorned with lots of lovely faded antique velvet and silk flowers. As most of the materials are old it is not always possible to create an exact replica but it may be possible to create something similar. Collectors personal items can also be incorporated into a special piece, making it truly unique. I am truly honoured to have my work exhibited in the magical Spielzeug Welten Museum in Basel, the largest its kind Europe. Over the years I have made some very special pieces which have been a delight and challenge to create.

**LEFT:** Teddy Valentine 2.75 inches tall, vintage plush fabric.



### Teddy Bears Wedding

A very special commission for the Spielzeug Welten Museum, inspired by the rare Steiff Wedding Bears display from the 1920's. The setting consists of the main couple Dancing Bears, both 3.5 inches tall, they are dressed in their best finery made from antique and vintage materials. They are serenaded by three cute musicians, a trombone player, violinist and a sweet teddy girl fanfare blower. All specially dressed for the occasion, they are also 3.5 inches tall. The scene is set in an Edwardian hat box embellished throughout with various old trims. The bears stand on a revolving musical platform surrounded in vintage flowers all ready to enjoy a dance to Love Story when the mechanism is wound up. This has to be one of my all time favourite pieces!

### Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

A fun piece to create inspired by the famous musical movie. Mr Potts and his Truly Scrumptious teddy girl are followed in the back seat of the car by the rest of the gang, including a little foxy dog! Mr Potts wears a smart jacket and trousers, he also sports a handmade leather flying helmet and aviator goggles. Truly Scrumptious looks very elegant wearing her leghorn hat and pretty dress. Both bears are 3.5 inches tall. The teddy bear children passengers are 2.75



inches tall and dressed for the adventure. The vintage style car was designed and made by my husband, Bob. It was created from oak and has fully operational doors and trunk. The car is plush inside with padded cream leather seats and an oak steering wheel. Nothing but the best for this gang! The number plate on the car is Puppenhausmuseum 1



### Top Secret Teddy Bear Drum Corps

The famous Top Secret Teddy Bear Drum Corps from Basel, Switzerland were a challenge and a delight to create. They have performed at the Edinburgh military Tattoo and also the Basel Tattoo. This little group are 3.5 inches tall and are made from German mohair. Their black and red uniforms are very finely detailed to be the same as the originals, with the red piping and tiny silver buttons, exactly the same amount as the originals. They wear jaunty hats with an ostrich feather. Behind the front row drummers there are also teddy bears playing the big drums and a couple of flag bearers. The drums and drum sticks are handmade from oak by my husband, Bob. The match as near as possible with

the drumsticks having the three black rings.



### Fasnacht Bear

This little bear is excited and ready to take part in the world famous Fasnacht carnival in Basel which lasts for three days. He will be taking part in the parade and showering bystanders with confetti. He is wearing a Waggis costume of white trousers, blue shirt and red scarf that has lots of fine detail, just like the real thing. He has a tiny wooden toggle on his scarf and carries a wooden baton, all handmade by my husband, Bob, to the correct scale. He also wears miniature hand carved wooden clogs!



### We Are Going To The Puppenhausmuseum

A string of teddy bear clowns marching on their way to the Spielzeug Welten Museum. They are all created from 100 year old mohair, the tiny Swiss flag bearer hanging on at the end from a vintage fabric. The leader of the pack is 3.5 inches tall, he wears an antique silk suit trimmed with vintage pom poms and a hand dyed wool felt hat. The little followers are 2.5 inches tall, they also wear wool felt hats with old pom poms and vintage organdie neck ruffles. The wee teddy at the end is a tiny 1.75 inches! This piece was inspired by an antique postcard.

**Throwing The Dice** An exciting commission inspired by the antique Steiff postcard shown in the picture. This was a promotional postcard, all the bears being available to purchase separately. Twelve teddy bears ranging in size from 2.5 inches to 3.75 inches gather around the table for a game of Throw the Dice, they are all dressed for the gathering wearing their highly detailed outfits.



Six teddy bear boys by the name of Batro wear hand knitted suits in a variety of colours, self coloured trousers, striped sweaters and matching caps. Four teddy girls known as Bagi seem to have hold of the dice! They wear little jackets, skirts and matching hats, all different colours. At the head of the table two larger teddy girls called Basi and Baru watch the proceedings carefully. Basi is a sailor girl wearing a navy blue suit and hat. Baru wears a highly detailed hand embroidered Russian felt dress and hat. Their oak table and chairs were hand-made to the correct scale by my husband, Bob.