

A collector's view - Bear with me.....

# Jena Pang



*“My first buy was a miniature bear called Old Nick by Shultz Characters – I had never seen such exquisite detail before in miniature”*

**LEFT:**

Captain Jack Sparrow by Jennie Sharman-Cox of Mister Bear.

**ABOVE RIGHT:**

Gentle Ben by Brigitte Smith at the piano.

**RIGHT:**

Jena and a blue-eyed centre seam Steiff Petsy teddy bear from 1928.



## JENA PANG



Began collecting in 2002

Began collecting Artist bears in earnest in 2007

Jena currently lives in Southend-on-Sea. He performs, teaches and adjudicates piano and violin competitions worldwide

You can contact Jena at:  
Website: [www.jenapang.com/](http://www.jenapang.com/)  
Email: [jena@jenapang.com](mailto:jena@jenapang.com)  
Facebook: jena bear or jena Pang

In 2007 I was introduced to the world of artist bears by Gregory Gyllenship who suggested that I visit the Hugglets teddy bear festivals. I had been collecting modern Steiff, Hermann and Hermann-Spielwaren from my local teddy bear shop

a thing as an artist bear. ‘Paws’ for thought - I was shocked and in teddy bear heaven! So many wonderful bears of such variety – I was simply spoilt for choice and so ‘beary’ excited. It was also nice to see that I was not the only person who loved teddy bears as each hall was full of



called

Selecteds since 2002 (which has sadly since closed), but had not been aware that there was such

like-minded

collectors. The very first thing I bought was an exquisite miniature teddy bear made from vintage

mohair from Schultz Character designs by Paula and Simon Stretchill-Smith. His name was Old Nick: he was simply charming and adorable. I was amazed by the detail and quality of the work and the vintage pastiche on such a miniature scale. On the same lines, the next bear was Billy by Canadian artist Ingrid Schmid of Bear n Company of Ontario. I was hooked on the Edwardian bear style with teds in sailor tops and collars which persuaded me to eventually collect vintage Steiff bears from 1904-1920. Some teddybears

**LEFT:** Polar bears by Karin de Lorenzo, Marina Osetrova and Heike Buchner.

are themed or characters and I liked to collect such examples as they would remind me character in music, for

Liz Wilshire of Forget Me Not Bears that I have



example clown bears, Captain Jack Sparrow the pirate bear of Mister Bear by Jennie Sharman-Cox and Bullaburra, an aborigine bear from Bears of Haworth Cottage by Lexie Haworth which I bought on a trip to the Blue Moun-

tains in Australia: you find bears in the most unexpected places sometimes! A few of the bears by Sharron Barron and

bought have also been featured in Teddybear Magazine. Aside from traditional looking teddy bears, I also began to collect 'nature' bears - that are more realistic. My first was Gentle Ben of Pawtrait Bears by Brigitte Smith, a huge black bear. This was followed by Armstrong of Bears Upon Soar by Lisa Wills, and Porter





the polar bear cub (all the way from Narrowsberg NY) of Kelly Dean and Company by Kelly Dean. A trip to Teddybar Welt in Wiesbaden and Teddybar Total in Munster introduced me to European and Russian nature bear making and I was most fortunate to 'adopt' wonderful polar



bears by Karin de Lorenzo, Heike Buchner, Marina Osetrova and Svetlana Khabarova. It was clear to me that artist bears were

made with love, and were indeed made by true artists as each

bear can indeed be seen as a work of art. Non-bear collectors do not appreciate the hours that artists have spent on creating a bear, from the initial thought, to drawing, cutting out a pattern, choosing the material, cutting and stitching, perhaps adding armature, joints, turning the stitched material then stuffing, creating a face – body – paws and claws, trimming the fur, and finishing touches. If the bear is wearing clothes, then again these will have been designed and made. All this can amount to 40-50 or more hours on a single bear creation. The rest is history and some of my collection of artist bears was featured on BBC 2 Collectaholics in 2015 and I have continued to

collect nature bears and miniature teddy bears by various artists from all over the world, taking them on



outings, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner, concerts, the opera, travelling and sightseeing. They have become part of my daily life and life would indeed be dull without them!



I very much look forward to being a judge at the Woburn Abbey Teddy Bear Festival artist bear competition.

**PREVIOUS PAGE:**

**TOP:** Armstrong by Bears Upon Soar

**BOTTOM:** Miniature teddy bears by Paula Strethill-Smith of Shultz Characters

**THIS PAGE:**

**TOP LEFT:** Porter by Kelly Dean, GentleBen by Brigitte Smith

**TOP RIGHT:** Polarbears by Svetlana Khabarova, Karin De Lorenzo, Kelly Dean

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Bears by Sharon Barron and Paula Strethill-Smith

**ABOVE:** BBC 2 Collectaholics