

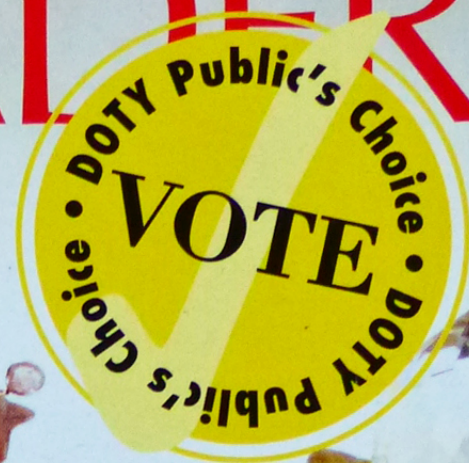
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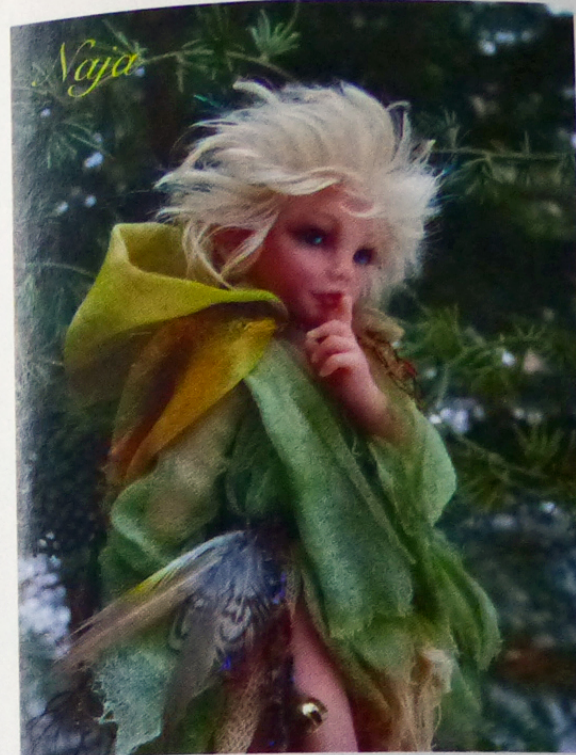
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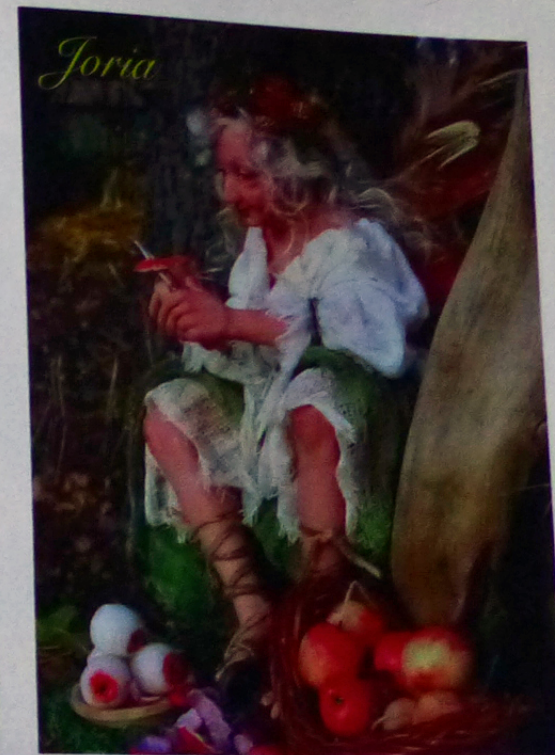
Wisps of silk, fine cotton, natural fibers, feathers, crystals and beads, mohair, and iridescent wings in every imaginable color give Deb's fairies an ephemeral quality that appeals to her fans.



(Clockwise from top left) A 7-inch (17-1/2-cm) long dragonfly fairy in flight, *Flitter* is suspended by a brass rod and tube concealed in her skirting. Her garments are made from natural and synthetic fibers with a faux leather bodice. *Avery*, 11 inches (28 cm) tall, is seated on a mother-of-pearl pillar adorned with handmade silver-beaded leaves. She wears hand-dyed silk skirting, natural fiber bodice with Swarovski rhinestones, Swarovski crystal and rhinestone tiara, and Fantasy Film wings. A dramatic pose and costuming made *Semone* a very popular sculpture. Her flowing auburn hair is accented with gold leaves. She holds a staff made from a large Swarovski crystal. Her garment is silk shot with metal fibers, her wings are Fantasy Film, and she stands atop a polished Manzanita base. *Kaela* is Deb's first dragonfly fairy. She has silk undergarment and flower petal accents, Fantasy Film dragonfly wings, and soft angora mohair. *Kaela* stands on a wood base accented with faux mosses and flowers.



Naja is a tiny forest fae with wild spiked blond mohair framing big blue eyes. She wears a hand-dyed and natural fiber garment, with finch feather accents; the hood can be worn up or down.



Seven inches (17-1/2 cm) tall excluding wings, *Joria* is one of Deb's most popular figures. Created in the fall during the apple harvest, the elder fae sits peacefully in the act of peeling apples. *Joria* wears a natural fiber costume, wool hair, and leather sandals. The apples are polymer, painted, and "peeled" with a scalpel.

Others find that Deb's personal joy in creating fairies translates into a passion that imbues each sculpture with the act of living. Each nuance of head, hand, and body tells a story, like *Joria*, a peasant-style woodland fairy serenely going about her task of peeling apples; *Rivka the Storyteller*, an ancient crone who spins her tales to delight the young fairies gathered at her feet; or sensual *Semone*, who holds aloft a crystal staff and is the epitome of female power and mystery.

Perhaps it is Deb's log home that helps inspire so many of her creations. As light filters in through large windows from the woods and gardens, an abundance of wildlife, nature, and soft music create an atmosphere of calm and creativity. It's not uncommon for her to work 14 hours straight, sculpting with brushes, knitting and darning needles, and scalpel.

Many of Deb's fairies reflect her love of Victoriana and art nouveau. Most range from 6 to 9 inches (15 to 22-1/2 cm), although some are more than a foot (30-1/2 cm)

tall. Made of Fimo Puppen Doll Modeling Clay over an armature base, each fairy is sent to her new home before Deb can start another.

Not that everything goes smoothly from start to finish. In a hurry one day, Deb accidentally baked her sculpture at too high a temperature, turning it a shocking shade of caramel. With specific plans to create a dancing fairy, Deb was horrified until she began to experiment with tints and even added some body art. "She became a dancing moth fairy and actually turned out better than my original plan," Deb laughs. A bit of fairy magic perhaps?

Fairies have certainly opened up their world and permitted Deb glimpses into their realm of magic and enchantment. So why not linger awhile in fairyland and see where it leads you? The world of make believe awaits. *D*

You can see Deb Wood's work on her Web site at debwood.com or find her work on eBay under the seller ID "debwoodenchantedhearts."