

This “Cottage Library” isn’t based on a specific book, but the style reflects the 19th-century British novels I studied in graduate school. There are also hints of my love of art in the bright colors, bead vases, and two statues: one is a copy of Camille Claudel’s bust of her sister Louise de Massary, and the other is Queen Victoria. Of course there are fairy tales and an Oz book, a cup of tea, untidy piles, and a sleeping cat. The books have spilled outside into the garden, with a rooftop bench for reading until the fireflies come out. I am thrilled to contribute a tiny library to “Miniature Worlds,” an exhibit that combines so many of my favorite things!

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Meta Dunkly Arnold writes: I originally studied literature, and when I was a kid I wanted to be a writer. My dad was a librarian; in fact my parents met at the library, and I met my husband in a library too. My son even worked at PUL one summer. For the past 15 years I’ve worked as an artist and art teacher, specializing in 3-D mixed media. I teach at Art Sparks Studio in Hopewell and West Windsor Arts, and designed the art program at Painted Oak Nature School. I exhibit around New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and the theme of my recent solo show at the Arts Council of Princeton was “Little Museums.”

I’ve always loved making tiny things, and the way it offers a new perspective and space to comment on the world around us. My grandmother and I made furniture for the fairies out of shells and old jewelry, and the whole family helped make a Little House on the Prairie dollhouse, with all the things from the books— tin cups, Pa’s fiddle, Mary’s organ, and the coffee mill for grinding wheat in a blizzard. I am especially delighted that families can come in and make tiny things together at this event!