

“Selfies” in Miniature

Take Up Residence Inside Your Dollhouse

by Stan Harrison

Sometimes that finely appointed dollhouse or roombox you've created simply looks so inviting, you'd like to shrink yourself to 1:12 scale and walk right in. Now, you can—figuratively speaking.

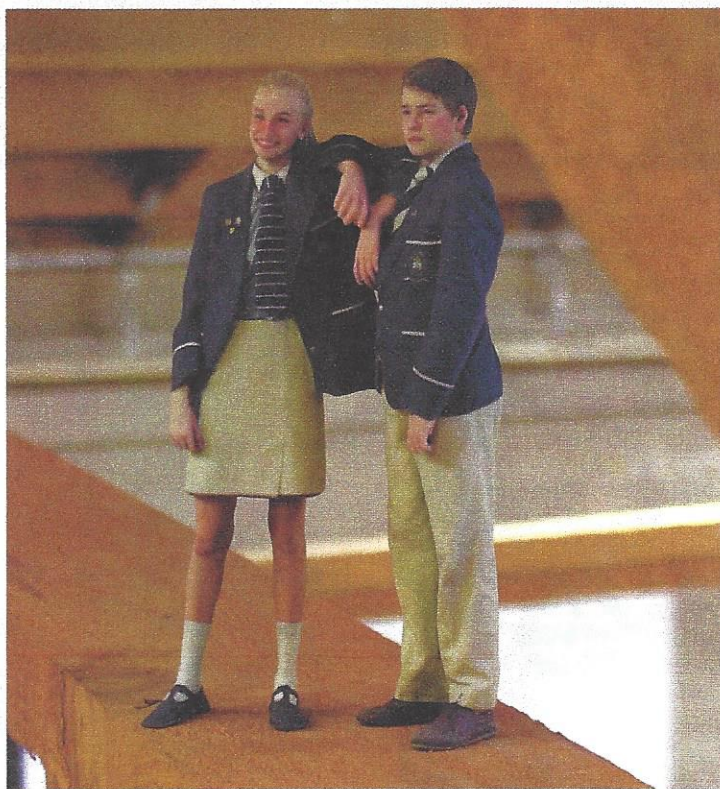
New technology allows your image to be reproduced and scaled down three-dimensionally, creating a miniature statue that looks exactly like you, one that you can place in your dollhouse, roombox or miniature vignette.

“Most people order 3D figures to memorialize a life moment,” says Will Drevno of Berkeley, California-based Twindom. “These include graduations, weddings, yearly family pictures, birthdays, etc.”

They might even make a good way to memorialize the completion of a treasured miniature. Some miniaturists have had themselves made to scale to include in their own dollhouses and roomboxes, or even for display at shows.

“They make a dollhouse room real and personal,” says Betsey Bradley, who had a local Colorado hobbyist create not only a miniature of herself, but miniatures of several family members as well. “What fun to live in your dollhouse!”

Vicki Scidmore first met up with Holodeck 3D Studios at the CIMTA show in Las Vegas.

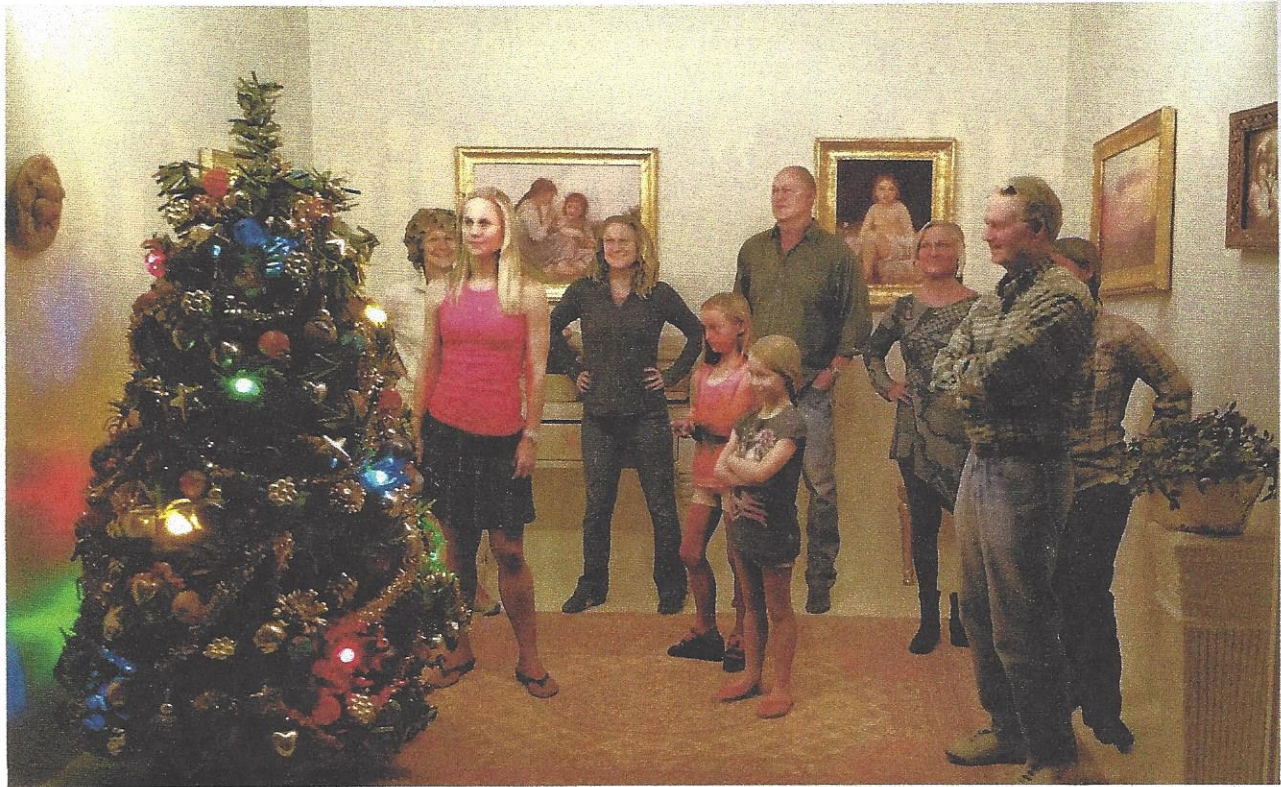


Two young students take a break from their studies in this 3D figure by Twindom.

“The half-scale was a reasonable price (\$49 each), and I thought it would be fun to have since I have a lot of half-scale scenes,” she says. She received her two figures in about two weeks, one of them with her hand out “so I could hold something.”

Kylie Bygland first saw a 3D figure in a magazine article, a likeness of the author stand-

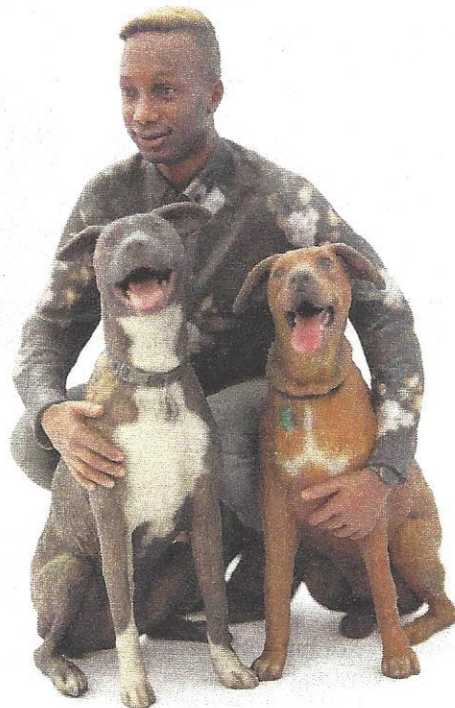
ing in front of one of his miniature buildings. Shortly after, she encountered Holodeck at the Seattle Miniatures Show. “I was impressed with the detail of the 3D figures,” she says. “It seemed perfect that I could put a miniature version of myself into my rooms. It also piqued my sense of humor to think that people would look into my room-



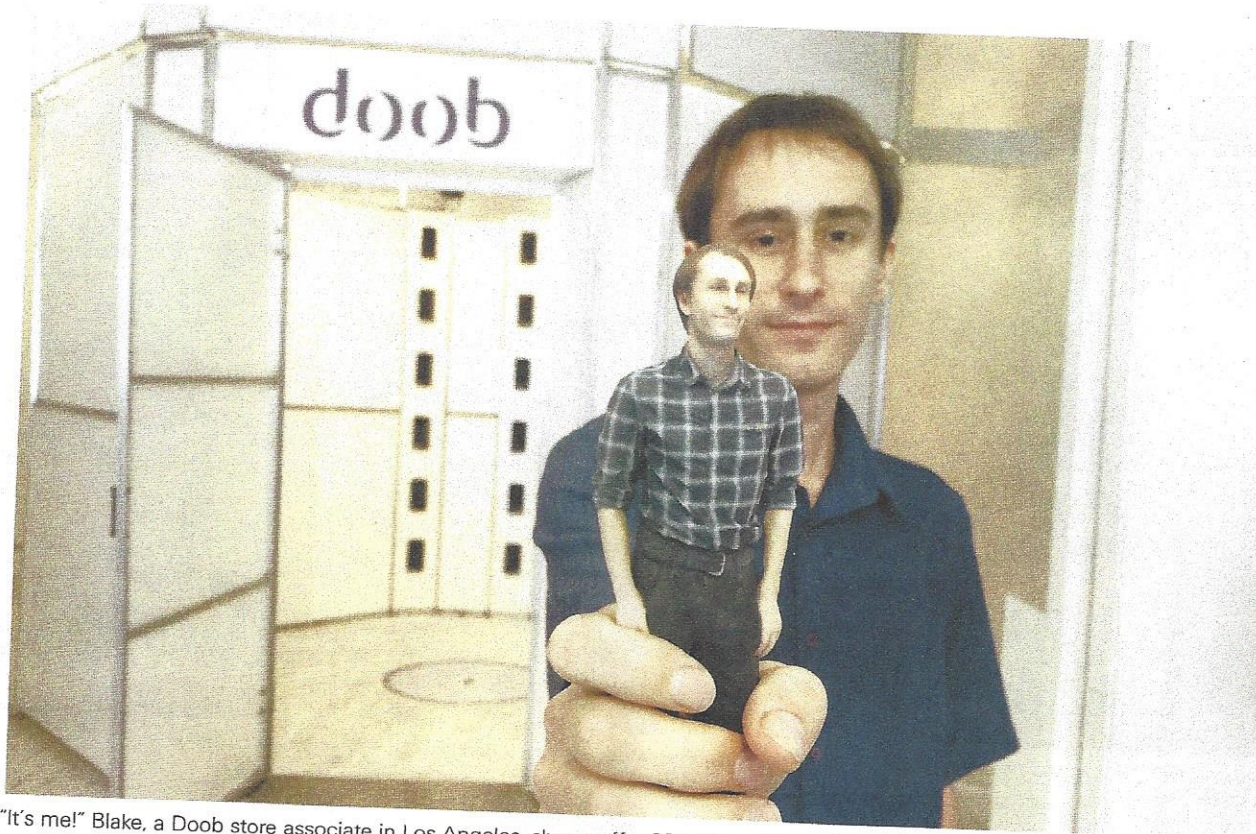
Artisan Betsey Bradley, *right back corner*, had 3D figures of herself and several family members created. Now they can be together every Christmas—in miniature.



Strike just about any pose, and it can be replicated as a 3D figure. This one is by Doob.



Have a favorite pet or pets? They can be included in the scan and the final 3D figure. This trio was "dooblicated" by Doob.



"It's me!" Blake, a Doob store associate in Los Angeles, shows off a 3D figure of himself. Behind Blake is a scanning booth.



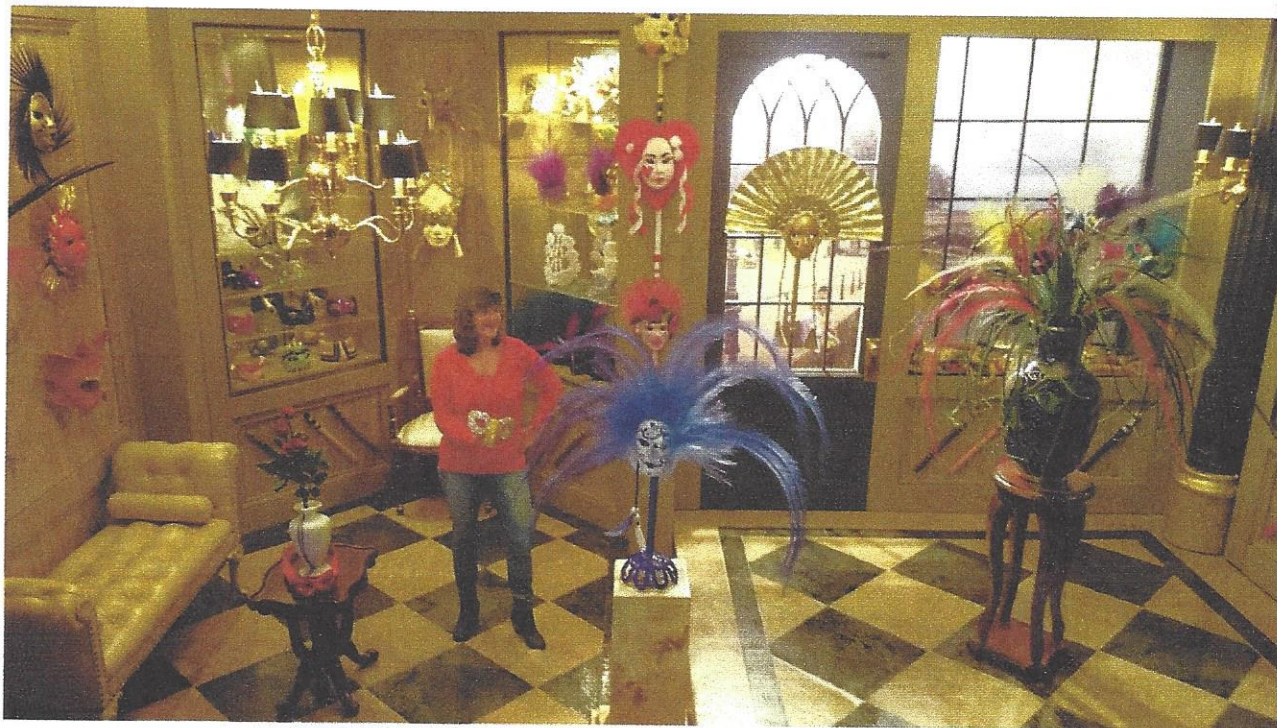
A Holodeck miniature of artisan Betinha Murta greets visitors to her table at a miniatures show. "I have been doing lots of shows around the United States, and my 'mini me' is traveling with me all the time," she says. Betinha creates teapots, cakes, food items and other miniatures from cold porcelain.

boxes and be surprised to see me standing there." She also had a figure made of her husband. The pair of figures cost about \$340.

But to have yourself scanned and turned into a statue, there's one caveat: you have to be physically present wherever the dealer's full-body scanners are set up—either at the business or a show—unless, of course, you pay a premium to have the scanner hauled to you. Sending photos of yourself either won't work at all or won't work satisfactorily—not yet, anyway.

"It can be done, but so far, we have not found a resource who does it well," says Alex Morse of Holodeck, in Kirkland, Washington. "However, we expect in the near future, with photos from all sides, the process and product will be something you will be happy to have."

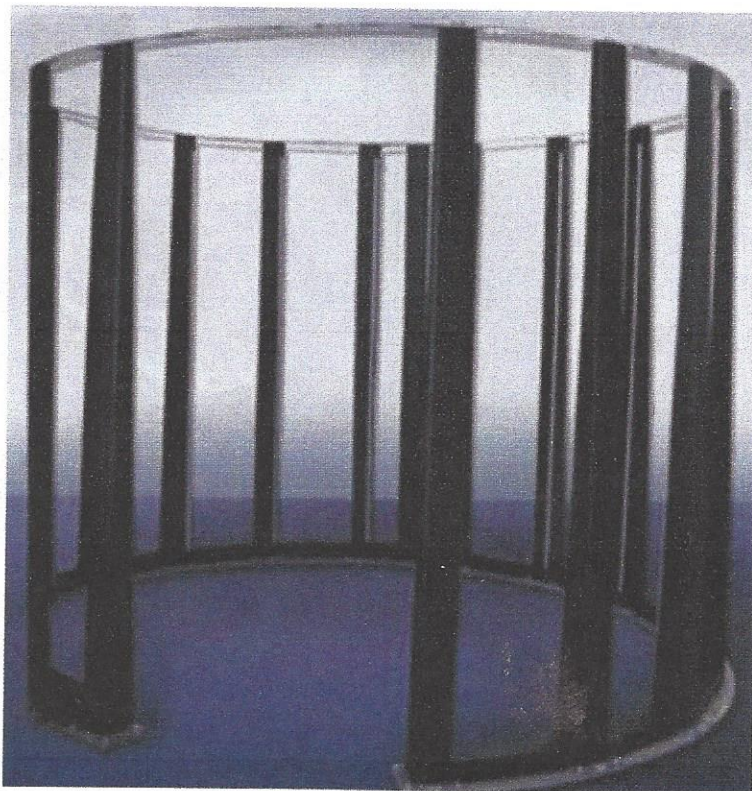
The 360-degree scan itself takes just a split second. Posing inside a booth surrounded by a ring of narrow, vertical scanners, high-resolution cameras capture you from every angle. Have a favorite pet? It can join you in the booth, too.



Miniaturist Kylie Bygland has herself inside her Mask Shop. Her figure is by Holodeck 3D Studios. Figures come with or without a base.

"We have successfully captured scans of dogs, cats, birds and a small goat," says Alex of Holodeck, which has been doing scans since 2015. Scanning objects besides people or pets, however, might be easier said than done. Will of Twindom, which has been in the full-body 3D scanning business since 2013, notes that "our scanners are specialized for people and pets." So are Holodeck's scanners, although Holodeck is experimenting with a handheld scanner for smaller objects. Steven Miller, of Doob, which has been in the business since 2013, says anything that will fit in the center of its booth can be replicated. "If the object is too large for the booth, we can hand-scan the item, but the process is more time-consuming," he says.

From the scan, a three-dimensional model is generated and colorized. Materials used vary. Twindom makes its figures from a gypsum-based powder. Holodeck's images are 80 percent Plaster of Paris and 20 percent other silicas. Doob, which has locations in New York City, Los Angeles and San Francisco, uses a resin-polymer material. So no matter who makes your 3D likeness, if dropped from a table, the figure likely will break. Holodeck says its figures are easily repaired with super glue. But as Twindom states on its website, "While it is fine to



Customers pose inside a ring of scanners, a series of high-resolution cameras that captures their image from every angle.



You can come as you are or dress in just about whatever you'd like. This emergency medical technician had herself scaled down by Twindom.

pass them around at gatherings occasionally, they really should stay on a shelf, your fireplace mantle, or in a glass display case." And for long-lasting color, it's best to keep them away from sunlight and high humidity.

If you're looking for a 1:12 scale version of yourself, you're in luck. But if your interest is in a 1:144 version, sorry. "The reason it's tricky to go smaller is the printers have problems printing fine details in smaller sizes," says Will of Twindom, who will make figures as small as 3". Holodeck will make figures anywhere from 3" (\$49) up to 9" (\$319); Doob prints 4", 6", 8", 10" or 14" figures (\$99 to \$599). PocketMe makes 3", 5", 7" and 9" sizes. Receiving the finished product can take up to three weeks.

As with any new technology, creating true-to-life miniatures of real people has its limitations. According to Holodeck, the accuracy of surface details can vary according to color and texture, with hair and facial features being particularly susceptible to distortion. But as Holodeck's Dawn Morse notes: "I always tell everyone that what I like best is that it can capture the wrinkles in your jeans, but not those in your face." Indeed, the figure of Kylie Bygland's husband is so detailed, "you can even see the outline of my husband's wallet in his back pocket," she says.

Where to Get Scanned

Here are some businesses that offer 3D figures:

Holodeck 3D Studios
92 Kirkland Ave.
Kirkland, WA 98033
425-825-1177
www.HoloDeck3DStudios.com
Dawn@Holodeck3DStudios.com
Alex@Holodeck3DStudios.com

Twindom
1101 Cowper St,
Berkeley, CA 94702
844-894-6366
www.twindom.com
help@twindom.com

PocketMe
1748 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94709
844-433-7226
www.pocketme.com

Doob
980 Lexington Ave.
New York, NY 10021
646-653-5736

108 Wooster St.
New York, NY 10012
347-688-4365

322 S. Robertson Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90048
323-657-3662

235 Gough St.
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-489-0440
www.doob3D.com
contact@doob3D.com

Artisan Betinha Murta, for one, has no regrets. She decided to have Holodeck make a "mini me" of herself for display during shows. She posed with her hands so her "mini me" could hold samples of her cold porcelain miniatures. "People are delighted to see my mini me on my table," she says. "It's me — my 'mini me,' and it's so real. Everybody says that it's incredibly like me!"