



**RØNNAUG PETERSSSEN**  
The Artist and Her Dolls

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**RØNNAUG PETERSSSEN - The Artist and Her Dolls**

By Bodil Petterssen Meleney

The book tells the compelling story of this internationally celebrated Norwegian doll artist. Written in three sections, it provides a short biography of the artist; her childhood in a small fishing community in the Vesterålen islands, above the Arctic Circle; then goes on to chronicle her young adult life; the marriage to Hans Kunze a German painter and photographer whom she met in Spain in 1933; their move to Norway to establish Atelier Rønnaug Petterssen; the very difficult years during WWII in German occupied Norway and continues on to describe her later life. The second section gives an account of the formation of the workshop; how it grew to gain early international acclaim; how Petterssen re-established her workshop after the war to make it flourish again and go on to gain even greater international recognition. The third section details how the dolls were made from the beginning in 1934 until its closing in 1975. The book includes more than 300 photographs, many taken by Rønnaug Petterssen's husband during the early years and not seen till now. The detailed description has been designed to tell the accurate and true story about a remarkable artist and the dolls she created, as well as to aid collectors and others in identifying dolls they own or may wish to collect or study.

The foreword is written by former Head Curator of Textiles at the Norwegian Folk Museum. Dolls are included in collections ranging from the Norwegian Folk Museum; Queen Elizabeth II Doll House, Frogmore House, Windsor Castle to John F Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston, MA,

*"An informative and beautifully photographed book about the much loved dolls created between 1934 and 1975. Over 350 photographs from the author's own collection along with dolls from private collections, notes on the rarest dolls, caring for them and much more add to this comprehensive look at this talented and immensely versatile artist." Antique Doll Collector Magazine, September 2014*

*"An outstanding overview of this important artist. The detailed photographs of the dolls she made are especially outstanding; they give credence to her excellent craft skills. Her work is treasured and collected worldwide." Margaret Paris, Photo Media Artist*

*"(This) is a beautifully written and illustrated book. Meleney's text is clear and engaging, providing readers with a fascinating biography and, with the many wonderful photographs, an excellent resource for deepening our understanding of and appreciation for Petterssen's artistry and for identifying her dolls by age, type and outfit." Sandy Smith, doll collector*

The author Bodil Petterssen Meleney was born in Oslo, Norway in 1941 and is the daughter of this celebrated doll artist. Bodil herself an artist, writer and Professional Herbalist, received her art education at the Art Institute in Chicago and at The Corcoran College of Art in Washington DC. Bodil has authored several articles about health and wellness and also about her mother and the dolls. Her articles have appeared in the Antique Doll Collector Magazine (2011) and Sortland's Historic Society's yearbook (2011-13). She has also lectured about her mother at the Eidsfjord Herring Festival, Norway in 2011 where her mother was born and for the Shaker Doll Club, Albany, NY in 2010 when it visited Washington, DC. She lives and works in Takoma Park, MD.