

SHERRY BURTON-WAYS-BIOGRAPHY

Sherry Burton-Ways is a mixed media, cloth doll artist who has re-discovered the depths of creativity within doll making. With her skill and inventiveness, Ways expresses reflections of her life experiences through the designs and makings of her one-of-a-kind, soul dolls of folkloric influence and redefined essences of ethnicity and originality.

The term *One of a Kind Soul Dolls*, a name Ways describes her work, is a perfect description of her journey as a doll artist. In what was the beginning of Ways first in encounter of doll making, was the beginning of Ways ascertaining more of herself, her life purposes, visions and insights, through the creativity of doll artistry. She became to understand the true meaning of purpose; the purpose to answer and to respond to the imageries from the creative forces from within, forces of which Ways calls “the voice of the soul”. Ways uses various mediums such as vibrant cotton fabrics to craft body forms, some of which have an African design to them; beads, of which she uses in an innovatively artistic way to create connections between forearms and ankles with feet; yarns to give the dolls an origination of ethnicity and authenticity.

Each of Ways dolls are presented as a spirited work of art. Her dolls seem to communicate the human emotions and experiences within the complexities of life. A special keepsake to the doll collector who long for dolls that seem to represent the rudimentary existence of people within the surroundings of the world. All who come in contact with her work will experience doll artistry that was made from the cloths of the voice of the soul.

Her work have been published in “**Black Dolls: A Comprehensive Guide to Celebrating, Collecting and Experiencing the Passion**” by Debbie Behan Garrett, **Doll Castle News Magazine** and **Soft Dolls and Animals Magazine**. Recently, Burton-Ways doll art and biography is included in the book **Hot Flash** (August 2010) by noted doll artist, Pamela Hastings. In June 2010, Ways’ work was auctioned to benefit Haitian earthquake efforts for the Links Inc. of Delaware at the Delaware Museum of Art in Wilmington, Delaware.

In 2010, Sherry taught a mixed media doll making class for the Smithsonian’s Anacostia Museum in Washington, DC. In January 2009, Burton-Ways lectured on mixed media doll art and techniques to an art class of homeless people sponsored by Art for the People, an organization whose focus is to teach the homeless and displaced populations art classes in shelters around the Washington, DC area.

Works by Sherry Burton Ways are included in private collections of noted Washington, DC area doll and art collectors such as Lucy Murray of Washington, DC, Philadelphia gallery owner Florcy Morrisett of the Vivant Art Collection, Mr. and Mrs. Scott of Ellicott City, Maryland and doll collector Cassandra Rush of Columbia, South Carolina.

Ms. Burton Ways has recently participated in juried exhibitions and art festivals in Honolulu, Hawaii, Fremont, California, Washington, DC, Philadelphia, PA and Columbia, Maryland.

Ways works primarily out of her art studio, Passageways, in Riverdale, Maryland and resides with her husband and cat “Paka” in Washington, DC.

SHERRY BURTON-WAYS-BIOGRAPHY
