

International Doll Makers Society

Competition Rules

The IDMS is an independent organisation founded by doll makers for doll makers. The following is an outline of awards, rules and regulations used for all IDMS competitions. As categories can change please carefully read through the entry brochure for each competition.

Every doll entered into competition will receive a comprehensive critique sheet to offer guidance. Each entrant may only submit one doll per Category. You may enter as many competition categories as you wish, but only one doll per category.

Awards

The awards made in each category are 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, Costume Award and a Popular Choice Award voted for by the convention delegates.

There are also a number of special awards:

Judges Choice Special Awards

Pink Tudor Rose Award - Best overall Costume Antique

Pink Tudor Rose Award - Best overall Costume Modern

Blue Tudor Rose Award - Best Antique Reproduction Doll

Blue Tudor Rose Award - Best overall Modern Doll

The Francois Theimer Chalice of Excellence – This is presented to the most outstanding Classic Antique Reproduction Doll selected from those awarded 1st place in each of the Classic Antique Categories. UK Only

International Doll Makers Society Trophy for Outstanding Modern & Antique Reproduction Dolls – This is presented to the most outstanding Modern/Antique Reproduction Doll selected from those awarded 1st place in each of the Modern/Antique Reproduction Categories.

International Doll Makers Society Cup – This very special award is awarded not just to a doll, but also to the doll maker for their outstanding contribution to dollmaking.

Eden Award – This is a special award chosen by the Competition Director and can be awarded to any doll in any category. UK Only

Dolls entered into the Tableau sections must be displayed on a base. The base should be no larger than 16" by 16". Dolls in groups but not on a base will not be permitted entry.

Small accessories are allowed for example parasol, teddy, gloves, bags etc, these must be firmly attached to the doll. Loose items not secured to the doll or stand will not be permitted.

Each doll will be supplied with an entry ticket, this should show the doll maker's name, address and Category being entered. These can be supplied on the day for late entries, some entry tickets will be sent to doll makers on receipt of their competition entry forms for completion in advance.

General

All dolls must be inscribed with the doll maker's mark and the year (4 digits i.e. 2011) in which the head was made, in the greenware stage. Unsigned dolls will not be permitted entry into the competition. Doll makers are required to prepare their own bisque, i.e. eye cutting, cleaning and painting the doll. Please cover your name with masking tape prior to the competition, once you have won an award we will then check that the name corresponds with the tag, if however you have not put your name on, then the doll will not qualify, for any titles.

Categories

The IDMS Competition is divided into different Sections, Classic Antique Reproduction Dolls, Modern Reproduction Dolls and Special Categories Inc.Original.

Classic Antique Reproduction Dolls

This is for dolls created using moulds taken from antique dolls, i.e. Steiner, Jumeau, Bru and Kestner. Dolls entered into this section must be made from molds taken from antique dolls that were in production between 1860 and 1930. You must use appropriate bodies, eyes and wigs to make an accurate reproduction. Dolls must be made using new materials, please do not use old bodies, wigs, eyes or costumes. Vintage material and lace may be used when making the dolls costume. **Please submit a copy of the worksheet or picture you used as reference in creating your reproduction doll.** Judges are looking for an accurate portrayal of the doll as it would have been when originally manufactured and artificial ageing and distressing is not permitted in IDMS Classic Antique Doll Categories. Please remember the use of **old wigs, eyes, bodies and costumes is prohibited.** Dolls should not be artificially aged "dirtied" to make them look older.

Modern Reproduction Dolls

Dolls made using commercially available modern artist moulds should be entered into this section. If you are reproducing a doll as the artist intended then you must use the correct component parts, head, shoulder plate, arms, legs or all porcelain body. The doll should also be painted in the correct style and dressed identically to the original artist design. You must submit a copy of the picture you used to reproduce the doll.

If you are making your own interpretation, you may use limbs from a variety of doll molds. The criteria is that the finished doll must be and look in proportion. This type of doll may be painted and dressed as you desire. Those painted in a fantasy or abstract manner must be entered into the correct categories.

Special Categories

These may vary from competition to competition. Examples could be a theme to compliment the convention, porcelain half dolls or porcelain pieces.

Please observe the rules and restrictions, to ignore them may lead to disappointment when trying to enter your doll into the competition.

Awards and Judging

The IDMS has a panel judging system and a popular choice award selected using a delegate voting system.

The judging panel selections are made before the delegate popular choice is revealed. The Competition Manager and competition staff have no influence over the judging and the details of the Popular Choice vote are kept secret until all other selections have been completed.

Judges selection

1st, 2nd and 3rd award in each Category will be selected by the IDMS panel of judges. Each doll will be given a full critique and a written sheet with the outcome will be provided.

Costume Award recipient will also be chosen IDMS Judges. This is awarded to one doll in each category in both the Classic Antique and Modern Reproduction Categories. To be eligible for the Costume Award the entire ensemble must be the work of the doll maker. The Costume Award is judged by a specialist judge and completed separately to the judging of the rest of the doll, as a result it may be possible that a doll that has won no other awards may receive the Costume Award.

Star Awards are made to dolls that the Judges felt deserving of particular merit. They form the foundation of the IDMS Award System.

Judges also select the recipients for four special awards

Pink Tudor Rose Award - Best Costume Antique

Pink Tudor Rose Award - Best Costume Modern

Blue Tudor Rose Award - Best Antique Reproduction Doll

Blue Tudor Rose Award - Best Modern Doll

Popular Choice Award this will only be made in a category with more than 3 dolls entered. All delegates will receive voting slips for the Popular Choice Award. They will then be invited to select which doll they think deserves a prize in each category, delegates vote for one doll in each category only. The votes are counted and the doll with the most votes in each category will receive the Popular Choice Award. In the event of a tie, both dolls will receive an award.

To enter the IDMS competition the doll must be entirely the work of one person. The doll should be cleaned, painted and assembled, be it on a cloth body or assembling onto a purchased composition body by the entrant. Those not wishing to be considered for the Costume Award, may use a purchased costume.

It is permitted to purchase poured greenware from a third party but from that point the doll must be the work of the doll maker only. It is understood that not all doll makers have their own kiln and it is allowed to have work fired with a fellow doll maker or in a studio.

Do not enter dolls made at a seminar or under direct instruction from a teacher into the IDMS competition. It is acceptable to accept guidance for example, materials to use, paint colours and use of reference material etc.

Ethics are an important part of doll making and it is important that these standards are maintained. It is unacceptable to claim credit for work that is not the work of the doll maker. Any one found to be entering work that is not their own will be disqualified and could also have the membership of the IDMS revoked.

The IDMS will uphold all of these rules and regulations in our competitions. Please read through them carefully and if you have any question or need clarification, please contact the Competition Manager for the event you are attending.