



Balloon Girl

Doll: 3½" tall; balloon: 9"
 Elizabeth Howard
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The inspiration for this piece comes from lines in a poem by Graeme King:

"I think that I might fly away, in my hot air balloon,
 And hide from worldly worries on the dark side of the moon"

Elizabeth constructed this doll by first making a wire armature skeleton using chenille stems. After wrapping the stems with embroidery floss, she deconstructed several faux flowers and rearranged them to create a skirt. In between the petals she added layers of tulle. The skirt was fastened to the wire body, and a bodice was crafted using scraps of material and trim. She glued the outfit to the armature and stuffed it with cotton batting. For the doll's head, an antiqued wooden ball was mounted to the top of the armature and then embroidery floss hair and beads were added.

"I built a hot air balloon using an ornament and wire. I painted the balloon and draped the top portion with tulle mesh," explains Elizabeth. "I glued trim and chenille stems that I'd antiqued around the circumference of the balloon. A ribbon flag adorns the top of the balloon. I crafted the basket from a metal bucket wrapped with crepe paper and chenille stems."

Tightrope Walker

Doll: 2¾", entire piece: 9½"
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A quote from novelist Edith Wharton inspired this piece: "Life is always a tightrope or a feather bed. Give me the tightrope."

Elizabeth began by making a wire armature skeleton using chenille stems wrapped with embroidery floss. Then she deconstructed several faux flowers and rearranged them to create a skirt. After adding layers of tulle, she glued the skirt to the wire body. She made a bodice using scraps of material and trim, which was glued to the armature and stuffed with cotton batting. An antiqued wooden ball was attached to the top of the armature for a head. Embroidery floss hair and a tinsel headband were added. A paper parasol was painted, glittered, trimmed with pom-pom fringe, and then placed in the doll's hand.

"When the figure was complete, I bent wire into the shape of a tightrope. I covered a round box with a silky skirt, lace, and pom-pom trim, then attached the tightrope to the box," explains Elizabeth. "Finally, I balanced the doll on the wire and glued her in place."

