

creating a new art form

By Carmi Cimicata

Shopping for girly dresses and shoes is the best way to spend the afternoon!

Shoes are the bestest... specially shiny, black ones!

When you see soup cans in a painting you probably think of Andy Warhol's artwork. We often think of Van Gogh when we see thickly painted sunflowers. Soft pastel water and flower scenes will usually bring to mind the name Monet.

Art styles are often associated with one or several artists – most artists spend a lifetime developing a style that was uniquely their own. They are forever associated with the imagery they create and those that follow them are often

and imagery. She is a generous instructor who shares her techniques willingly with students who are anxious to learn how she does what she does on a canvas. For many aspiring collage artists, taking a class with Claudine is a life goal. For those who cannot travel to a workshop, her two published books are a favourite substitute, *Collage Discovery Workshop* and *Collage Discovery Workshop-Beyond the Unexpected*. Claudine's books are well written, beautifully photographed and the artwork, as you might expect, is inspiring.

"Don't worry little Poppet, everything will work out."

compared. When discussing new pieces of art, it would not be uncommon to hear the phrase "this piece is in the style of...."

To be first in the art world is very difficult. It seems like everything has already been done by some artist at some point in history. That's why it is so incredible to stumble across an artist who is responsible for a brand new style – an artist such as Claudine Hellmuth.

Claudine is already well established as a collage artist. She has been a popular art instructor for years and many of her students have been influenced by her choice of materials

In 2002, Claudine began drawing some fun pencil sketches of family and friends. She was reminded of something her Grandmother used to say; "Don't worry little poppet, everything will work out." Suddenly, the sketches had a name. She called them her Poppets™.

During a scheduled instructional event hosted by Christina Lazar Schuler, Claudine unveiled Poppets™ to her peers. This unveiling resulted in collaboration between Claudine and Christina as the two artists agreed to manufacture and sell Poppets™ through Christina's company, Lazar StudioWERX.

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Poppet™ People

by Claudine Hellmuth

When asked about the new collection Christina said, "Since the Poppets™ literally debuted in our living room as sketches during an Artwerx instructor's dinner, we felt it was appropriate to take Claudine's artwork full-circle and introduce it not only to our art friends but to the masses who already love her and her art!"

papers that have been created for the scrapbooking and paper art world.

Claudine is really excited to see what scrapbookers will do with her papers, die cuts and rubber stamps, "What I like best about it is the way people can customize their art with the

"...that looks a lot like a Claudine Hellmuth Poppet™!"

Claudine's Poppets™ do not look like anyone else's art. They have been called whimsical and fresh – they are a completely new style. In the years to come people will be saying, "...that looks a lot like a Claudine Hellmuth Poppet™!"

different accessories and backgrounds, and really make it their own. Also, it's a totally different way of scrapbooking. It is sort of like taking scrapbooking out of the 'box' and the usual formats people use."

Over the past two years, Claudine has been taking commissions for Poppets™. You can send her a photo of a loved one, or a whole family and she will put them into a scene after creating a new family out of paper, fabric, paint and ink.

As a paper arts teacher and full time artist, I am anxious to get my hands on the collection. I see many Poppet™ cards, layouts and canvases in my future. I am certain that anyone given the chance to spend time with the Poppet™ collection will have many hours of enjoyment. I know that my own family will be featured in many layouts this year inspired by the Claudine Hellmuth Poppet™ style.

Together, Claudine and Christina have made it possible for everyone to create their own original Poppet™ artwork using the newly released die-cut rubbers and stamps

For more information about Claudine Hellmuth, please visit her website at <http://www.collageartist.com/portfolio.htm>.