

DOLL ARTISAN GUILD® GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR DOLLS & DOLLMAKING

A

Angular Shader – Flat brush with angled tip. Used for smooth application and shading.

Antique Doll -- Generally speaking, a doll 75 years old or older.

Artisan – A craftsman.

Artist Doll -- Doll or mold created by contemporary artist for the commercial market.

Articulation -- The mobility of limb joints on a doll body.

Authentic Reproduction – Doll re-created with a genuine resemblance to the original.

Automatic Shut-Off -- The device that shuts off the power to a kiln when it has reached the proper firing temperature.

Automaton/Automata – Mechanical doll(s), generally doll on a base with movable head and limbs. Spring mechanism, concealed in base or torso, is wound by key.

B

Ball-Jointed -- A term used to describe a doll body with separate balls in the joints. The form usually resembles that of a child.

Bébé -- French term for doll depicting a child.

Bent-Limb -- A term used to describe a doll body with bent arms and legs. Usually applies to a baby body. Circa 1909.

Beveling -- The act of rounding out the eye sockets inside a doll head.

Bisque -- Unglazed porcelain with a matt surface. In dolls it is sometimes tinted a flesh color.

Bonnet Doll -- Doll with molded bonnet or cap.

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Breather -- Doll with pierced nostrils.

Bristle Brush -- A stiff bristle brush used to clean greenware.

C

Casting -- The act of filling a mold with porcelain slip.

Character Doll -- Doll sculpted to look like a child with natural--not stylized--features.

China Doll -- Glazed porcelain doll. The surface is shiny.

China Paint -- A low-fired decorating medium. Can be applied to unglazed or glazed bisque.

Clean-Up Tool -- A tool used to remove seam lines from the greenware.

Closed Mouth -- Mouth is not open.

Composition -- General term for doll body material.

Cone -- A clay form used in the kiln to measure the amount of heat received by objects during the firing process.

D

Dimensional Doll Painting (DDP) -- Technique for painting modern dolls in life-like (portrait) style with facial and body contour shading.

Doll Artisan/Certified Doll Artisan -- Title given to DAG members who have completed Apprentice courses I, II, and III.

Dome Head -- Head with no opening in the top. Usually rounded on the top, with molded hair.

Draining -- The process of removing excess slip from a mold.

Dust-free Technique -- Method for cleaning soft-fired ware without creating dust.

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E

Element -- The heating coil in a kiln.

F

Fan Brush -- A fan shaped brush made of bristles. Used to paint hair or simulate texture.

Fashion Doll -- A doll dressed in the fashion of the time, usually a lady doll.

Fettling -- The act of removing mold lines from greenware.

Filbert Blender Brush -- Full, oval brush used to blend color.

Firing -- The heating process used for hardening clay and maturing greenware and for fusing china paint to porcelain.

Firing Sand -- Fine sand used as a separator on kiln shelves to allow doll parts to shrink without warping during hard bisque firing. Also used as a propping agent. Reusable.

Flange Neck -- Neck with a rimmed edge which can be directly attached to a cloth body. Usually a baby.

Flirty Eyes -- Eyes that move from side to side when the head is tilted.

Flux -- A white powder that can be added to china paint to help it bond to the porcelain when fired. It also adds gloss to the paint when fired. It causes unfired paint to move more freely over the porcelain.

G

Glaze -- A substance applied to greenware or bisque to produce a glass-like, vitreous surface when fired to maturity.

Glaze Brush -- A soft bristle brush used to apply glaze.

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Googly Doll -- Doll with proportionately large eyes turned to one side. Eyes can be either glass or painted.

Greenware -- A clay object before bisque firing.

H

Head-Torso Doll – Head and torso are one piece.

Hydrated Alumina -- A white powder sprinkled or piled on a kiln shelf to allow the porcelain to move and shrink without warping during bisque firing. It is reusable.

Incising -- The act of signing and dating a doll head by carving into the greenware.

Intaglio Eyes -- Painted eyes that have the pupil and part of the iris recessed.

J

Junior Cone -- Cone used in the sitter of a kiln. When the junior cone reaches maturity, it bends and the kiln shuts off.

K

Kaolin -- A very white clay used in formulating porcelain slip.

Kiln -- The heating chamber used to fire clay objects and glazes to maturing temperatures.

Kiln Furniture -- Posts and shelves used in kilns to optimize use of space.

Kiln Sitter -- Device that uses a junior cone to shut kiln off at desired temperature.

Kiln Wash -- A protective material applied with a brush to the shelves and kiln support of a kiln. Used as a separator to keep objects from sticking to the shelves and warping during the bisque firing stage.

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L

Layette – Wardrobe for a baby doll.

Leather Hard -- The term that refers to damp greenware. It holds its shape, but is not dry.

Liner -- A fine, long-haired brush. Used basically for lashes, brows and other fine lines.

Lustre -- Decorating medium used over fired glaze for iridescent effect.

M

Marotte -- Decorated doll head on a spindle or stick. Makes music or sound when twirled.

Medium/Media -- Liquid(s) used to mix and extend the life of china paints.

Modern Doll Artist -- Title given to DAG members who have completed Beautiful Doll courses 1, 2 and 3.

Mold -- The hollow form into which slip is cast or pressed in order to form various doll parts. The mold is made of potter's plaster.

Molded Hair -- Hair that is sculpted to be a part of a doll's head.

N

Nichrome Wire -- Wire which does not melt under the extreme heat of bisque firing. Used for making hooks for stringing dolls.

Nodder -- All-bisque doll with only the neck jointed.

O

Oil-Base Technique – Using oil-based media for china painting.

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Opaque -- Not see-through.

Open-Closed Mouth -- Mouth that looks open, sometimes having teeth, but with no actual opening into the head.

Open Mouth -- Mouth which has an opening into the doll's head.

Original Doll -- An artist's original model from which a master mold is created. Dolls cast from the master mold are reproductions. Only the first doll is the original.

Overall Wash -- Flesh-tone tinting of bisque surface. Usually the first china paint firing.

Overfired -- Misfiring of the kiln which results in excess temperature. Overfired porcelain is shiny, blistered and pitted. Color is fired out.

P

Palette Knife -- A small flexible knife used to mix and condition paint on a palette.

Painted Eyes -- Eyes with a smooth, painted surface.

Paperweight Eyes -- Eyes that have a dome of clear crystal over the front. Usually found in French dolls.

Parian Doll -- Doll made of fine, white unglazed bisque with no flesh tint. Features, hair and cheeks are painted. Some have glass eyes.

Pate -- Dome-shaped cover for doll heads with cut out crowns.

Peep Hole -- The opening(s) on the side or top of a kiln. Used to let gasses escape and for observation of the firing progress.

Pierced Ears -- Ears having holes pierced through them for earrings. Sometimes the holes are straight through the lobes, sometimes through the ears into the head.

Plugs -- Forms used to close the peep holes during firing.

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Porcelain -- A manmade combination of clay and other materials that form a vitreous surface when fired to high temperatures. Usually translucent after firing.

Porcelain Prop -- A fibrous material used to support doll parts during the bisque firing process. Handle with extreme caution.

Portrait Doll -- Doll with facial features similar to those of a particular person, i.e. Jenny Lind.

Post -- Item of kiln furniture used to support kiln shelves.

Pyrometer -- An instrument used in the kiln during the firing process to measure the temperature inside the kiln.

R

Reproduction Doll -- Doll recreated from a mold made from an original or antique doll.

Rochard Paste -- White china paint used for decorative painting of dolls, tea sets, jewelry, etc. When thickly mixed with medium it retains a raised, three-dimensional effect. Comes in matt and gloss.

Rouging -- The process of blending of color into the background.

S

Seams/Seam Line -- Outline in casting where the mold halves meet.

Self Supporting Cone -- Witness or guard cone used to gauge firing temperature.

Shoulder Head -- Head and shoulders are one unit.

Shoulder Plate -- Plate is separated from the head by a neck joint.

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Sleep Eyes -- Eyes that move up and down, giving the impression of opening and closing.

Slip -- Ceramic clay in liquid form.

Socket Head -- See SWIVEL HEAD.

Soft-Firing -- Partial bisque firing (to cone 018 or 019 in kiln sitter) for preparing ware for Dustfree cleaning.

Spare -- The section of a cast piece used to control and gauge the thickness of the greenware. Removed and discarded.

Sprigging -- Attaching cast or hand-formed decorations onto a clay body, i.e. flowers in hair, etc.

Square Shader -- Brush with straight chiseled edge. Used to apply a large area of paint or for special decorating techniques.

Stilt -- Object used to support ware in a kiln so that the painted or glazed surface does not touch the kiln shelf.

Stippler -- Round brush with straight or angled edge.

Super Doll Sponge™ -- Soft, fine-grained synthetic sponge for applying overall wash, also for other painting and paint removal.

Swivel Head -- Head that turns on a shoulder plate or composition body. Also called a SOCKET HEAD.

T

Thermocouple -- The part connected to a pyrometer that measures the exact temperature in a kiln.

Thermal Shock -- A sudden change in temperature inside the kiln during cooling stage. Results are hairline cracks and shattering.

Tinting -- Applying a wash or light coat of color to bisque.

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Translucent -- Allowing light to pass through, but is not as clearly as if it were transparent.

Transparent -- Allowing objects to be viewed clearly through it, such as glass.

U

Underfired – An object fired to a temperature not high enough to properly mature the clay body. Pieces appear chalky, have a porous feeling and improper color.

V

Vitreous, Vitrified – Non-porous, water-proof, changed into a glass-like substance.

W.

Warpage – Distortion of shape by rough handling after casting, or by uneven heating and shrinking during the firing.

Waterbase Technique – Using water-based media for china painting.

Witness Cone – Cone used to monitor a firing. Usually three are used – Guard cone, firing cone and another guard cone.

Wobbly Tongue – A tongue made from plaster, composition or porcelain, cemented onto a spring that enables it to move.