

## **A Celebration of Soulful Dolls**

**Robin Patricia Hickman**  
**Doll Visionary, Artist, Photographer & Collector**

### **The Soulful Doll Journey**

Gallery exhibit or social media visitors will experience "life-styles in miniature", inspiring doll artistry which uniquely presents positive and powerful imagery of family, community and history, with a splash of social commentary. The artist's vision and passion for realism and attention to detail, comes through in her intricately re-styled dolls, handcrafted accessories and props, displays, and photography. Guest at a recent exhibit titled *We're Pretty in Pink Too: A Celebration of Soulful Dolls*, which featured dolls on beaches, sightseeing in New York, and tributes to family members, Travon Martin and music icon Prince, had this to say...

"A miniature masterpiece!"

"Wonderful and inspiring... Filled with joyful purpose."

"Thank you for sharing and inspiring with these striking images."

"... the collection reflects soulful beauty."

"You've addressed love, justice issues, community, family memories and more."

One of Robin's greatest passions is her divinely inspired artistry and collection of multi-ethnic fashion dolls. In 1995, she launched *RealTouch: A Celebration of Soulful Dolls*, which presented her original re-styled fashion dolls, handcrafted furnishings and accessories (hats), stationary, and photography of the lifestyle scenes. Over the past 25 years Robin, Executive Producer and CEO of SoulTouch Productions, has used the RealTouch "community" in motivational presentations to promote the "power of play" and creativity, nurture positive self-esteem, and inspire the appreciation of ethnically diverse images and life-styles. The "folks" of RealTouch have been admired throughout the United States, Africa, Mexico, the Caribbean and Europe. They are frequent guest at SoulTouch's *Lovin' the Skin I'm In* sessions, hope and healing movement for girls and women of all ages. Her collection has been featured on HGTV's *Collectible Treasures*, in the Star Tribune newspaper, the Mpls/ St. Paul Magazine and displayed at the Guthrie Theater during its run of the play "Crowns".

In 2016, following her first gallery exhibit at The Saint Paul Gallery, titled We're Pretty in Pink Too: A Celebration of Soulful Dolls, she spent the summer studying a variety of doll styling techniques to perfect her artistry. Robin's display at the exhibit honoring the legendary Prince, got the attention of Shelia E, and the Soulful Dolls "Purple Reign's: The Beautiful Ones" tribute was invited to be featured in Shelia's Purple Philanthropy Music and Arts Celebration, which was a benefit event for Minneapolis organizations Prince graciously supported. Robin's display featured a customized Sheila E doll (complete with drum set), and gifted her a doll in her likeness. The following month, Twin Cities United Way and Microsoft sponsored the A Celebration of Soulful Dolls Exhibit at The Gathering: Women of Color Expo, and in February thru March of 2017, DOLL POWER!: A Celebration of Soulful Dolls exhibit was presented at the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach Center Gallery. In March of 2017, Robin traveled to Ghana, West Africa to facilitate Lovin' with girls and young women. She was blessed to witness their joy when they were gifted restyled Soulful Dolls and photos in their likeness. Robin also enjoyed photographing the Soulful Dolls in various locations, especially adorning them in Mark Ruffin's brilliant Black Dolls Matter T-shirts! She's proud to be collaborating with him on his new vision, Black Dolls Matter Magazine. In October of 2018, Robin partnered Dream Girl Boxes and She Save a World Ministries, and donated 130 Soulful Doll framed portraits to girls in Kenya. She is the recipient of the 2017 Detroit Black Doll Show Award and was recognized by the Black Doll Affair Movement's Amabassa Doll Award for Doll Diorama Artistry and Photography. She joined BDA when it launched 11 years ago.

Her collection and artistry has been featured on the HGTV series Collectible Treasures, Twin Cities Public Television documentary Close the Gap: Race Disparities and Minnesota Public Radio, and in the Star Tribune newspaper, Mpls./St. Paul magazine, the Huffington Post. Robin's dolls styled and profiled in their costume designed miniature millinery (hats) on displayed at the Guthrie Theater during it's presentation of the play "Crowns". The Soulful Doll Crowns Collection have sold as "hat pins" at select Twin Cities gift shops. The A Celebration of Soulful Dolls: Lifestyles of Peace, Hope & Love Collection of stationary and framed photography will be available hospital, boutiques and grocery store gift shops.

**Items for Purchase**

Re-styled Multi-Ethnic Dolls and Accessories  
Framed Photography of Doll in Life-style Scenes  
Note Cards of Dolls in Life-style Scenes