

C. ALANA TIBBETS SHORT BIO

Carmen Alana Tibbets grew up in rural New Mexico, belonging to one of the last generations of girls required to take years of Home Economics in school; this provided her with a strong foundation in sewing techniques. She was an undergraduate at New Mexico State University, earning Bachelor's degrees in Microbiology and Biochemistry. She went to graduate school at Arizona State University, where, in addition to earning her Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology, she started a quilting guild at the university.

After moving to Illinois in 1998, Alana taught biology at SIU Edwardsville for six years, and now works at the public library. While living in IL, she has taught quilting classes at local quilt shops, natural dyeing workshops at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, nature-craft workshops at the Watershed Nature Center, and doll-making workshops for the Missouri Textile Artists Guild.

Alana is self-taught as a textile artist and utilizes a combination of traditional and innovative techniques to construct and embellish her work. In addition to using recycled cloth (mainly wool, silk and linen clothing), she hand-dyes many of the fabrics she uses. Her main body of work is comprised of semi-articulated and wall-mounted cloth figures. Her figures can be seen in galleries throughout the United States, have appeared in *500 Handmade Dolls* by Lark Books, and were featured in the October 2008 issue of *Mary Englebreit's Home Companion* and the upcoming Spring 2014 issue of *Art Doll Quarterly*.

Although she resides in Illinois, Alana spends a considerable amount of time in New Mexico and the Southwest, working on her adobe home, tending her orchard, researching plant and animal subjects for her artwork and driving around enjoying the blue sky and open desert.