



**DOLLS BY BERNIECE ALDERMAN
AND RHONDA HOLY BEAR**



Photo courtesy of artist

"The art of doll making was taught to my mother by my grandmother, and my mother taught me. My mother started making dolls when she was in her 30's. I guess I like to keep her memory in continuing to make the dolls."

—Berniece Alderman
Flandreau, South Dakota

Photo courtesy of artist

"I feel it is important for others as well as myself, to learn about our cultural past, and the dolls are the bi-product of a learning process interpreted in miniature. In turn I hope that my work would stir interest in the minds of others to learn about Indian culture."

—Rhonda Holy Bear
Chamisal, New Mexico





COVER: DOLL, woman, 1984, fully beaded dress, with brass conch belt, human hair, 15" tall, made by Rhonda Holy Bear.

TOP LEFT: DOLL, 1984, man with beaded buckskin vest, leggings, moccasins, 15" tall, made by Berniece Alderman.

BOTTOM LEFT: DOLL, woman, 1984, with beaded buckskin dress and beaded accessories, carrying fully beaded baby carrier; woman 16" tall, made by Berniece Alderman.

BOTTOM RIGHT: DOLL, Ghost Dancer, 1984, painted muslin dress, beaded leggings and moccasins, 16" tall, made by Rhonda Holy Bear.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR • INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS BOARD
SIOUX INDIAN MUSEUM AND CRAFTS CENTER



NATIVE AMERICAN DOLLS BY BERNIECE ALDERMAN AND RHONDA HOLY BEAR

An Exhibition, March 24 to May 3, 1985

Berniece Alderman, of Santee Sioux descent, was born June 14, 1952 at Pipestone, Minnesota. She was born to Ted and Berniece Taylor who were both accomplished craftspersons in their own right. Ms. Alderman attended school at Flandreau, South Dakota.

The art of dollmaking was taught to Berniece by her mother, who learned from her mother. Berniece is carrying on the family tradition not only for heritage sake but in memory of her mother, who started making dolls when she was in her thirties. Dressed in the 1800's Sioux style, the dolls' outfits are made of materials such as buckskin, cloth, beads and hair. The female dolls are clad in beaded buckskin dresses or cloth dresses, beaded leggings and moccasins, porcupine quill earrings and necklaces, and beaded accessories such as belts, awl cases with bone-handled awls, amulets, strike-a-light bags and sometimes they carry a fully beaded baby carrier on their backs. The male dolls are clothed in either beaded shirts and leggings of buckskin or cloth costumes with appropriate accessories such as beaded knife sheaths with knife, beaded pipebags, headroach and beaded moccasins. Berniece has exhibited her dolls in Colorado and California, and is represented in numerous private collections. Berniece Alderman currently resides in Flandreau, South Dakota with her two children, Clayton and Jennifer.

Rhonda Holy Bear was born December 15, 1959 on the Cheyenne River Reservation. She attended Beadle Elementary School, Mobridge, South Dakota, later moving to Chicago, Illinois and graduating from Little Big Horn High School in Chicago.

While in Chicago, Rhonda was a traditional arts demonstrator and teacher in an American Indian cultural program presented to high school students.

Through research and many visits to museums, galleries and private collections, Rhonda undertook the design and production of her dolls to better her understanding of her ancestors' culture and history. Each doll is carefully created with great concern for minute detail. The materials Rhonda utilizes include buckskin, cloth, hair, shells, quills, feathers, and bone.

Rhonda has exhibited her dolls in many galleries including the Museum of the American Indian in New York City in 1983 and the C.N. Gorman Museum, University of California, Davis, California in 1984. Her dolls are represented at the Case Trading Post, Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Return Gallery, Taos, New Mexico; and the American West Gallery, Chicago, Illinois. Her dolls are also represented in numerous private collections.

Rhonda currently resides with her husband in Chamisal, New Mexico.

The handmade Native American dolls created by Berniece Alderman and Rhonda Holy Bear are authentic in every detail and are a contemporary statement reflecting the traditions of the American Indian.

This Special Exhibition, organized by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board's Sioux Indian Museum and Crafts Center, is one of the most extensive showing of dolls by Berniece Alderman and Rhonda Holy Bear to be shown in the State of South Dakota.

Prices of dolls for sale may be obtained upon request from the Tipi Shop Incorporated, a non-profit educational organization operating the Indian arts shop housed in the Sioux Indian Museum and Crafts Center. The Tipi Shop's address is Post Office Box 1542, Rapid City, South Dakota 57709. Telephone: 605/348-8128.