

Miniature Collector

**ARTISTS,
PROJECTS,
PROFILES,
SHOWS AND
AMAZING
COLLECTIONS**

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Three Needle-
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DISPLAY UNTIL APR 15

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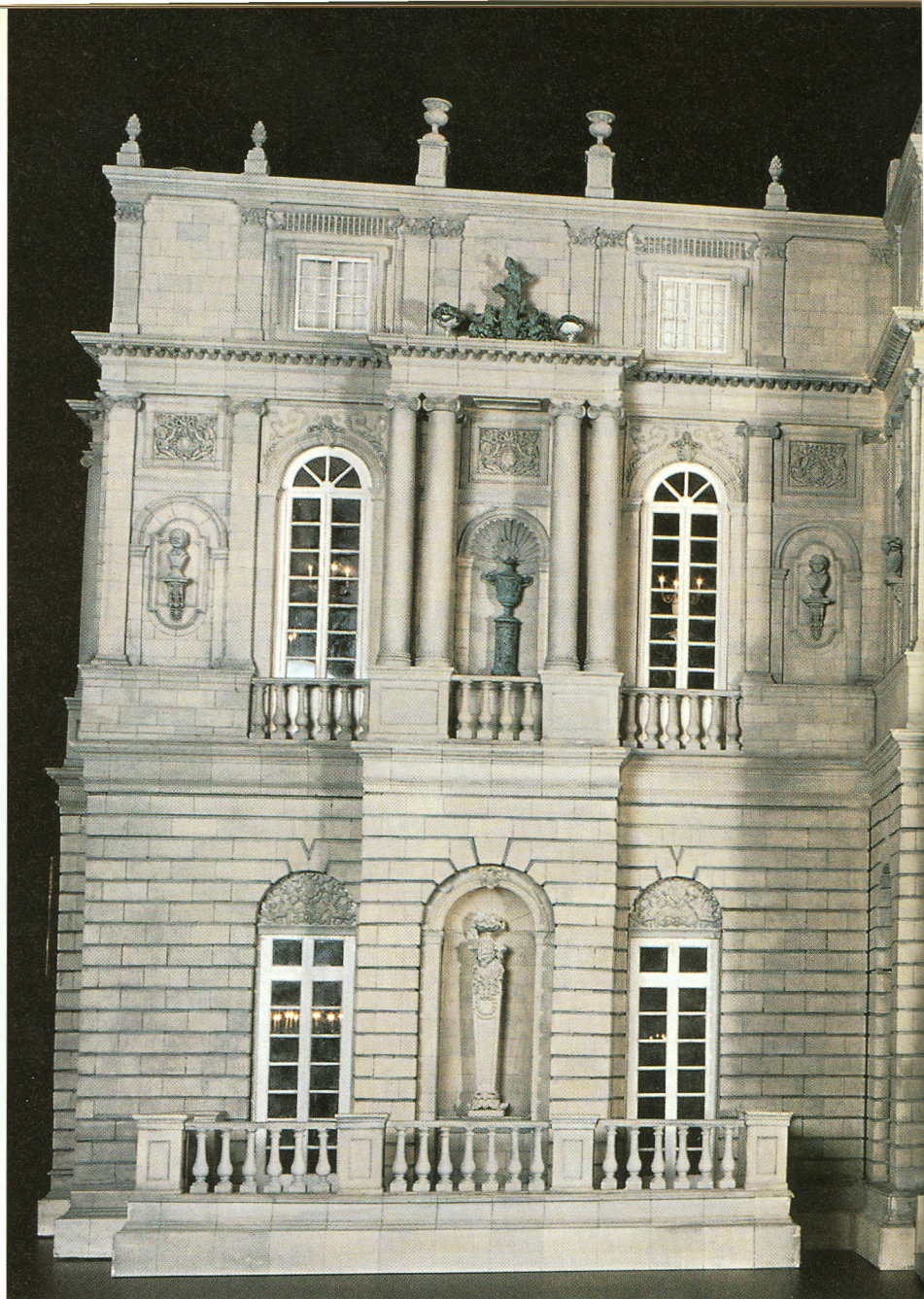
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Miniature Collector

GALLERY

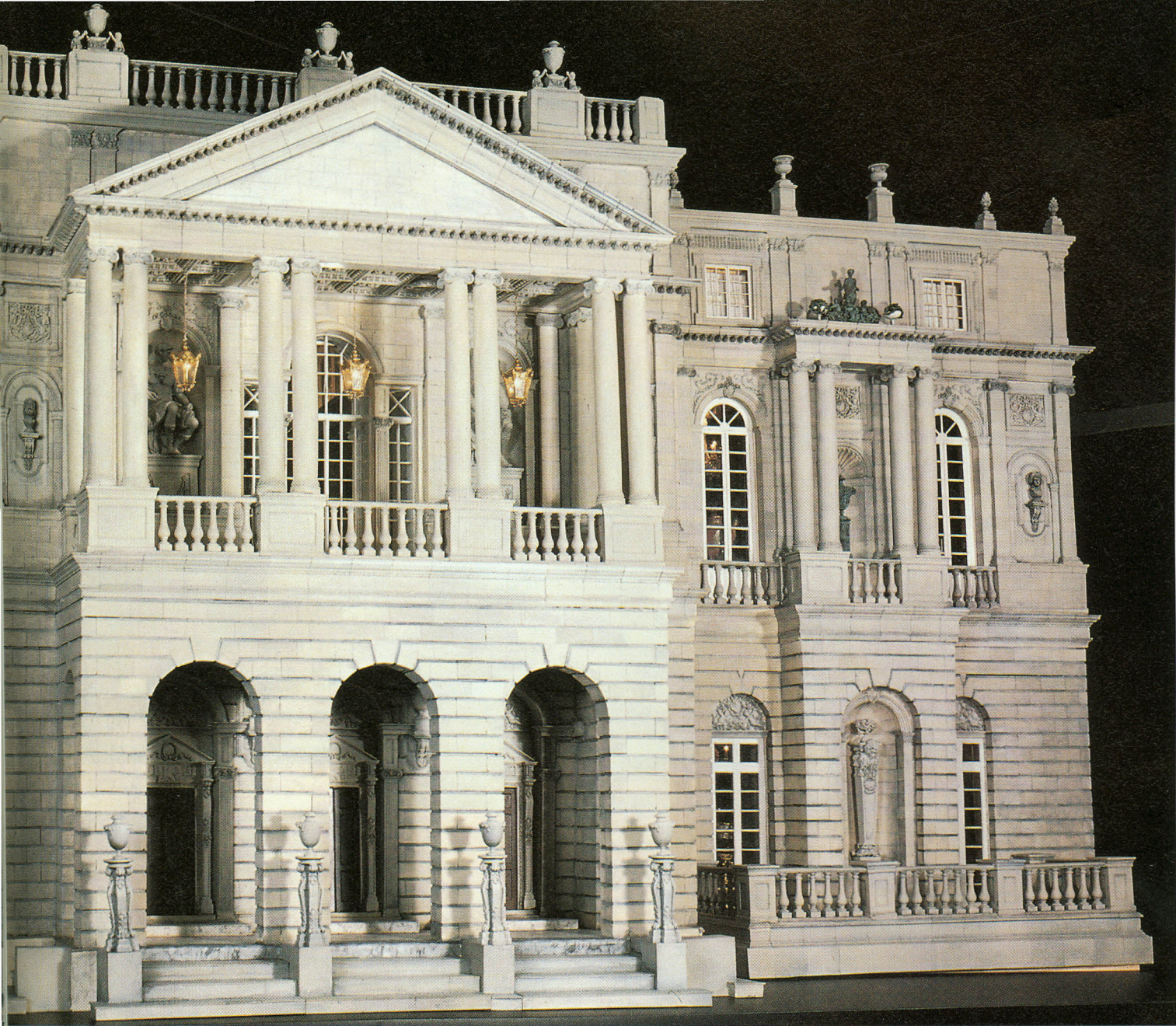
Welcome to our gallery of fine miniatures. Take a walk through a fabulous palace by Ron Hubble that is on display at the Carole and Barry Kaye Museum of Miniatures. With Jo Moore Stewart, celebrate the centennial Olympic games. Tiptoe in to Joan Warren's *A View from Marseilles* so you won't disturb the parakeet perched on the little girl's fingertip. Enjoy your visit with all our miniature collectors!

We are eager to discover exceptional collections and invite you to let us know about yours. Please send a brief description of your special project, telling how it evolved, along with spare snapshots to: Miniature Collector, MC Gallery, 1060 W. Norton Ave., Muskegon, MI 49441. Photos cannot be returned.



Above, an exterior inspired by the gardens at Versailles and an interior that incorporates elements of France's Versailles and England's Osterley Park House harmonize to become *The Museum of Fine Art* by Ron Hubble. Hubble said he had a fantasy drawing of the structure when Carole Kaye of the Carole and Barry Kaye Museum of Miniatures bought one of his roomboxes. Carole asked if Ron could build his fantasy; Ron said he'd try. Four years later, this neoclassical palace was installed at Carole's museum.

"The exterior is the most technically virtuosic part of it," Ron said as he pointed out striped recessed stonework that follows around the entire structure. Even keystones above the windows meld into the recessed surround. "I was striving for a massive quality," Ron said. Therefore, his walls measure 2-3 inches thick rather than the standard $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch of dollhouse scale. The palace's dimensions are: 110 inches wide, 49 inches deep and 50 inches high.



Photos by Mary and Tom Kaliski

Carole is filling the palace, inside and out, with scale-size sculpture, paintings and other objects. Ron said their discussions established an intent to create a building based on private, endowed museums where combinations of decorative and fine arts would be displayed.

Right, even the side of the building offers architectural delights. An arch outlines a recessed display area while stately columns flank a view into one of the galleries. "I really enjoy working with vistas," Ron said. A person in what he calls the Adams Room can see through to the other side of the palace.

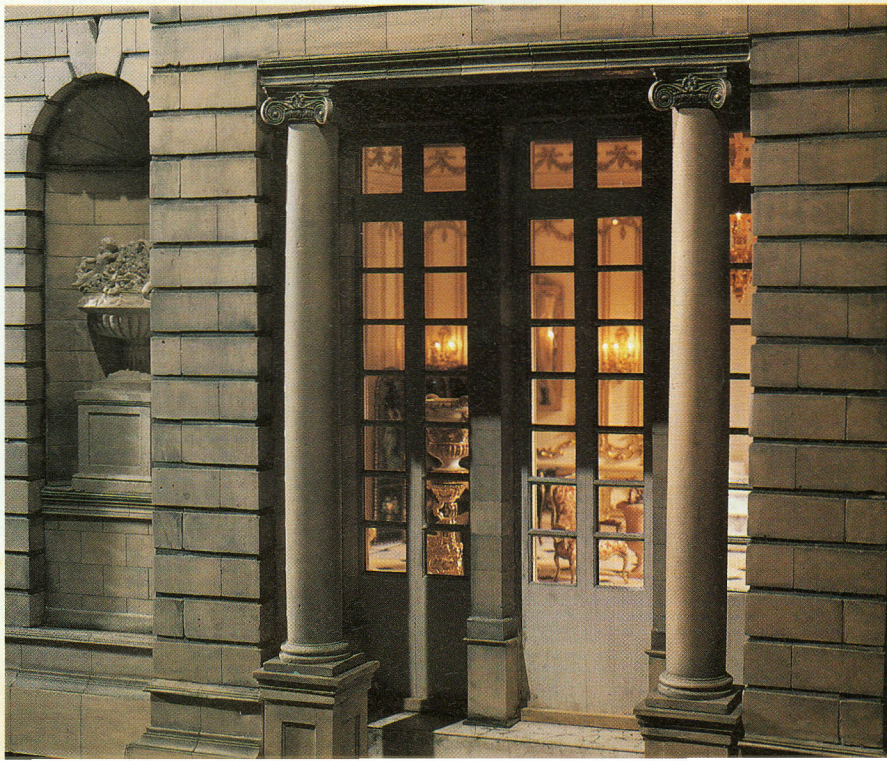




Photo by Mary and Tom Kaliski

Above, the Grand Entrance Hall is so big Ron sat inside it when installing the palace at the museum. This most time-consuming and technically difficult part of the palace incorporates a second-story colonnade, a clerestory and a series of arches, each of which can house a sculpture beneath its apse. Phyllis Tucker provided neoclassical medallion masters attributed to late 18th-century model maker, James Tassie. Ron used the masters to make molds for the bas relief detailing. The basic layout was inspired by the chapel of Louis XIV at Versailles; the color scheme and ceiling by the entrance hall of Osterley Park. Statues are from the Louvre.

Upper right, Ron hand painted the faux marble columns and walls in the Marble Room, one of four galleries within the palace. The black and white floor is a solid piece. Ron spent three months hand painting it to resemble inlay. His torchères are copies of fixtures at Versailles. Ron bought some of the statuary for the room at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. "Sculpture in that scale is very rare," he said. "Most sculpture is too big."

Right, each of the galleries in the palace evoke the feeling of a different 18th-century European architectural style. In the French Room, black diamond designs in the actual inlaid tile floor are faux marble. Jean Claude Martin crafted the chandelier and wall lights especially for this room. Rick Compton, Bill Cambron and Brian Ciscell assisted Ron with marbleizing, casting, construction and electrification of the palace.





Photos by Mary and Tom Kaliski

