

# Sausalito artist creates small wonders

BY CHRISTOPHER LADDISH  
*Marinscope contributor*

Sausalito artist Susan Perry-Hinkle's work bridges the gap between art and craft. Her miniature houses are the result of months—even years—of meticulous effort.

They feature intricate details: vintage dollhouse furnishings, hand-laid tile floors and commissioned recreations of paintings by major artists.

Perry-Hinkle didn't play with dollhouses when she was younger and didn't have one of her own until her own children had grown up.

Her latest project features over 40 one-of-a-kind whimsical structures in the shape of the Eiffel Tower, with sometimes surreal themes and backgrounds, such as an eerie Eiffel Tower in a spider web or a tower all fitted out to celebrate last year's royal wed-

ding of Kate Middleton and Prince William.

Perry-Hinkle will hold her first gallery opening, featuring selections from the Eiffel Tower series, on Feb. 29 at Coquelicot From Provence in Larkspur.

The Eiffel Tower project began on a whim in January 2011 when Perry-Hinkle was shopping for supplies at a San Rafael craft store. "Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a [balsa wood] Eiffel Tower on the wall. And that was it. I bought all they had," she said. The artist put out a call to friends and family across California to find more wooden towers of the same variety. She eventually accumulated 120 wooden Eiffel Towers.

"It was a year of total insanity," Perry-Hinkle said. "You couldn't eat, you could barely cook, you couldn't do laundry because there were Eiffel Towers everywhere!"

## Special exhibition

A "Leap Into Paris Gala" exhibition of original Eiffel Tower prints and cards was scheduled for Feb. 29, 6-9 p.m., at Coquelicot From Provence, 503 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur. The Eiffel Towers not sold then will be displayed for one week. For more information, call Coquelicot From Provence at 924-0279.

Perry-Hinkle employs a variety of artistic techniques to express each theme, including decoupage and assemblage. She adorns the towers with festive shapes and colors and puts them in whatever unlikely settings suit her fancy.

Perry-Hinkle worked



CHRISTOPHER LADDISH/MARINSCOPE

**Sausalito artist Susan Perry-Hinkle's** decorated miniature Eiffel Towers will be on display at Coquelicot From Provence in Larkspur.

with photographer Marybeth Adkins of San Rafael's NaturaLight Photography to shoot the Eiffel Tower series. The two collaborated to create photomontages of each Eiffel Tower, rather than simply using a plain background.

Each tower was given a background that reflected a theme. Perry-Hinkle and Adkins were so pleased with the results, they produced a

See **EIFFEL TOWER A2**

# EIFFEL TOWER: *Decorated miniatures not sold at Larkspur gala will be on display all week*

## *From A1*

series of full-color cards and prints, available for purchase. The collection may be viewed on the artist's website, [ruedesuze.com](http://ruedesuze.com).

Perry-Hinkle started creating miniatures around 15 years ago, after filling her home with antique French furniture. "Eventually, there was no more room," she said, so "I figured I had to start recreating things in small scale."

"I love France," she said.

"I love to create everything French."

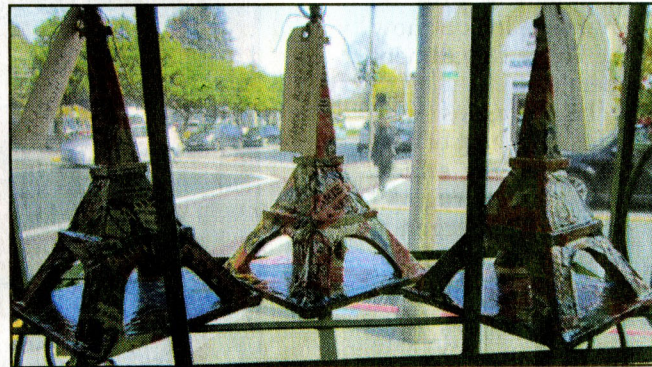
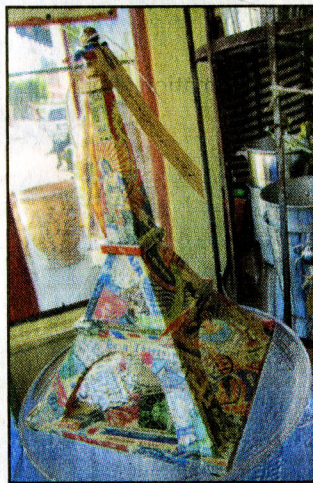
The artist became enamored of French art and antiquities after working in the home of a neighbor in her native Sausalito. "It all started when I was about 14 and I went to work for this wonderful couple who lived in a 33-room mansion," she said. Lillian and Teddy Williams hired Perry-Hinkle as a household employee and she remained working there into adulthood. "

Perry-Hinkle said Lillian Williams was an early admirer of French country furniture.

"I learned more working with this couple than I ever did in college getting an architectural and art history degree," she said. Perry-Hinkle studied at College of Marin in the 1970s.

*For more information about the artist, visit [ruedesuze.com](http://ruedesuze.com).*

*Contact Christopher Laddish at [scope@marinscope.com](mailto:scope@marinscope.com).*



CHRISTOPHER LADDISH/MARINSCOPE

**Tower power:** Susan Perry-Hinkle's decorated miniature Eiffel Towers will be on display at Coquelicot From Provence in Larkspur.