

## **Jane Freeman speaks about her miniature Beauty and the Beast sets and what inspired her about the series ...**

I made the B&B miniatures in the late 80's and early 90's. Each took a different length of time, depending on complexity, from a few minutes to a few months.

I stumbled on B&B by accident, probably like many people, when I chanced upon an episode ("An Impossible Silence"). Shortly after that, a newspaper ad announced Ron Perlman's upcoming appearance at a record store to promote "Of Love and Hope." I went, and was amazed that the line wound around an entire city block. As I waited to meet him, I began talking to fans around me, who told me the story of the Pilot. I didn't know a thing about the series.

Soon I got a video of the Pilot, and immediately began building Vincent's Chamber. Eventually I completed more than 15 scenes, mostly out of found objects. (Many are reproduced in my book, *The Art of the Miniature*, Watson-Guptill, 2001, available from Amazon \*.)

I began to go to the conventions, and people found out about the miniatures and at one point asked me to bring to the next convention, "Catherine's Place," which was enormous - 36" square - and very delicate, with hundreds of components. It shows every detail we actually see on camera, including the hallway with the elevators, but not places we don't see, such as the kitchen. Around the periphery is movie-making paraphernalia, including movie cameras (made of batteries), dollies (model train tracks), lights, craft service, wardrobe, etc. Beneath the balcony is an object that symbolizes each episode.

The photographs of the miniatures don't capture all the details, of course, but you can get some idea of what they are like.

What attracted me about the sets on the show most of all was atmosphere -- the blue light of New York City, the golden light below, and the actual and symbolic contrasts between the conventional world above and its alternate below -- an archetype, I think, that refers, among other things, to the hidden locus, perhaps the heart or the anima, beneath one's external persona.

Some sets have been sold, others dismantled, a few are still here.

*\* Note: The book is only available through Amazon dealers. It was very popular and sold out, but the publisher decided not to reissue it.*

**Visit Jane Freeman's Feature Gallery  
- in the Set Miniatures category of the Treasure Chambers Museum**

