

Your Vibe Attracts Your Tribe

They say that your vibe attracts your tribe and that couldn't be truer of the dolls and i'm sure of many other leagues. It turns out us derby folk are a creative bunch from knitting, baking, jewellery making, painting and felting. Name a craft and i'll find you a doll that can do it. I believe that there is not a single thing we couldn't turn our hands to cause we are triers, doers, problem solvers and kick ass makers as well as players!

Derby has in lots of ways allowed me to show off my creative talents and passion for baking. I have always been a crafter. I love being creative. I've tried my hand at many things (scrapbooking, cross stitch, jewellery making, knitting and the list goes on and on and on and on). I am also a big geek, I'm lucky that I can combine my love of all things geeky and crafting. One of my many crafty pursuits is finding unusual geeky cross stitch patterns. Here are some of my favourites!

Recently I have found a passion for needle and wet felting. Wet felting is the process of layering wool fibres generally merino wool to build up a picture or 'felt



painting' and then using warm soapy water and agitation usually rolling the painting in a bamboo mat to fuse the fibres together. Needle felting creates felt pictures or 3D sculptures without the use of water but by using a special needle to force the wool fibres into a pre felted background or into each other to create a 3D shape. My wonderful friend Jo runs needle felting workshops, details can be found at patchworkpuddleduck.weebly.com, should any of you lovely readers be interested in learning the process. The world of derby has in many ways helped me find and define my style within needle felting. Most of my work is old school tattoo inspired and the derby community has so many wonderfully and beautifully tattooed folk form which to draw inspiration. Derby has helped me become a more

confident person, I love

skating and I love pushing myself, seeing what my body can do and feeling the fear (you want me to jump what?!) and doing it any way! This confidence has been slowly seeping out into all aspects of my life, for a long time I have wanted to and been encouraged to try and sell my crafts. Recently I decided to set up my own Etsy Shop, somewhere to sell my feltings. So last month AHeartFitToBurst opened up for business. It's scary putting something you have



created out there into the world for people to judge but thanks to derby I have the confidence to take that leap.

I've learned so much since joining LDD, not just how to skate and kinda play the game (I'm still learning) but how to fold an origami crane, make a pom pom into a sheep and I'm sure there are many more crafting adventures to come...

I've found my tribe in more ways than one.

Tea x