

February 4, 2008

Artist Interprets Life Stories in 3-D

*Jenny Higgons
Putnam Magazine*

Ever want to give a piece of art that pops off the canvas? Literally. Sheryl Entwistle's company, Living Celebrations, uses meticulous 3D visual-art pieces to tell people's life stories. Just over the Putnam line in LaGrange, her firm creates sculpture art unlike anything you've seen before. Imagine a miniature model of grandma's first home, or a silver briefcase to symbolize a retired businessman's work ethic, or models of beloved childhood toys (bicycles, ponies, games).

One family recently hired Entwistle to create a biographical work of art for the 70th birthday of their mom, Shirley Crouch. After hours of interviews with friends and relatives (each masterpiece requires at least 10 hours of research), Entwistle and her creative team of artists, writers, calligraphers, and sculptors spent a day coming up with ways to visually represent the mother's life. The result: 28 hand-embellished Christmas ornaments depicting her history, as well as an accordion book with her life story written in calligraphy, with burnished-gold lettering. Crouch was expecting only a simple scrapbook.

Sure, the works are costly-\$15,000 to \$20,000 (one client even spent \$65,000!)-but Entwistle says that they'll also act as heirlooms. In other words, your very own personal Rosebud (454-5110; livingcelebrations.com).
