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August/September 2007

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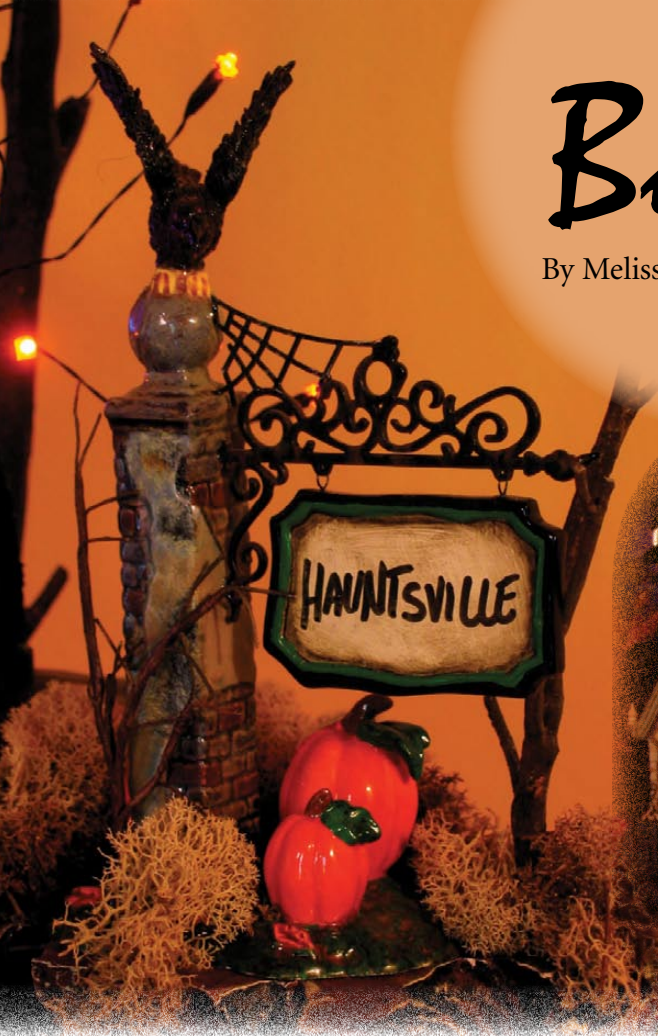


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Boo-tiful

By Melissa Campbell

Collector Displays



Although most village collectors came into the hobby because of their love for all things Christmas, another holiday has begun to draw increasing amounts of attention (and display space!). Halloween displays have become more and more popular with village collectors in recent years, and Department 56 has responded by adding new pieces each year to their spooky-yet-delightful Snow Village Halloween series.

If you are a collector who has been bitten by the Halloween village bug, check out these three creepily creative displays by *Village D-Lights* readers and get inspired with new ideas for your own!

Jerry Robredo

You'd never know it from looking at his amazingly detailed, three-tier Halloween display, but Jerry Robredo is fairly new to the villaging hobby.

"I spotted the 'Ghostly Carousel' in 2003 while shopping a department store," stated Jerry. "Instantly, I fell in love with the scary piece and I was amazed at the detail. Soon after, I discovered Department 56. I'd seen the Christmas villages but never knew that a Halloween series existed."

Jerry's excitement over the piece is not surprising, given that Halloween is his favorite holiday. "I am thrilled to have a creative and challenging hobby that explores my macabre inclinations. Every year I learn new skills and tech-



niques to make my 'Hauntsville Village' better and scarier." Not only is his Halloween display a great creative outlet, he claims that the best part of it is that he now has "a legitimate reason to think about Halloween all year long — from the coming up with the theme and planning the village, to hunting down new pieces." It is definitely a full-time hobby.

Because Jerry lives in a small house and didn't have a lot of room for a huge display (something many collectors can relate to), he decided to build up instead, and the idea for his three-tier display was born. He bought a standard 4 x 8 square foot piece of plywood and had the lumber store cut it into seven pieces according to his measurements. He then assembled the pieces into a corner unit, making great use of previously wasted space. After cutting Styrofoam™ to fit each tier he added hills and valleys with more Styrofoam and added texture with a foam cutting tool. He painted a dark sky background on the inner walls, and added details like moss, grass, and stones throughout the display.

All his hard work certainly pays off. "My friends are always surprised at the Halloween village," said Jerry. "They can't believe that I built the structure and sculpted the foam with such careful attention. 'You made this?' they say with bewilderment."

Jerry, who recently relocated to San Jose, Calif. after seven years in San Francisco, is not involved with a club yet, but is anxious to connect with other Halloween village enthusiasts. If you'd like to see more pictures of Jerry's display or contact him through e-mail, he encourages you to visit his Halloween website at www.myscaryhalloween.com.



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