

MOM'S JOY ROOM

2964 Fairmont Road, Morgantown, WV 26501 | (304) 282-3671

CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Signed Artist Cloth Doll Pair — Boy & Girl in Matching Sailor Suits — Renata D'Asti



MARKET VALUE

\$150–350

Signed D'Asti folk art cloth pair, private/shop market

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$300–500

Collector ceiling for a signed matched D'Asti sailor pair in good condition



Renata D'Asti — Signed Artist Cloth Sailor Doll Pair

Handmade Folk Art Collectible Cloth Dolls — Boy & Girl — c.1980s–1990s

ARTIST SIGNATURE

Signed: "Renata D'Asti" — written in ink on the leg of the doll. Renata D'Asti is an artisan known for her collectible, handmade folk art cloth dolls, gaining popularity primarily in the 1980s and 1990s. Her pieces are highly sought after by collectors for their charming, nostalgic appeal. The cursive script of "D'Asti" can read as "Diash" in certain lighting conditions — a point worth noting for authentication purposes.



*Renata D'Asti signed cloth sailor pair, c.1980s–1990s
15" tall — hand-painted hard faces, stuffed cotton bodies
Matching cream sailor suits with red trim
Signed "Renata D'Asti" in ink on leg*

HISTORY

Renata D'Asti emerged as a notable figure in the American folk art cloth doll movement during the 1980s and 1990s — a period of remarkable revival and growth in the handmade doll collector market. The 1980s saw a surge of interest in artisan cloth dolls as collectors and decorators turned toward nostalgic, handcrafted pieces that evoked the warmth and craftsmanship of an earlier era. Artists like D'Asti filled that demand with skill and personality, producing dolls that felt rooted in tradition while

bearing the unmistakable stamp of a living, working artist's hand.

D'Asti's dolls are characterized by their **soft, stuffed cotton cloth bodies, yarn or curly mohair hair**, and most distinctively, their **hand-painted hard faces** — a construction technique that gives each doll a firm, expressive facial structure while keeping the body soft and poseable. The faces carry a stylized, slightly vintage quality: wide-set painted eyes with careful lash detail, rosy cheeks, and a gentle, knowing expression that collectors find immediately appealing. Each doll is individually hand-dressed in clothing sewn by the artist herself, making every piece a one-of-a-kind creation.

This pair — a boy and girl in **matching cream sailor suits with red trim and matching hats** — exemplifies D'Asti's skill in both doll construction and costume design. The sailor suit was a enduring classic of children's fashion, popular from the Victorian era through the mid-20th century, and D'Asti's interpretation has a charming period accuracy: the cream cotton with red braid trim, the flat-top sailor hats, the coordinated boy's shorts and girl's skirt — all hand-cut and hand-sewn. The curly blonde wigs, the rosy painted cheeks, the blue painted eyes — these are the hallmarks of a D'Asti original.

The dolls are signed directly on the leg in ink — a practice common among individual studio cloth doll artists of the era, distinguishing their hand-signed originals from the mass-produced collectible dolls flooding the market during the same period. A signed D'Asti pair in a matched, coordinated format like this is a particularly desirable find for collectors of American folk art cloth dolls.

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ◆ Artist: Renata D'Asti — artisan folk art cloth doll maker, popular 1980s–1990s
- ◆ Type: Matched artist cloth doll pair — boy & girl in coordinating sailor suits
- ◆ Height: 15 inches each
- ◆ Construction: Stuffed cotton cloth bodies, hand-painted hard faces, curly yarn/mohair wigs
- ◆ Costume: Matching cream sailor suits with red trim and flat-top sailor hats — hand-sewn by artist
- ◆ Signature: "Renata D'Asti" signed in ink on leg — confirms as

original artist piece

- ♦ Era: c.1980s–1990s — peak period of D'Asti's folk art doll production
- ♦ Condition: Faces bright and undamaged; costumes clean, intact, and well-preserved

Collector's note: Renata D'Asti cloth dolls are collected for their handmade quality, nostalgic charm, and the unmistakable personality of the artist's hand. Signed examples are the most desirable, as they provide direct authentication by the maker. A matched boy-and-girl pair in coordinating costumes — especially in a classic format like this sailor suit pairing — is among the more collectible configurations, appealing to folk art doll collectors, cloth doll specialists, and nostalgic decorators alike. The cursive "D'Asti" signature can appear to read as "Diash" in photographs — this is a known quirk of her handwriting style and does not affect attribution. Market Value reflects realistic shop/private-sale pricing; Estimated Worth reflects what a dedicated D'Asti or folk art cloth doll collector would pay for a signed, matched pair in this condition.

"Two little sailors, hand-sewn and hand-signed — a matched pair of charm carrying the artist's name on their very legs."