

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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

CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

"Sleep & Awake" Handmade Folk Art Rag Doll Pair



MARKET VALUE

\$60–110

Realistic quick-sale price for the pair, private/shop market

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$125–200

Ceiling for folk art rag doll specialty collectors



15" handmade folk art rag doll pair — girl (sleeping eyes) and boy (awake eyes), brown yarn hair, cotton clothing

"Sleep & Awake" Folk Art Rag Doll Pair

Handmade, Unmarked — Vintage Era

HISTORY

The Raggedy Ann character was created by American writer and illustrator Johnny Gruelle in 1915, introduced through his 1918 storybook, with a companion brother, Raggedy Andy, following soon after. The simple rag-doll silhouette — yarn hair, a triangle-shaped nose, a wide painted or embroidered smile, and soft cloth limbs — became one of the most beloved and widely imitated doll forms of the 20th century, produced both by licensed manufacturers (Georgene Novelties, Knickerbocker, Applause, and others) and by countless home sewers and small folk-art makers who created their own unbranded versions using commercial patterns or original designs.

This charming 15" pair of handmade rag dolls follows that beloved Raggedy Ann & Andy silhouette closely — yarn hair, triangle nose, wide embroidered smile, and simple cotton clothing — but carries no maker's label or manufacturer's mark of any kind, identifying it as an unbranded, homemade or small-batch folk art creation rather than a licensed

Georgene, Knickerbocker, or Applause production (a separate, licensed 1940s Georgene Raggedy Ann & Andy pair is also part of Sandy's collection, certified individually). The pair's standout feature, and the detail that sets it apart from virtually all mass-produced Raggedy dolls, is its thoughtful "sleep & awake" design: the girl doll is stitched with closed, sleeping eyes, while her companion boy doll has his eyes stitched wide open and alert — a sweet, deliberate touch that was clearly a conscious creative choice by whoever made this pair by hand, rather than a manufacturing variation.

Handmade folk-art rag dolls of this kind occupy a wonderful niche in doll collecting: while they lack the maker premium of a licensed line, they are prized specifically for their individuality, handcraft quality, and charming personal touches — qualities a factory-produced doll can never quite replicate. The sleep/awake pairing here elevates this beyond a simple homemade Raggedy tribute into a genuinely thoughtful piece of folk art.

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ✦ 15" matched pair, soft cloth bodies with brown yarn hair
- ✦ Girl doll: embroidered closed/sleeping eyes, apron-style dress and bloomers
- ✦ Boy doll: embroidered open/awake eyes, button-front shirt and shorts
- ✦ No maker's tag or mark — unbranded folk art/homemade construction
- ✦ Matching burgundy cloth shoes on both dolls
- ✦ Distinct from Sandy's separate, licensed 1940s Georgene Raggedy Ann & Andy pair

Collector's note: Because this pair carries no maker's mark, its connection to the "Raggedy Ann & Andy" name is stylistic rather than a confirmed licensed attribution — this is best classified as unbranded folk art / homemade craft work in the Raggedy Ann tradition, not an authenticated licensed product. Unmarked rag doll pairs of this type are valued primarily on charm, handwork quality, and completeness rather than maker premium; the sleep/awake detail here is an appealing, uncommon touch that meaningfully adds to the pair's collectibility as folk art, supporting a value above a typical unbranded rag doll pair.

*"One dreams, one watches over her — a
handmade pair keeping quiet company through
every nap and every waking hour."*

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Certificate Issued: July 2026

Sandy Wade, Proprietor

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