

MOM'S JOY ROOM

Where Obsolescence Ends and Wonder Begins

2964 Fairmont Road • Morgantown, West Virginia 26501 • (304) 282-3671

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY & APPRAISAL

Camille — 26" Wax Artist Doll by Odile Segui

Masterpiece Gallery Limited Edition, 2001 • Wax-over-Cernit

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$150 – \$275

Examples complete with original box, COA, and companion animals command a premium above this range.



Camille — her expressive open-mouth sculpt, seen up close



Camille in her white eyelet-lace gown on her original display pedestal

History & Background

Odile Segui is a celebrated French doll artist whose work sits firmly within the great tradition of European artist dollmaking — a lineage built by sculptors who treat each face as a portrait rather than a product. Segui is best known for her wax-over-cernit technique: a doll's head and limbs are first sculpted in cernit, a fine polymer clay capable of extraordinarily lifelike detail, and then finished with a

delicate coating of wax that gives the skin its soft, translucent glow — a technique with deep roots in the historic European wax-doll tradition, reimagined for the late twentieth century. Her dolls have been featured in books on contemporary French doll artistry and are held by collectors internationally for their realism and expressive character.

Masterpiece Gallery was among the best-regarded distributors of limited-edition artist dolls of the 1990s and early 2000s, bringing the work of celebrated sculptors — including Odile Segui and Jane Bradbury, whose pieces also appear in this collection — to American collectors through fine gift and doll retailers. Each release was produced in a stated limited edition, individually numbered, and issued with a certificate of authenticity from the originating studio.

Camille was one of Segui's releases for Masterpiece Gallery in 2001, issued in a limited edition of 600. Camille is a distinctive sculpt even within Segui's body of work: rather than the serene, closed-mouth expressions typical of artist dolls, Camille was modeled mid-exclamation — mouth open in a delighted cry, eyes bright, one arm flung out — capturing a real child caught in a moment of pure, theatrical feeling. Documented examples of the edition show Camille with sculpted blonde curls dressed in a light blue eyelet-trimmed dress, accompanied by two small companion animals: a stuffed turtle and a pink bunny, secured with the original box and certificate of authenticity. She stands 26 inches tall on a fully articulated body with wax-finished limbs, and this example retains her original fitted display pedestal.

Notable Features

- ◆ 26" limited-edition artist doll — "Camille" by Odile Segui for Masterpiece Gallery, 2001, edition of 600
- ◆ Wax-over-cermit construction — sculpted polymer clay finished with a soft wax coating for a lifelike, translucent complexion
- ◆ Expressive open-mouth sculpt — Segui's signature realism, capturing a child mid-exclamation
- ◆ Sculpted blonde curls; fully articulated body with wax-finished arms and legs
- ◆ White eyelet-lace gown and original fitted display pedestal
- ◆ Long-held piece in the present collection, acquired years ago and cherished since

Collector's Notes

This doll's identification as "Camille" is based on a close match of her sculpt, scale, and construction to multiple documented examples of the 2001 Masterpiece Gallery edition of 600, including examples bearing their original boxes, certificates of authenticity, and numbered hang tags (e.g., 38/600, 121/600). This example carries no maker's tag, edition number, box, or certificate of authenticity, and did not come with the companion stuffed turtle and bunny documented with the original release — her identification is therefore visual rather than mark-confirmed. Should a hang tag or certificate surface, it should be retained with the doll

and would allow the edition number to be recorded. The light blue dress shown in original-issue examples has been replaced on this example by a white eyelet-lace gown. Odile Segui's wax-over-cernit dolls are well regarded among artist-doll collectors, and examples of Camille complete with their original presentation command strong interest in the secondary market.

"Some dolls are sculpted to sit quietly and be perfect. Camille was sculpted to be real."

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Sandy Wade
PROPRIETOR
September 2026