

MOM'S JOY ROOM

Where Obsolescence Ends and Wonder Begins

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

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY & APPRAISAL

"Fatou"

*Annette Himstedt, The Barefoot Children • Puppen Kinder • Germany, 1986/87 • 26" Vinyl Artist
Doll, Signed, with Box & COA*

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$300 – \$600

*Reflects her hand signature over the engraved mark, original box and Certificate of Authenticity, intact human
hair wig and lashes, and the strong collector following for the early Barefoot Children.*



Fatou with her Certificate of Authenticity and her original provenance papers

History & Background

Annette Himstedt is one of the most respected doll artists of the modern era. From her studio in Alfeld, Germany, beginning in the early 1980s, she created a line she called *Puppen Kinder* — "doll children" — built on a simple, radical idea: dolls that looked like real children, not idealized ones. Her children had rounded cheeks, slightly crooked grins, wind-tousled hair, and above all bare feet. She sculpted in vinyl with a naturalism the doll world had rarely seen, rooted her wigs of real human hair, and dressed each child in garments of natural fibers with her own label sewn in.

Her breakthrough came with *The Barefoot Children* collection of 1986/87, a series of large-scale child dolls modeled on real children from around the world. Each stood almost as tall as a living child — a full 26 inches — and each wore the collection's hallmark bare feet. The series won international prizes and made Himstedt's reputation; her Certificate of Authenticity for the line reads, in part, that "your beautiful doll is a work of art and bears the engraved signature of the artist herself." She continued making dolls until 2009, but collectors prize the early Barefoot Children above everything else in her long career.

Fatou is one of those original Barefoot Children. She is a little girl of African descent with a warm dark complexion, deep brown glass eyes with fine individual human-hair lashes, and a full human hair wig of dark curls dressed with white ribbon bows. Her sculpt is pure Himstedt: a real child's face, softly modeled, with finely painted hair-stroke brows and a quiet, thoughtful expression. She wears her mauve dress with white piping and a lace-trimmed white pinafore, and her white fabric ties lace her vinyl torso to her cloth body. On her back she carries the engraved "Annette Himstedt" signature mark, and across it a hand signature in the artist's own hand — the mark of an artist doll signed at the height of her most celebrated collection. She comes with her original box and her Certificate of Authenticity, and she joined the Mom's Joy Room collection in October 2026 after winning her at auction.

Notable Information

- ◆ Artist: Annette Himstedt, Alfeld, Germany; *Puppen Kinder* line
- ◆ Collection: *The Barefoot Children*, 1986/87 — her breakthrough, prize-winning series modeled on real children of the world
- ◆ Size: a full 26" tall, nearly the height of a real child
- ◆ Construction: sculpted vinyl head and torso with cloth body, laced with white fabric ties
- ◆ Realism: human hair wig and individual human-hair eyelashes; brown glass eyes; fine painted brows
- ◆ Signature: engraved "Annette Himstedt" mark plus hand signature in the artist's own hand (mark-confirmed)
- ◆ Documentation: original box and Certificate of Authenticity from the Barefoot Children series
- ◆ Costume: mauve dress with white piping, lace-trimmed white pinafore, white ribbon bows in her hair, bare feet

◆ Joined the collection: October 2026

Collector's Notes

The early Barefoot Children are the most sought-after of all Himstedt dolls, and the children of color in the series — Fatou among them — were made in smaller numbers than their sisters and bring the strongest interest from today's collectors. Everything that adds value is present here: the hand signature over the engraved mark, the box, the Certificate of Authenticity, and an untouched human hair wig and lashes. Human hair wigs are the fragile part of these dolls — keep her out of direct sun and away from heat, and never wash or brush the wig roughly. Her condition will be confirmed on arrival and this certificate updated with photographs and any findings.

*"She was sculpted to look like a real child, and all these years later, she still
does."*

Mom's Joy Room
2964 Fairmont Road
Morgantown, WV 26501

Sandy Wade
PROPRIETOR
October 16, 2026