

# MOM'S JOY ROOM

*Where Obsolescence Ends and Wonder Begins*

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

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY & APPRAISAL

## Gretchen & Wolfgang — Naber Kids Doll Pair by H. P. Naber

*Molded Wood Process • Bavarian Folk Costume Pair • c.1980s–1990s*

ESTIMATED WORTH

**\$100 – \$200**

*For the matched pair, reflecting their complete state with both original wrist tags and authenticity cards intact.*



*Gretchen and Wolfgang in their Bavarian folk costumes, with original wrist tags and cards*

### History & Background

The Naber Kids are the work of Harold P. (H. P.) Naber, a German-born artist who left his homeland at age 29 and eventually settled in Homosassa, Florida, where he built one of the most distinctive doll

lines in modern American folk-art collecting. Naber began by hand-carving dolls entirely from wood — a slow process that yielded genuinely one-of-a-kind figures — but as demand for his whimsical children grew, he developed what his studio called the "molded wood process": original body parts hand-carved in wood by Naber himself, then cast in a durable molded-wood/urethane medium so that each doll still carried the warmth and hand-finished character of carved wood while being produced in repeatable editions. Each doll's parts were hand-painted, assembled, dressed, and finished individually in his Florida workshop.

What made the Naber Kids beloved was their spirit. Naber deliberately created an ethnically diverse "neighborhood" of children — every race, creed, and culture standing together — at a time when few doll lines did. Each face shares the same irresistible formula: enormous saucer eyes, round rosy cheeks, and a puckish, knowing expression, with bare feet and softly rounded jointed bodies. The line earned national press attention through the 1990s, with feature stories noting that collectors were paying hundreds to thousands of dollars for the larger hand-carved pieces on the secondary market even then. Naber signed and often dated his work, and dolls from both his fully hand-carved period and his molded wood period are actively collected today.

**Gretchen and Wolfgang** are a matched Bavarian folk-costume pair from the molded wood era of the line, c.1980s–1990s. Wolfgang wears traditional Alpine dress — black vest over a puffy-sleeved white shirt with tan shorts — topped with his little green felt hat, while Gretchen wears a white blouse with a floral-embroidered apron over a pink skirt, her braids completing the folk ensemble. Both dolls retain their original wrist tags and the studio's yellow "Molded Wood Process" and courtesy cards — documentation that is frequently lost over the decades, making this pair an unusually complete survivor of the line's heyday.

## Notable Features

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- ◆ Matched Bavarian folk-costume pair by H. P. Naber, Homosassa, Florida, c.1980s–1990s
- ◆ Molded wood process — originals hand-carved by Naber, cast in his signature wood-based medium
- ◆ Both original wrist tags intact and present
- ◆ Original yellow "Molded Wood Process" and courtesy authenticity cards included
- ◆ Wolfgang: black vest, white puffy-sleeved shirt, tan shorts, green felt Alpine hat
- ◆ Gretchen: white blouse, floral-embroidered apron, pink skirt, braided hair

## Collector's Notes

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The presence of both wrist tags and the studio's original printed cards is a meaningful completeness marker for Naber Kids, as loose examples on the secondary market have usually lost theirs over the decades. Naber

Kids have an established collector base, with interest strongest for hand-carved and signed examples; matched folk-costume pairs with full documentation like this one are steady sellers. This pair joined the Mom's Joy Room collection in September 2026 and sits alongside another Naber Kid — a signed H. P. Naber studio doll — already in the collection.

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*"Hand-carved in wood, dressed for a festival, and still wearing their name tags — Gretchen and Wolfgang have been waiting a long time for someone to take them home."*

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*Sandy Wade*  
PROPRIETOR  
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