

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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

CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Limited Edition Mink Fur Artist Bear — "Blissful Bear" Series — by Rachel Marie Rowse (RMR.arts)



MARKET VALUE

\$175-325

Realistic quick-sale price via shop, site, or collector market

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$350-550

Ceiling for a verified, documented limited edition piece in excellent condition



DESCRIPTION

A hand-crafted limited edition artist teddy bear, edition #10 of 99 worldwide, created in October 1999 by Rachel Marie Rowse, who works under the artist name RMR.arts. The bear stands approximately 22 inches tall on a natural bark and burl wood base styled as a woodland scene, complete with preserved moss, acorns, twigs, and a tiny bird nestled at its feet. The bear itself is a fully realized character — costumed in a deep velvet coat and matching hat with genuine mink fur trim at the collar and cuffs, leather accent details, dark burgundy lace embellishments, and wire-rim spectacles. The piece bears a hand-inked heart-shaped wooden tag reading "10/99," "RMR," and "#589," confirming its edition number, artist initials, and master registration number within Rowse's body of work.

ABOUT THE ARTIST — RACHEL MARIE ROWSE (RMR.ARTS)

Rachel Marie Rowse is a documented, actively working mixed media artist based in the United States. She maintains a professional website at rmrarts.com, an active Instagram presence at [@rmr.arts](https://www.instagram.com/rmr.arts), and a Facebook page at [facebook.com/arts.rmr](https://www.facebook.com/arts.rmr). Today she is best known for paintings, murals, and live painting events, but this bear dates to her earlier soft-sculpture work from the late 1990s. She is known for hand-crafted mixed media art, collectible soft sculptures, and specialty themed pieces — most notably





Above: Full display view and costume detail — genuine mink fur trim, velvet coat and hat, leather accents, wire-rim spectacles, woodland base with moss, acorns, and a tiny bird.

her signature "Bear Boxes" and "Blissful Bear" series, of which this piece is a fine example. Her master registration numbering system (this bear is #589) tracks her individual creations across her entire artistic career, indicating she was already a prolific creator by 1999. The use of genuine mink fur, leather, velvet, and an elaborate themed woodland base elevates this piece well beyond a standard stuffed bear — it is a collectible soft sculpture intended as a display artwork.

HISTORY & CONTEXT

The late 1990s was a golden era for the artist teddy bear movement. Following the massive success of the teddy bear as a collectible in the 1980s and early 1990s — driven by major names like Steiff, R. John Wright, and Character Arts — a thriving secondary tier of independent artist-bear makers emerged, selling limited edition pieces at bear shows, galleries, and craft fairs across the country. These artists typically produced small numbered runs (often 50–500 pieces), hand-signed and dated each one, and used premium materials to distinguish their work from mass-market plush. Rachel Marie Rowse was part of this movement, creating her "Blissful Bear" and "Bear Box" series as themed, narrative soft sculptures — not toys, but collectible display pieces meant to tell a story.

What makes this particular bear distinctive is its **mixed-media presentation**. Rather than simply producing a fur teddy bear on its own, Rowse created a complete vignette: the bear is costumed as a character (velvet coat, hat, spectacles, lace detailing) and mounted on a natural woodland base decorated with moss, acorns, and a tiny bird — essentially a diorama in soft sculpture form. This approach places the piece closer to the fine-art "soft sculpture" tradition (artists like Wendy Froud or Lisa Snellings) than to the conventional teddy bear collecting world, which broadens its appeal beyond bear collectors to include fans of mixed-media art and narrative sculpture.

The genuine mink fur used for the collar and cuff trim adds both material value and textural contrast to the velvet and leather elements. Mink fur bears were produced by a small number of specialty artists in the 1990s — Stadler Fur Bears of Wisconsin is the best-known commercial maker, charging premium prices — but Rowse's use of mink as an accent material within a larger mixed-media composition is a more sculptural, art-forward approach. The piece functions simultaneously as a teddy bear, a fur collectible, and a one-of-a-kind art object, which is a rare combination in the collectibles market.

NOTABLE FEATURES

- ◆ **Confirmed artist:** Rachel Marie Rowse (RMR.arts) — verifiable working artist with website (rmrarts.com), Instagram (@rmr.arts), and Facebook presence
- ◆ **Limited edition #10 of 99** — genuinely scarce, only 99 pieces made worldwide
- ◆ **Master registration #589** — tracked within the artist's complete body of work, confirming documented provenance
- ◆ **Genuine mink fur trim** at collar and cuffs — not faux or synthetic
- ◆ **Mixed media construction:** velvet coat and hat, leather accents, burgundy lace, wire-rim spectacles, natural bark/burl wood base
- ◆ **Woodland scene base** with preserved moss, acorns, twigs, and a tiny bird — a diorama-style presentation
- ◆ **Heart-shaped hand-inked wooden tag** — original artist signature tag intact and legible
- ◆ **From the artist's "Blissful Bear" series** — a documented line of themed soft sculptures by Rowse

- ◆ **Cross-collectible appeal:** attractive to teddy bear collectors, fur collectible enthusiasts, and fans of Rowse's broader art career

"Some bears are made to be held. This one was made to tell a story — and it still has more to say."

Collector's note: Artist Rachel Marie Rowse (RMR.arts) is a confirmed, actively working artist with a verifiable online presence. This bear is a documented limited edition (#10 of 99) with a master registration number (#589), not an unattributed piece. While Rowse is better known today as a painter and muralist, her earlier soft-sculpture work from the late 1990s represents an important chapter in her artistic development. The "Blissful Bear" series pieces are increasingly difficult to find on the secondary market, as most remain in original collector collections. The piece's cross-collectible nature — teddy bear, fur collectible, and mixed-media art object — gives it broader market appeal than a standard artist bear. Attribution is mark-confirmed via the hand-inlined signature tag.

Mom's Joy Room | Morgantown, WV
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Sandy Wade, Proprietor

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