

PIGEON ART FROM SOUTH AFRICA

By: Jan Lombard (SA)



A few years ago our local pigeon club was challenged with the idea to come up with unique awards for your show. One of our members brought along small pigeon figurines to our AGM and enquired if we cannot award something similar to our winning exhibitors. I had a look at his examples and decided to try to create something slightly different. Although I'm not an artist by

profession, I do have some talent in this field. After a lot of research to find the correct technique and materials, I came up an idea to make semi-three dimensional sculptures with a flat backside – ideal for mounting on a small wooden shield or plaque. The idea was to have enough space on the shield for a metal plate with an inscription about the award – i.e. “Best of Breed” etc. I made my first sculpture – a Marchenero Cropper – out of modeling clay, of which I then made a mould, and started casting sculptures from polyurethane. These I hand painted in true pigeon colours, mounted them on wooden shields, and handed it out at our show. Because my work is hand painted every item is a unique work of art.



I decided to start a range of different breeds. I kept the size of the sculptures standard – i.e. plus minus 7-8cm high, to ensure that I can mount it on standard sized wooden shields. This helps with packaging. It makes sense to standardize sizes - if somebody wants to collect and display some of my work.

I also wanted to keep it small enough, because sometimes our partners don't allow us too much display space!

When visiting international pigeon judges expressed interest in my work, and bought some to take back home, I



realized that there may be an international demand for them. I will soon offer these on e-Bay. I will offer sets of 5 figurines at a time. These are painted in colours of my choice. If somebody wants some painted in specific colours they can contact me at janlombard1@yahoo.com.

I have opened up an PayPal account to enable fanciers and collectors in other countries to easily buy from me.



With the use of metal filler powder, I can also offer copper (bronze colour), brass (gold colour) and silver figurines. These look and feel like real metal sculptures. Currently my range includes the following breeds:

English Clean Leg Long Face Tumbler, English Muffed Tumbler, English Short Face Tumbler, Medium Face Crested Helmet, English Nun, Komorner Tumbler, American Show Racer, German Beauty Homer, Modena, English Trumpeter, Voorburg Shield Cropper, Dutch Cropper, Norwich Cropper, Holle Cropper, Marchenero Pouter, Horseman Thief Pouter, Danziger High Flyer, Fantail, Indian Fantail, King, Gros Mondaine, Mookee, Chinese Owl, Old German Owl, Dragoon, Birmingham Roller, Russian Tumbler, left facing Racing Homer, right facing Racing Homer.





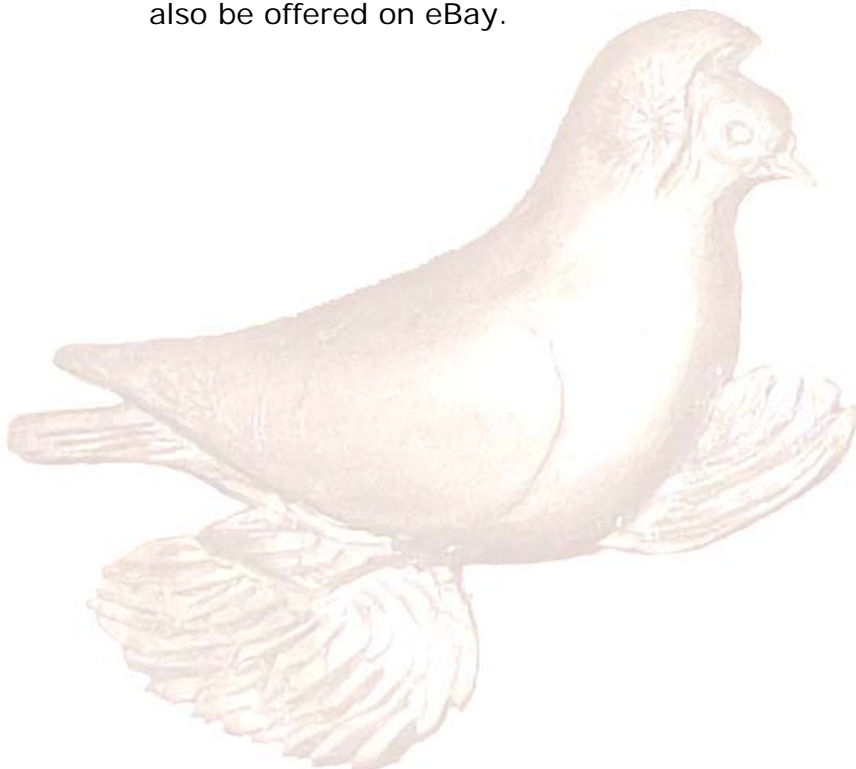
I will keep on adding to this range. I plan to also do poultry breeds. If somebody wants any breed not listed above, it can be done, but on the condition that they order at least 10 units. If somebody wants to place a specific order, they must realise that this is a part time hobby and that an order will take some time to complete.

This is especially important to keep in mind if the order is for a show. Such orders should be placed 2-3 months before the expected delivery date. If it is for a breed for which I do not have a mould as yet, it may even take longer.

I do not expect payment when the such orders are placed. When an order is completed I will send a photograph to the customer. Once he is satisfied, he can pay me via PayPal, and I will mail his order through airmail.

One of my friends arranged with Zimbabwean craftsmen to make beaded Brunner statues. This is a true African artform and made out of wire and beads. *(See photo on the right)*

I've negotiated to buy some from him, which will also be offered on eBay.



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