



## TIP TOLAND

### Artist Statement

*Behind the Scenes* refers not just to what can occur in private, but to the part of ourselves which is hidden or latent and asking to be reckoned with.

With *Enough* we know that the dummy has no life or animation apart from what the Ventriloquist gives her, yet we identify and root for her independence and freedom from always being told what to say and do. The dummy could certainly be the shadow side of the Ventriloquist. This struggle harkens back to the age-old child/parent struggle throughout our lives. So often the dummy is purposely at odds with what the Ventriloquist thinks, and argues to make its point. We want to believe in the dummy's liberation. Though rationally impossible, we hope by way of magic it may occur.

There are two other dummy's in this show: *Casino Night* and *Always the Diplomat* are both waiting to be animated; left for the viewer to imagine.

*Love song for Ukraine* is a view into a private moment of longing and mourning for her home country under siege.

*Her Words* is, for me, a very private piece about listening deeply for guidance.

The drawings are a collection of faces I find compelling.