

Art walk alchemy 2019

Totems & Talismans

WITH

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Art Walk Alchemy

SUPPLY LIST

- 1) Canvas or any preferred substrate that takes mixed media
- 2) Matt gel medium
- 3) Ephemera, collage papers or napkins in matching hues
- 4) Matt craft paints (I used colors I love but feel free to use what colors inspire you! These are the ones I used from Americana: Spa Blue (a light blue), Gray sky, Sand, mid flesh tone, Sea breeze (a teal shade), Prussian blue, Payne's gray, Victorian blue (grayish mid-tone blue), honey brown
- 5) White gesso
- 6) wet wipes, napkins
- 7) old credit card or brayer, acrylic brushes
- 8) Pastel pencils in similar tones of your paints (I used a light gray, a light and dark flesh tone, lavender gray, dark bluish gray, black and white, yellow-orange and reddish brown)
- 9) A few soft pastels in similar tones
- 10) Tortillion blending stumps
- 11) Pastel fixative spray
- 12) Cold wax for sealing (I used Dorland's wax)
- 13) Palette knife for spreading the wax



Creating the painting

Step 1



We begin by choosing pieces of ephemera, patterned paper and/or napkins in the a similar color scheme. I'm using a mixture of cream, gray and blue tones. I tear them instead of cutting with a scissors so they can have more of an organic edge. Next we glue them down with matt gel medium. (You can overlap some pieces too.)

Step 2



Once that's completely dry I use white gesso and my craft paints (in similar tones as the papers) and start adding some over the collage. They have a matt finish, which helps pastels to adhere better to the canvas. You can use a wet wipe to wipe away some areas of paint and reveal the pattern underneath. You can also use an old credit card or brayer to scratch the paint on and give it even more texture.

Step 3



When all the paint is dry we draw our figure with a pastel pencil and then start to add some paint to it. I use the same colors we used over the collage, but for her face I add a light and dark skin tone as well. I paint in the owl's eyes and beak, and paint her eyes a matching yellowish orange and brown.

Step 4



We paint her a winged cloak as well, adding the paint and gesso in thick layers so as to create texture for the feathers. I alternate the turquoise, gray, blue, paynes gray and white. I also outline her horns with a payne's gray.

Step 5



Once that's dry I add some pastel over the face, in similar tones as the paint. I use a tortillon to blend it.

Step 6



I also decided to paint a darker halo around her head to bring the attention towards her face. I use the payne's gray mixed with a bit of sky gray, and then make some marks with the gray mixed with a bit of white gesso to add some detail.

Step 7



With the same payne's gray I darken the sides of the painting, which is another way to bring the viewers attention towards the center of the painting. I dry brush it on and wipe off any excess with a wet wipe and paper towel to distress it a little.

Step 8



We then go back to adding some depth and detail to her face and feather with the pastel. I darken the outline of the eyes, lash line and beak, and then add some texture for the feathers with the soft pastel, down her neck, body and wings.

Step 9



I decide to add a talisman on her neck. I paint the winged goddess Isis, who symbolizes magic, healing and stepping into our own power.

You can paint whichever talisman is speaking to you and feels right at the time. I'm using payne's gray and sky gray here.

Step 10



I realize I want to add some more interest to her wings so I add more collage with one of the papers that suits the colors and pattern of the painting. We cut some feather shapes and glue them down with matt gel medium, adding the gel both underneath and on top of the collage.

Step 11



We define her horns by adding some dark gray pastel around them, to bring out the white. You can blend the pastel with a tortillion blending stump. I also add some white pastel to the actual horns so that it stands out well.

Step 12



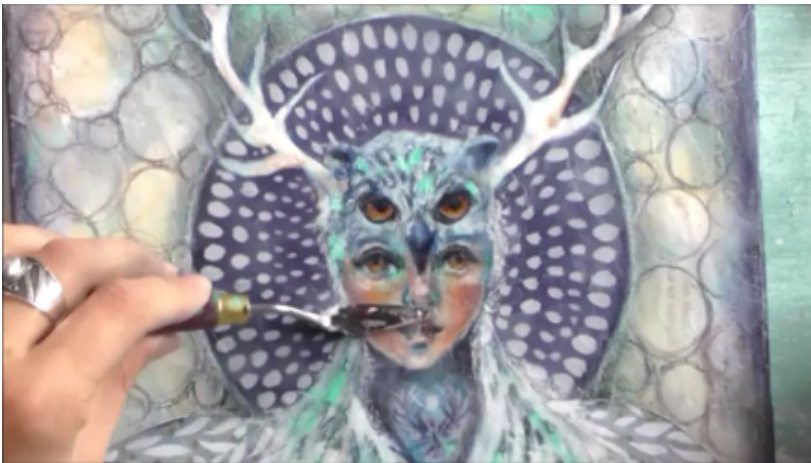
To add some last interest and symmetry to the piece I draw circles over the background with a gray and white pastel pencil. I'm not making the all the same size, rather varying size and darkness. I also add some white pastel over the feather collage to bring it all together. And she's complete! :)

Optional Step 13



As an optional step I show one way I like to seal some of my paintings. Dorland's wax gives a beautiful, dreamy effect, but it also moves some of the pastel so you just have to be aware of that. Make sure to give a few light coats of pastel fixative before going any further.

Optional Step 14



Using a palette knife (I only had this small one but if you have a bigger one it will save you a lot of time!) I very carefully apply the cold wax, making sure to spread it very lightly to move as little pastel as possible. The thicker the layer you put the more texture you will have. It dries almost completely clear, and depending on the thickness of the layer applied it will take a few days to dry or set. Make sure you set it in a place that little fingers or paws can't get to. ;)



I hope you enjoyed creating with me!

Remember to be gentle with yourself, just play and enjoy the journey.

Always tune into your intuition and let it lead the way...because that's when the magic happens!

I'll be looking forward to seeing your work in the Facebook group..

Don't forget to tag me if you have any questions, I am happy to help!

Much love,

Katrina

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