



# Valkyrie

THE WARRIOR WITHIN



With Katrina Koltés

*Hello beautiful souls, welcome to my lesson!*

*I'm so excited to share this project with you.*

*I filmed this lesson during a very challenging time in my life. I found that no matter what we are going through we have the strength and courage within to overcome, if only we can find it within ourselves.*

*We are all warriors, in one way or another.*

*We have all endured either hardships, sickness, failure, grief, heartbreak, or trauma.*

*We all have that inner strength needed to pull us through, even though sometimes we don't always know there.*

*I hope this lesson encourages you to keep moving forward, keep trusting, and keep shining your light.*

*Much love, Katrina*



## SUPPLY LIST

- 1) **Watercolor paper** (I used Canson, 12x16" cold press 140lb)
- 2) **Paintbrushes** (I used a 12, an 8 and a 2, plus an aqua brush for it's fine tip)
- 3) **straw, salt, napkins and water jar**
- 4) **Watercolors of your choice:** (I used Shadow violet, moonglow, lunar black, bloodstone genuine, opera pink, quinacridone gold, and gold from DS; payne's gray, pthalo turquoise, and cobalt teal from W&N)
- 5) **Palette for mixing and diluting colors**
- 6) **pencil & eraser (plus a kneaded eraser)**
- 7) **Gold calligraphy ink**
- 8) **White goauche or white ink**
- 9) **Stone, bronze and/or wood beads, & glitter stars, if desired**
- 10) **Varnish** (I used Liquitex high gloss Varnish)



# *Creating the painting*

## Step 1



We begin by drawing our figure, using our references as a guide for the proportions. With a ruler we divide the figure in half on the reference and then in fourths, to see the distance and proportions between the body, head and hands. We don't get into shading, just drawing a clear outline.

## Step 2



Before we begin our painting we can choose our color palette. I like to do this to have an idea where we are going with our painting, and what mood we want to portray. It also gives us a little warm up before we begin adding color to the white page.

## Step 3



Because we will be adding various layers to face, I like to start with the first layer of color so it gives that time to dry while we start painting her figure later. We use a very diluted wash of pink and golden yellow, making sure to leave some white spaces in-between where the stark highlights would be.

## Step 4



While the first layer of her face is drying we can start painting her armor and hands. In the armor I leave some white spots where the metal would be reflecting the light.

We add some of that shadow color in the face and hands as well once the first layer is dry.

## Step 5



Next we paint her fur. I first we the area with a big brush, then drop in mixtures of pink, yellow, moonglow and shadow violet, letting the color run and flow into eachother. We remember to leave some white spaces here as well.

## Step 6



I also paint her arm plates with bloodstone genuine, and add some of that color into the shadow areas of the fur, dropping in some salt before dry. We add a first layer of payne's gray to the sword, adding darker layers where the shadows are, especially on the hilt under the hands and down the center.

## Step 7



Now we start adding the darkest layers of shadow and definition to her face. Using moonglow or shadow violet we accentuate her lash line, nostrils, and in-between the lips, and add more contrast to the shadow areas of the face, darkening her pupils and neck as well.

## Step 8



We begin to add a light wash of color to her hair where the shadows would fall, and define her braid. We can also paint another layer on the armor and arm plates as well.



## Step 9



Next we paint her wings by adding color with lots of water, and then blowing outwards with a straw. This creates a very organic and spontaneous effect, as we layer in the colors and let them all pool together as you move the paper. We also add some splashes here and there, just for fun!

## Step 10



We also paint some warrior markings into her face. I decided to bring in a teal color, and then added that same color all around the painting here and there to create repetition and harmony.

With the color pencils we add more contrast and definition to her face and hands as well.

## Step 11



We add some scribbles and lines in her fur and hair as well with similar colors that we have in our painting. We add some markings and lines to the sword and arm plates, just to create some interesting line work

## Step 12



I decided to intuitively pull some nordic runes and add their message and symbolism to the sword. I really love to work with divination and readings in my art, as it add a whole other level of meaning and tells a story. I also add with a dip pen some gold ink to the letters and patterns to bring the attention to the sword and it's message.



## Step 13



And last but not least I added some teal drips and splashes in the end to create the idea of rain clouds, and just add a little more color to the background. With the white gouache we add in a few highlights or white where we had previously lost it, and some splashes on the fur.

**I really hope you enjoyed painting with me!**

**Don't forget to be patient with yourself, and take breaks when needed... Remember that drying in between layers are so important if we want to avoid making mud!**

**Watercolor can be so fun if we just let it do it's thing and don't try to control it too much. We can learn to work with it by practicing and playing.**

**So have fun with this, and I'll be looking forward to seeing your work in the Facebook group!**

**Don't forget to reach out if you have any questions,**

**Much love,  
Katrina**

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