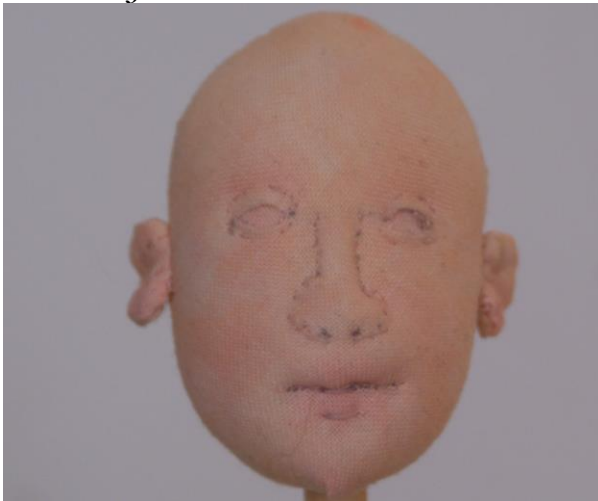


Tips on Using Watercolors on Cloth Dolls

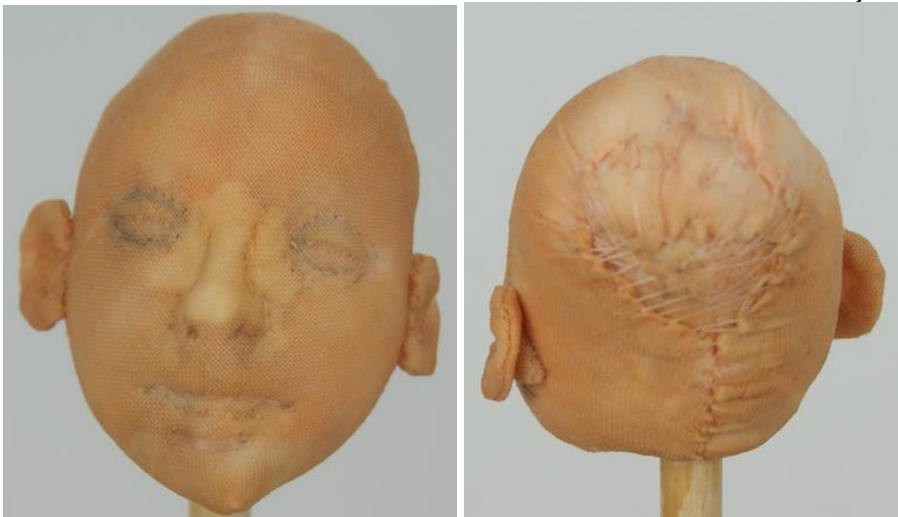
By Marla L. Niederer

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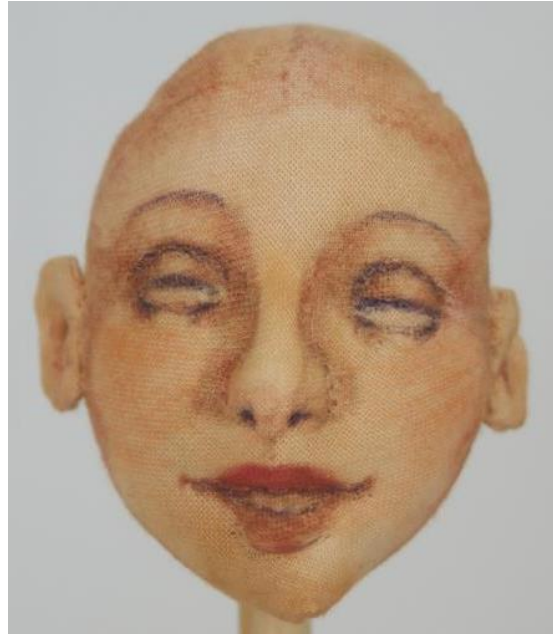
1. Wet your cloth doll down very well with a spray bottle filled with water.
2. Use Artist grade watercolors in tubes for skin tone. For light skin tones I often use Jaune Brillant 2 as a base first I then mix a touch of Rose madder into the Jaune Brillant to add blush



3. For darker skin tones I often use 2 parts Raw Umber mixed with one part Burnt Sienna. After the first layer of color I then use a touch of Sepia mixed in to the Raw Umber Burnt Sienna mixture to create a layer of shading.



4. Dip your brush into water before dipping it into paint. Mix your paint with water first to keep your layers translucent. You can always add a layer of color but it is quite difficult to take color away once added.
5. Make sure your doll is very dry before adding more layers so you can see exactly what the color is before moving on.
6. Once dry and you are happy with your skin tone start adding layers of watercolor pencils. I always start with lighter colors before adding darker colors. My favorite brands are CaranD'Ache and Derwent watercolor pencils.



7. Once you are happy with your watercolor pencil layer, wet your doll with a #12 watercolor brush. Use a side to side motion and always keep the dolls head up so your colors don't bleed where you don't want them to go.
8. Before using Copic Multiliner pens for additional detailing, make sure the doll is very dry or the pens colors will bleed into the cloth.
9. I often add another layer of color with Prismacolor pencils. I then soften the colors with a clean soft cloth.

10. I use a white gel pen for the finishing touches. I add it to the whites of the eyes and to create highlights on the eyelids, brow area, lower lip, and tip of the nose.



11. I like to paint a practice ornament head to warm up before painting a doll I am more invested in.



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