

Greg Maiocco guides us step by step on how to paint Crimson Pool Productions.....



“THE MESMERIST”

Greetings everyone! I am honored to have Joshua Swift of Crimson Pool Productions ask me to write a how-to article on how I painted "The Mesmerist" in greyscale, so here we go!

The kit is based upon the character portrayed by Boris Karloff from the 1926 silent film "The Bells". It consists of four pieces cast in resin (the bust, hat, glasses and a stone base), was sculpted by Ray Santoleri, and is fully licensed thru Karloff Enterprises and Sara Karloff.

As is typical with all of Joshua's kits he produces thru Crimson Pool Productions, the castings are flawless! There is no prep work at all, simply wash and paint! This is the second kit I've painted in greyscale, the first being Mr. Hyde, also available from Crimson Pool Productions.

There is a very informative article in issue 6, volume 27 of the IPMS/USA Journal on greyscale painting techniques written by Brent Bristow which I used as reference for both my Karloff & Barrymore builds. In the article, Brent includes a chart for mixing BlackHeart Enterprises (BH) greyscale paints to achieve various shades of grey. I like using the BlackHeart paints for flesh tones due to their ease in air brushing and Delta Ceramcoat (DC) acrylic paints for clothing which provides a very realistic cloth like texture. Both paints take pastel chalks very well.

PRIMING:

To start, I primed the stone base, hat and glasses with Duplicolor Black Automotive primer and the bust itself with Duplicolor Gray Automotive primer.

THE BUST:

The skin areas on the bust were airbrushed with BH #4. The shadows were added and the recessed areas darkened with a 1:1 mix of BH #4 & #5 and highlights added with BH #2. The lips were based with a 2:1 mix of BH # 4 & #5. Extra shading was done with Pan Pastel chalks using Neutral Grey Extra Dark and Black, and then the work up to this point sealed with Testors DullCote.

Raised areas were given a final highlighting with Pan Pastel Titanium White chalk. The eyes were based with Vallejo Ivory. A #2 Pigma Micron black pen was used to outline them. A #1 Pigma Micron black pen was used for the pupils and a grey pen for the irises. The teeth were then based with Vallejo White and darkened around the gum line with the Neutral Grey Extra Dark pastel chalk and then outlined with a #.005 Pigma Micron black pen.

The hair (including the eyebrows) was base coated with DC Black and dry brushed with DC Charcoal and DC Hippo Gray on the tips. The eyes and teeth then received a final coat of Pledge/Future floor wax for shine.

The shirt was base coated with DC Light Ivory. Pastel chalks were used in black for the recessed areas, Neutral Gray in the shadows and Titanium White on the raised areas. The tie was base coated with DC Drizzle Gray and the raised areas were dry brushed with a 1:1 mix of DC Drizzle Gray and DC White. It was then shaded with chalks similar to the shirt.

The jacket was base coated with DC Black and the overcoat with DC Charcoal. Both were shaded with chalks in Neutral Gray Extra Dark on raised areas, Black in recesses and Paynes Grey Tint on the raised edges.

Please note that a #.005 black Micron Pigma Pen was used to outline each item of clothing after it was base coated, along with the seams where the clothing meets the skin. This helps to anchor and deepen the shadows in these areas when applying black and gray chalks.

The hat was left in its primer finished with chalks in Neutral Gray Extra Dark and Paynes Grey Tint on the rim bow. The glasses were left in their primer coat as well. Both the hat and glasses were attached to the bust with 5 minute epoxy.

STONE BASE:

The base was given a heavy dry brushing with Testors Model Master gunship grey and a light dry brushing with Model Master camouflage grey. This was applied right onto the primer coat. Recessed areas between the stones were darkened with black chalk.

A wood craft base was primed with Duplicolor Black Automotive primer, base coated with Krylon Coarse textured Black Granite Stone paint and sealed with Krylon Sealer. Once dry, all pieces were glued together with 5-minute epoxy. To “spice up” the display even more, I also added a 5”x7” backdrop with the 1926 movie poster I downloaded and printed from the internet.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

I hope this article gives you the incentive to try painting in greyscale. If you haven’t already, I highly recommend purchasing one of the kits from Crimson Pool Productions “Silent Screams” line of busts and go for it!!!

Painting in greyscale is really no more difficult than any other kind of painting and can give you a different perspective on a kit.