

My inspiration for this piece came from a blend of two pictures. One is of my daughter as a fairy sprite, taken last year. The second a water fall I took on a drive to the coast with my husband. Both photos captured an essence of magic I wanted to recreate in my design.

First I prepared 7 tips, buffed with a fine grade block, cleansed and attached to straight pins with acrylic. I used a foam block to hold them in place.

Two coats of a magenta lacquer were applied and dried. Using a double action airbrush, I applied translucent midnight blue to the sky. White was lightly airbrushed on the center tips, then yellow, midway up to simulate set sun glow. A pearlescent gloss was shot over all the tips.

I used an existing circle mask to make the moon, airbrushed with white, then grey then white around the edges only. I used a silver hand paint to form the crescent edge of the moon.

I cut the mountains edge mask using an exacto knife on clear contact paper then airbrushed them in black. I taped off the waters edge, and airbrushed that in a midnight blue grading darker in the distance and gradually lightening toward the water fall. The waterfall was airbrushed using translucent blue, aqua and white paint through a dolls plastic eyelash. I airbrushed a thin shimmer of white, then gold down the center tip for moon glow. Hand detail was added to blend the mountain waters edge, moon cast, water moons shadow, waterfall decent and shooting star tails. I sealed all the tips with clear gel topcoat. A small ball of silver glitter acrylic made the tips of the shooting stars.

I then blended a palate of colored acrylic powders. 6 greens, 4 browns and 2 skin tones. I applied a black acrylic to the mountains edge toward the waterfall side and began blending the brown acrylic to the foreground area. An iridescent acrylic and light blue shimmer was used to add details to the waterfall. A darker blue shimmer was used for the foreground water edge detail. Blends of the browns were layered with some green along each side of the waterfalls edge and foreground. On a form, I created each leaf, flower, bush, tree and dragonfly with my custom acrylic colors and some ready made.

For the sprite, I drew an outline in plain pencil then used color to add her details. I used a multifunction scanner/printer to reduce the image to 20 percent of the original size. I printed out three copies and cut out using an exacto knife. She was layered into back wing, body and outer wing then placed in three parts under clear forms.

I used 4 different color acrylic powders in purple, orange, red and iridescent clear to form her wings and added two purple micro glass beads to her outer wing for spots. I laid a very thin later of clear acrylic over her body form, and sculpted her skin detail.

The layers came together and were blended using an electric file on the outer edges. Her dress, hair, hair highlights, eye, eyebrow, lips, and arm band were hand painted.

The pictures were shot with a DSC-W7 digital camera.