

Warrior Spirit

The brave in me is taking a breather,
a time out from the battle to mull,
rest and love myself!

That's exactly what I got from painting an old mannequin using A. Shak Cameo products. A time to mull, rest and love myself.

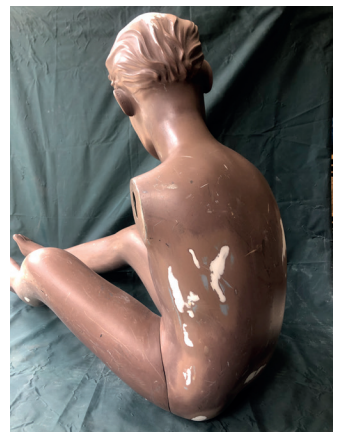
And...it really helps when you have worked closely with the A. Shak team, being their packaging designer for most of my career as a graphic designer. I have watched Cameo grow and develop over the years into an amazing product. I fell in-love with the colours and that's all I needed to agree to spend hours turning an old, broken mannequin into something beautiful and meaningful.

I can do anything I want!

Years ago, I saved a picture of a female warrior and visualised painting her one day. Here was an opportunity for me to recreate this female warrior in 3D. I ran my idea via Monica, from A. Shak. She straight away visualized my concept and knew exactly what Cameo Products I needed to bring this mannequin to life. To give her a second chance.

So I began!

I patched her broken body...filling her cracks using Cameo 3D Paste. This product is so versatile. I filled and sanded the cracks until there was no trace of damage. I sealed her entire body using Cameo Primer and then was ready to transform her into a Warrior!
A new beginning.



Sometimes in life we have lessons to learn and mine was to be brave!

Last year, I moved to Hillcrest KZN, away from my husband and my home for 8 months to undergo treatment for rapid Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. (Lymphatic Cancer) Everything changed overnight. My sister Carey, took it on herself to take care of me and to help me through 8 rounds of chemotherapy with Specialist Oncologists. In a calm and peaceful environment, 5 star meals (loads of veggies) she nursed me back to health. I am and always will be eternally grateful to her, my very kind brother-in-law, Rod for putting up with me, my loving husband Dieter for standing by me and my Mom for being my Mom, my Oncologist -Dr Marais, all at Oncocare, my amazing friends and angels, and everyone who surrounded me with so much love. Most importantly, I thank God for holding my hand and walking with me through this journey and giving me the strength to withstand the Chemo.

I'm a warrior! I'm a cancer survivor! I too have a second chance.

Monica suggested using Cameo Parchment as a base colour. Perfect! I painted over her, mesmerized by the texture of the Cameo paint. I used the paint directly from the container, adding a little water when blending and took care with my brushstrokes. A new beginning. He had to become a she and she needed to be a warrior woman! I added the necessities (wink) using shoulder pads, blending them into her "skin" using Cameo 3D Paste. She needed to be strong...she needed armour. She has no arms, nowhere to be found. It's OK, she's a fantasy.

I got the sewing machine out and made her a skirt from material. Painted Cameo Just Magic onto the material, wrapped it around her, secured all the skirt strips into place and a few hours later, the "magic" happened. It had dried in position, but still flexible! Fantastic! I later painted the skirt with Cameo Chocolate and sealed it with Cameo Clear Sealer which made the colour pop and it looked like the texture of leather.



After raiding a friend's dress-up box and finding one of her daughters first bra's, I set to work in creating armour. For the leg armour I used a pair of socks, cutting off the bottoms. Once again I covered with Cameo Just Magic and allowed it to do it's "Magic". I covered that with Cameo 3D Paste, blending with my finger and some water. I was so happy with the smooth, silky finish it created. I added some texture to the armour, gave it a light sand and I was ready to start adding colour!



I loved working with the Cameo Metallic Colours. For her top, I used Cameo Bronze with undertones of black for a tarnished effect. For the legs, I used a mixture of Cameo Wedgewood and Cameo Black as an undercoat and then painted, Cameo Silver and Cameo Black over that to give a soft metal effect. I used a dry brush technique, blending the colours on the mannequin. Very happy with the outcome!



The base of her shoes were made from an old inner tyre tube, painted with one coat Cameo Just Magic. Covered the surface with Cameo Chocolate and sealed the one side with Cameo Clear Sealer, made the necessary holes for the leather thongs and voilà! Her shoes were made!

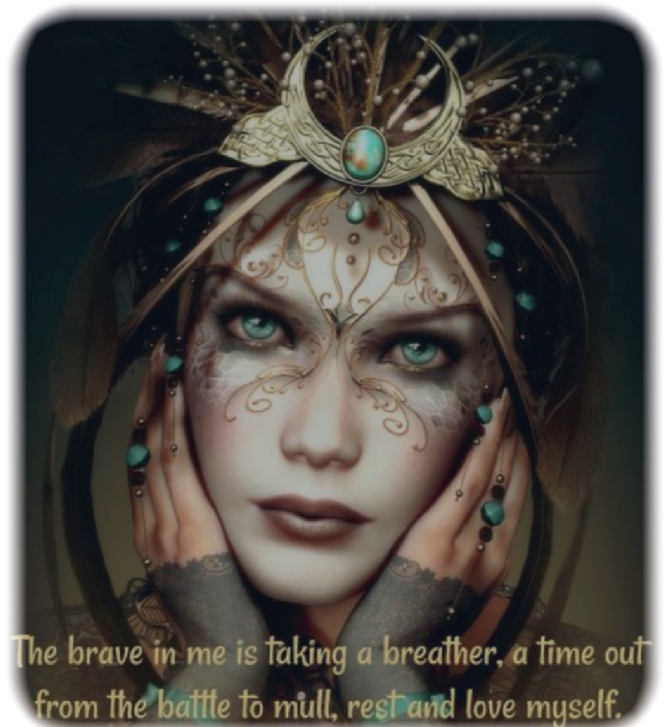
I drew the crown on my computer, printed onto the thickest board that would go through my printer, cut it out, painted with Cameo Just Magic secured in position on her head with box tape and it dried to the perfect shape of her head. A. Shak definitely gave this product the right name. It is "Just Magic." I added some texture and smoothed off with Cameo 3D Paste. I glued an old pendant in the middle of the crown with A. Shak Wood Glue and painted the stone using a combination of Cameo Persian Ice and Cameo Wedgewood Blue. Glued on some feathers and her crown was a success!

Painting her eyes and hair was a challenge! I got an intense eye colour using Cameo Persian Ice combined with Cameo Seaweed Shore. I cheated a little here and added some detail using watercolour pencils. They worked supprising well over the paint.

I added some feathers and she was ready!

Ready to face the world and spread the love!

I am so grateful to A. Shak for giving me this opportunity to use their products, to switch of for a while and regain my strength.



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