

Diorama "SMOG 1888"



At the moment when I write this short article, this diorama is still in progress (80% finished). The idea came to me after having seen lot of figures in the Smog catalog. As Smog is a steam punk atmosphere, an urban set was ideal ... a Victorian street would suites perfectly.

As my first mini was Miss Liddell with her wheelchair and her gramophone, she couldn't stay in the street and listen to her music, surrounded by all these weird creatures. The best for her would be to stay at home ... so the idea of the building came to me. I wasn't really sure I was able to do that, and wasn't decided ... 'till I got the "Doc Zeels", with the dimensional portal and the clock. Immediately I wanted to insert it in the wall, the clock outside the building, and the dimensional portal facing inside the room. After that, I decided to choose the minis I wanted, and draw a rapid tri-dimensional view of all the diorama.

The idea was there ... I only had to work now!

Materials :

- Polystiren (30mm)
- Balsa wood
- different glues
- spackling compound

Tools :

- Cutter
- manual drill
- sculpting tools

Painting

Citadel acrylic painting + ink + washes + some old Prince August I have for years now.

Some oil painting for certain part (shades).

I don't use wet palette technic to paint. I use empty medication package with water more or less diluted, depending on the effected wanted. I prefer this technic so that I can control paint dilution.

Workspace

The most important ... you should have space, light and a good chair ... all I don't have!

So small that I don't need to get up to look for anything in my room! But I have the luck to have a dedicated room so I can start and stop work when I want ... and this has no price.

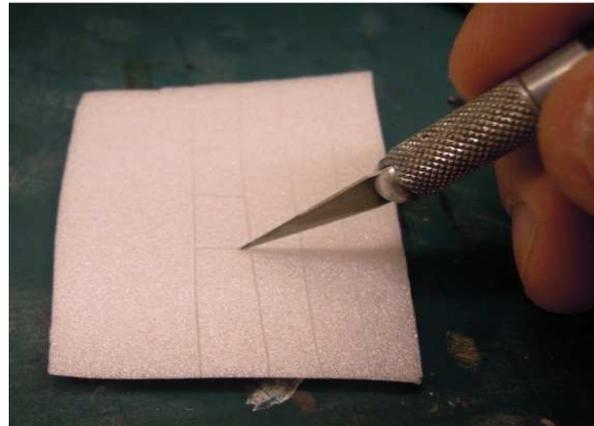
Making off ...

Unfortunately I didn't take pictures of all the steps. The main idea is to sculpt in polystyrene board directly, to simulate the stone of the building or the pavement on the street.

I begin to make the shape with the cutter ...



At the end I get something that look like a wall. Of course I continue to sculpt it not to have a straight edge drawing.



... Then I use a sculpting tool with a beveled head to enlarge what I drew with the cutter.



I use the 30mm polystyrene for the building floor. I used the balsa wood to dress the floor. The foamboard was used to build walls. I used two layer. One of foamboard, and one of thin polystyrene for external wall that could be sculpted.



Inside building partition are removable for easy painting purpose. This means that when you've finished painting, you have to fix holes with spackle, and repaint again.



One of the big difficulties was to insert the clock/portal inside the wall. Making a good circle in polystyrene is not easy, and lot of spackle has been used to fix holes and to smooth the circle. All the doors, windows has been made with balsa rod, fixed with glue (my fingers remember it).



Inside the building, i printed some wallpaper from a printer (i wasn't mad enough to paint all the motifs !). It was also a very difficult thing to do .. because I had the good idea to do it once everything was painted and walls fixed. I didn't thing I need to measure precisely all doors, windows and make the wall paper fit perfectly. Hummm the result is not perfect, and the joins are not very accurate, but nevermind, it's an old house with lot of humidity !!



For Miss Dudley, some furniture and pictures are missing. The room seems to be a little empty.



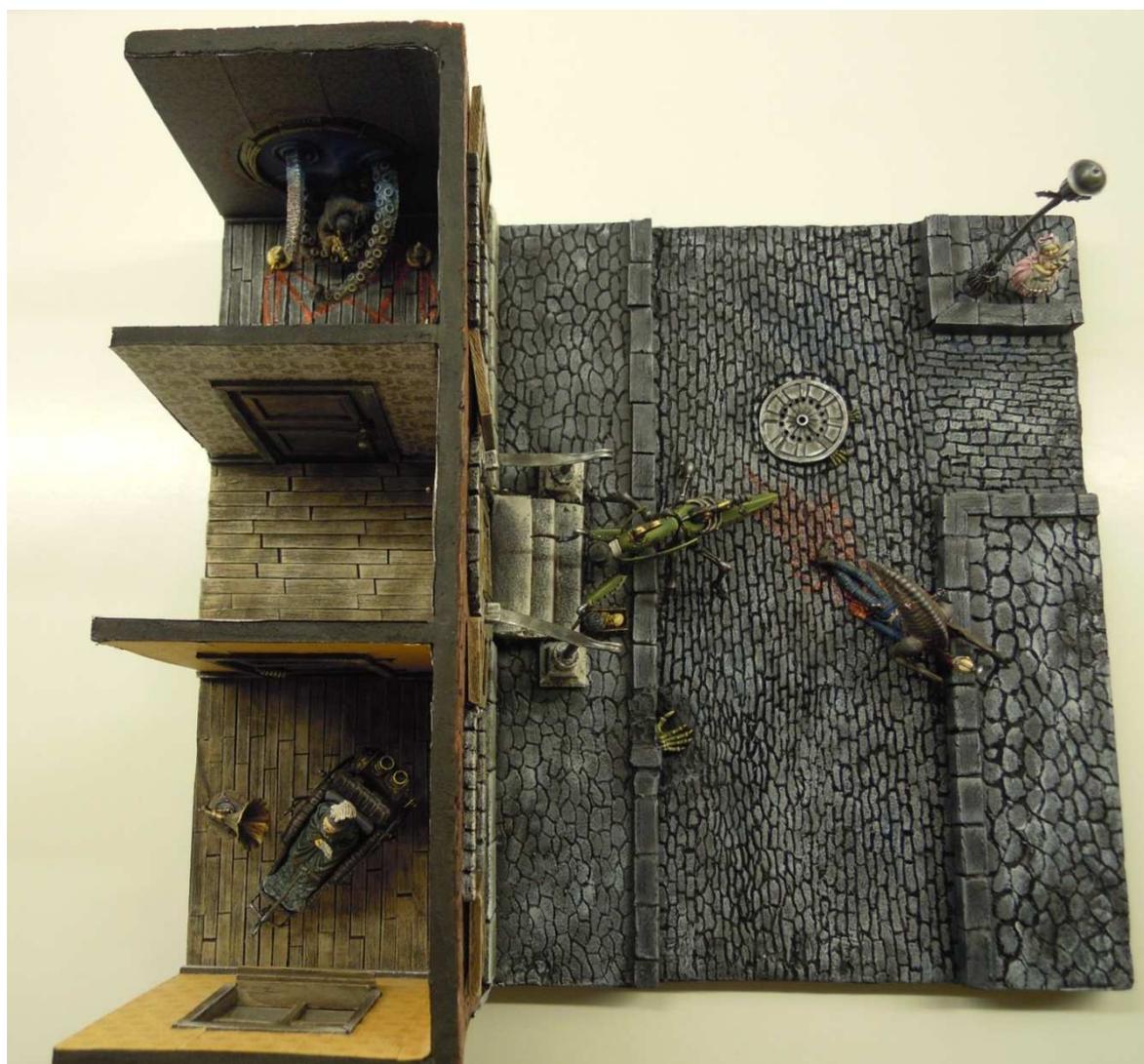
Little Alice stands outside and seems so lost among all these strange creatures, but if you look closer you can see some strange details ... a simple figure, but one of the most beautiful of the collection.



Jack Mk IV come visited Miss Dudley and as "it" looks like a Doctor, we don't dare image what sort of heal it will provide. Very pleasant to paint. The main difficulty is the green armor in metal that must look like a real praying mantis.



The file X : the Scottish pants full of blood was the touchy task to do. The rest present no specific difficulty. Only a lot of washes and strange colors.



Top view of the diorama.

Work in progress

The two last figures I have are these one:



Doc Proteus

Kain Finger

I normally should add Cornelius Fauchelevant, Reverend Dudley and his ghost wife, the Golem, and Sergeant Hyde.

<http://www.smartmaxstore.com/smog-a-victorian-fantasy.htm>