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Maria ng Makiling - Sculpting Chronology (September)

Date: 8/30/2016 - In the Beginning...

Already started with a new masterpiece, the enchanted Maria of Mount Makiling. Descriptions will be available during the course of the work since I modify my sculptures several times. Some photos are already posted in the Gallery > Future.

The clay model shown on figures 1A and 1B was my first concept. It was made the same time as I created the model for Bernardo Carpio in November last year. I have already made the rock base also at the same time.

She is shown sitting on a big rock. But I thought, while sitting what must she be doing? I would like to see more dynamism in her pose so I change the concept.

I made her stand on the rock with her left foot dipped in the water of a river. With this she looks playful and with absolute repose on her gesture. Also with her guardianship over the mountain in mind I included a tree that grew on the rock. She then holds a branch of that tree and the tree seems to respond by holding her right leg with care.

In my first concept she appears nude but after much thought I included a drapery as can be seen in the sketch on figures 2A and 2B.

With the rock base already made, I started to make the armature for the whole figure as shown in figure 3 and I did that for a week. It took that long because of the measurements and proportions and other factors that might affect the finished figure. Besides the wire that I used in my previous sculptures, I also added a reinforcing bar to carry additional weight. As per experience, I needed to place a knee or leg or arm support to prop-up the figure on the paper clay filling stage. With the reinforcing bar I am not using supports any more, the figure will be able to stand on its own even during filling.

The wireframe armature is being constructed here first the lower part of the body as shown in figure 3A then going up as shown in figure 3B. It is always best to conduct safety procedures in every step of the process. You can checkout the procedure for safety practices on my website as reference. As a first safety rule when working with wires, bend the ends so that it curls up and hide the cut edge.



Figure 1A



Figure 1B



Figure 2A



Figure 2B



Figure 3A



Figure 3B

Date: 9/6/2016 - Foundation

The right leg will support most of the weight that's why it is the first to be filled in with paper clay. The weight of the upper body would be heavy enough to deform the reinforcing bar that was installed. The right leg is shown on figure 4. I am also building up the rock that she is standing on at this time.



Figure 4

Date: 9/14/2016 - Legs

At this point, both legs are showing its form and continuously air dried. Shown on figure 5, the rock and part of the river where she dips her toe are in the drying stages. The left leg as can be seen in figure 6 is hollow. This is because the reinforcing bar is beginning to get wobbly. So the paper clay must dry first so as to make the figure stable and will not affect the integrity of the structure. While drying I will proceed on filling up the tree trunk or develop the root system.

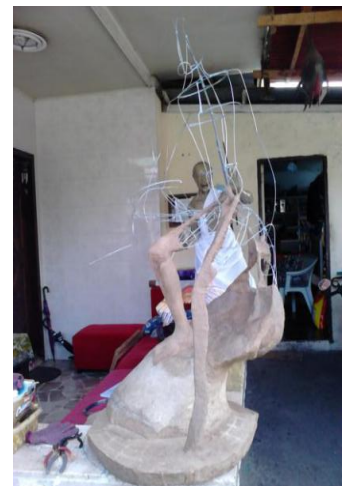


Figure 5

Date: 9/17/2016 - Building the Lower Extremities

Yesterday (Friday) I have taken my rest day for the week. These photos were taken earlier today. The right leg is what I am working on. The lower part is nearly dried and I will put on another layer of paper clay probably tomorrow. This is just the surface that can be thought of as the "skin" When it hardens the inner part will be filled up by paper clay and depending on the weather, it will be ready after a day or 2.

Additional wireframes are installed as can be seen near the legs and thighs (shown on figure 7). These will form the lower part of the drapery of Maria.



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

Date: 9/18/2016 - Defining the Base

Today I am making the base that forms the surface of the water. The surface must be leveled but not necessarily flat since the ripples that form will make it slightly curved or concave-like.

The Hallux or the Big Toe will be submerged, probably half the toenail. The Pointer Toe will barely touch the surface. This is shown in figure 8.

Date: 9/19/2016 - Tree Trunk

The tree trunk going to Maria's right leg is filled up today. This will act as extra support for the main figure. Also in the works is the clothing draped around the left thigh (not clearly shown in figure 9).

Both legs are hard enough now to support additional paper clay up to



Figure 9

her waist.

While still in the drying stage, I will work on the arms and hands wireframe and probably the torso.

It is cloudy today and probably it will rain this afternoon. It won't allow fast drying but I can work more comfortably since the cloud is blocking the hot sun.

Date: 9/20/2016 - Arms Wireframe

I continued yesterday on the main roots of the tree and filling the hip area with paper clay.

Earlier today I completed the left and right arm wire frame and will probably continue on filling other areas of the body or making the wire frame for the torso.

It rained last night and moisture is apparently absorbed by the paper clay but with the weather today I think it will be evaporated and hopefully dry out and harden. It's partly cloudy today but still hot.

By the way, my photo above is the first working photo I have. I am actually in my comfortable working clothes shown in figure 10). I wear safety goggles here while working with the wires. I usually wear cotton gloves with heavy wire works but in this case I'm almost finish and just working with thinner wires.



Figure 10

Date: 9/23/2016 - Torso Frame

I've been practicing to capture brilliant photos using Canon G9. These are 2 of the few photos o that I have taken yesterday. I re-size some photos including these 2 before placing it here since the file size is huge (an average of about 5Mp) for an individual photo.

The frame is only in front of the figure's torso so that I can access it at the back when filling with paper clay. The spine armature is already filled-up with paper clay as shown.

Tomorrow I will start filling in the hip and lower torso. For now I am taking pictures of Bernardo. These pictures will be posted in FAA, Saatchi and other art websites.



Figure 11

Date: 9/24/2016 - Hand

While other parts of the sculpture is drying, I defined the right hand of Maria today.

The tree branches are almost dry. I will put some details unto them. Probably I'll add more paper clay on the tree trunk.



Figure 12A



Figure 12B

Date: 9/25/2016 - Drapery

I have defined today Maria's clothing flowing through her thighs. After a few days of drying I will add additional details on the it. See figure 13.

I also added paper clay on the tree trunk and wrist. I will continue to add paper clay today on parts of the tree trunk. The left arm would have to wait for a few days to dry since the drapery that it holds are still wet. Movement will make the connected portion of that drapery and thigh to weaken. This may cause problems later when adding details.

Date: 9/27/2016 - Left Arm

The last 2 days were just filling in the legs, hip and tree with paper clay.

Today I have given form to the Left arm by adding paper clay on it. As can be seen in figure 14, it looks much like a arm bones. I usually do this to see if they are proportioned correctly. Afterwards I fill it up with paper clay to create the correct form of the arm.

Date: 9/28/2016 - Right Arm

It's raining today here today. Before I made Maria's right arm, and thinking it was cloudy, I take photographs of Bernardo Carpio. Those pictures will be posted on both in FineArtAmerica and Saatchi Art and also on other online market websites.

Anyway, with the weather today and probably will last for another day, the paper clay that I have stuffed into Maria will dry longer. So I won't have any updates in a few days. But I will continue on building the dried parts but that would probably be hardly noticeable.

Well, I made the Right Arm as shown inn figure 15.



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15

This is the last journal that I have posted on my main blog. If you have downloaded this newsletter you can also view it in my website (www.dennistolentino.weebly.com) on Blog>Newsletter.

Next month's newsletter will contain the continuation of sculpting Maria and hopefully other topics that I may arrived at or maybe You can gave me some ideas.

Thank you for reading this newsletter and hopefully it had given you some new insights, ideas, passion or probably inspiration.

Until Next Month (November 1, 2016).

Dennis Tolentino