How To Paint
Kingdom Death Willow
Part 1 - Face

Face

Today, I will going to paint the Willow from Kingdom Death.

Kingdom Death models often come with detailed artwork, and today I'll show you how to follow the artwork as closely as possible.

First, prime the entire model, then paint the skin with Vallejo Model Color Base Flesh. Many recent Kingdom Death models have been printed on a 3D printer, and if you're not lucky enough, your model may still have traces of the print. If this is the case, you will need to sand the area down and then prime it.
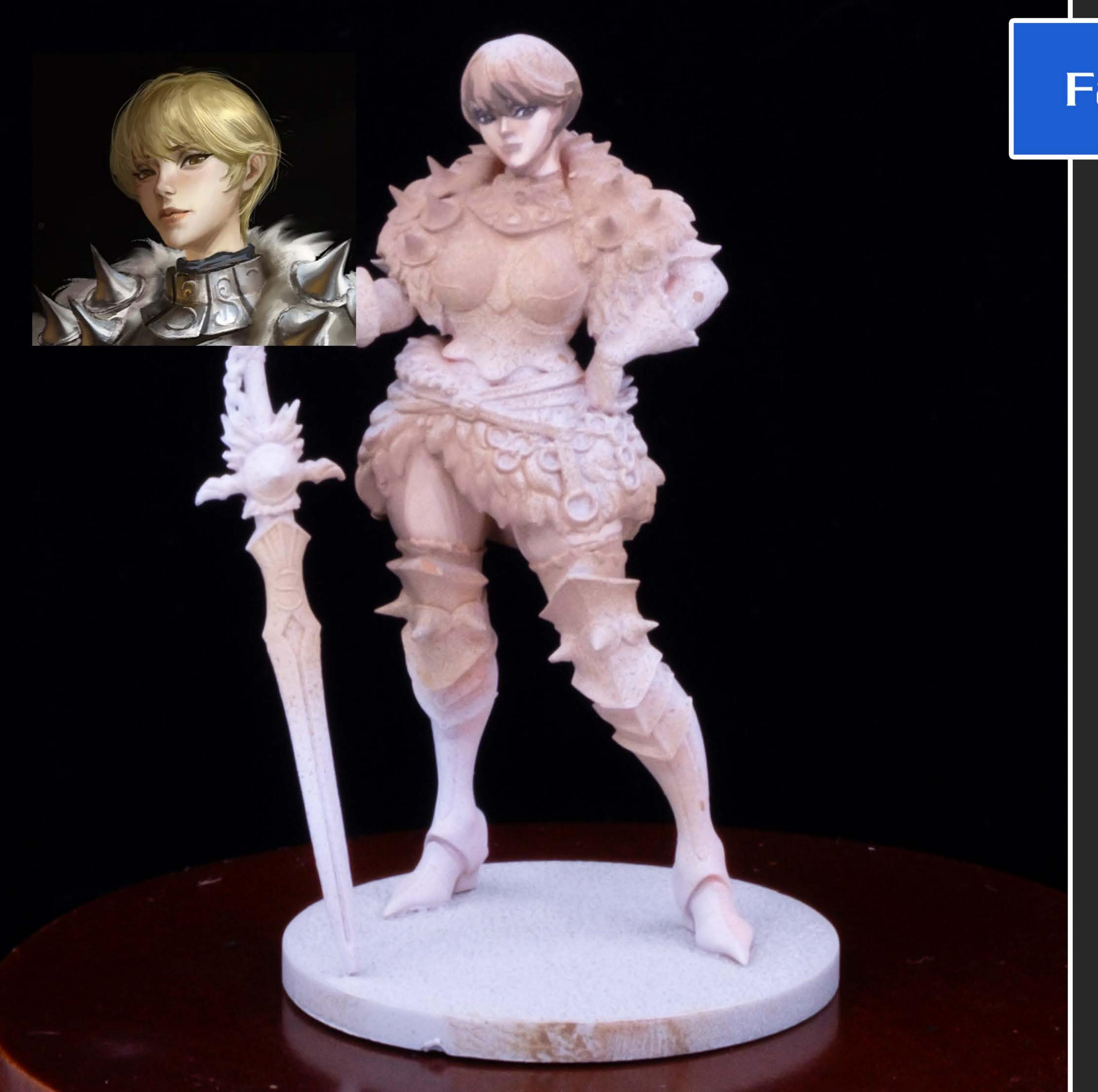
Face

For anime-style models like Kingdom Death, the eyes are important. Start by painting the irises with AK 3rd Tenebrous Gray, followed by the whites with AK 3rd Deck Tan, and then the shape of the pupils with AK 3rd Tenebrous Gray.

The pupils should be a little larger than you would for a Warhammer model, and then you can use Deck Tan inside the eyes to create reflections. It's a good idea to keep taking pictures while you're drawing the eyes, so you can see the details. From the picture, you can see that the eyes aren't too bad, but the shape of the pupil is a bit crooked.

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I'm going to start to fix with the lower eyeline, using Vallejo Model Color Base Flesh + AK 3rd Tenebrous Gray (2:1) to create a shadow similar to the one in the picture.

This flesh under the eyes is called aegyo-sal, which is rarely developed in Western people but is a very popular aesthetic point in the Eastern. It's hard to express at miniature scale, but I try to give it shape with shadows.

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Use the Vallejo Model Color Base Flesh + AK 3rd Basic Skin Tone (1:2) to mark the lighter areas of the skin, and Base Flesh + Basic Skin Tone (2:1) to mark the darker areas.

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Now dilute Base Flesh + Basic Skin Tone (1:1) to glaze the boundaries of the color.

This neutral color will give you the overall tone and balance. Smooth feel is more important than other textures to skin, so do it in thin layers.

After glazing, if it gets too dark, add a little more Basic Skin Tone, if it gets too light, add more Base Flesh, and repeat glazing.

At the same time, I also highlighted the middle of the face, the nose, and the cheekbones. Remember to keep the left side darker and the right side lighter to maintain the feeling of the painting. I also made some very minor adjustments to the shape of the eyes at this point.

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Use Vallejo Model Color Base Flesh + Burnt Red (1:1) to paint the area where the lips will be. The red is mixed with the flesh color to match the tone of the skin and give it a more realistic look.

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AK 3rd Burnt Red + AK 3rd Blood Red + Vallejo Base Flesh (1:1:1) with a little bit of AK 3rd Light Flesh to create a pink color that matches your skin tone.

Apply this to your lower lip to create an overall pink color, then add more Light Flesh to create a lighter pink color for a shiny lip. If you want a more flesh-colored scarlet, you can increase the Base Flesh, if you want a more red, you can increase the Blood Red, and if you want a darker red, you can increase the Burnt Red.

The reason for this complexity is if you used just red paint, may look like thick lipstick.

Face

Now it's time to paint the hair. Paint the entire head with AK 3rd DOT44 Brown Base.

Then paint all area with AK 3rd DOT44 Brown Base + Vallejo Model Color Ochre Brown (1:2), leaving only the darkest parts. Again, leave more shadow towards the left side.

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Start by highlighting the hair with AK 3rd DOT44 Brown Base + Vallejo Model Color Orchre Brown + AK 3rd Ice Yellow (1:1:1).

It's best to follow the hairline, rather than paint chunk surface, as if you were drawing a thin strand of hair. Once you've done this, dilute the paint and glaze the edges of the color to achieve a smooth result.

I used Ochre Brown + Ice Yellow (1:2) to add extra highlights to only the lightest areas.

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Now, dilute the GW Contrast Snakebite Leather very thinly and carefully apply it to the hair.

Be careful with this Contrast, as it will turn a very vivid yellow color if applied straight from pot. Dilute the contrast to a ratio of Contrast 1 : Water 3, and apply 2-3 thin coats to create a yellowish tone like the one on the left.

When applying contrast, it's a good idea to move the brush from light to dark. This is because the paint will collect at the end of the brush and the color will be darker.

Face

The face is now complete!

I used darkest skin tone to adding a little more details for nostrils and philtrum later.

Stay tuned for part 2. As always, thank you for your support.