



Autumn Leaves.



Nesting birds.



Syl's body art with matching head piece.

Hat's Amazing!

By Sarah McHattie

Very occasionally, an artist comes along whose sheer variety of work blows you away. Dutch artist Syl Verberk is one of those artists. Although she has just been featured in *Illusion*, there was only room for one small aspect of her work.

Especially for the Spring 2009 issue Syl had created a series of beautiful flower-painted twins. But luckily in this issue there is space to illustrate another of her amazing talents – her headpieces.

More and more artists are using headpieces to finish their face and body paints. They range from simple flowers pinned in the hair to more elaborate constructions like Syl's. They help to

extend and complete a theme for advertising images, photo shoots and competitions.

Headpieces can be made from absolutely anything: wire, silk or real flowers, fabric, ribbon, sweets, table tennis balls and foam. Looking at the images from any big competition quickly illustrates the array of ideas out there.

Syl runs workshops in how to create the perfect headpiece or fantasy wig. She sensibly has a maximum of six people in her classes as "everybody has so much stuff".

She says: "A headpiece will add something special to a finished design. It can make your

Floral Headpiece

By Syl Verbeck

Syl's headpieces look both beautiful and complicated to make. Here Syl shares her straightforward method for creating any headpiece, showing that it's a lot easier than the final creation lets on.

Website: www.sylliefaces.be



Stage One

Start by making a pattern for the head. The easiest way is by taking two pieces of thin foam (one for each side of the head), cutting them to shape and attaching them to the model with clothes pegs. Glue the pieces together and until the glue is dry, the clothes pegs will keep the foam in the right place.

Stage Two

The next stage is to create some volume and it's good to remember that the only limit here is your imagination! The most effective method for creating volume is by gluing on the cardboard centre of a toilet roll. Stuff it with paper to make it more solid and then glue on more foam around it (again using clothes pegs as necessary). You can then continue to add more foam depending on what design you are creating.



Delft tulips.



Blue roses.



As sweet as candy.

“Once you start making these headpieces you will see things to use everywhere.”

body paint complete. But it doesn't need to be complicated. Sometimes, for a vegetable themed paint for example, I will just lay a leaf of curly kale on the model's head – perfect!”

At Syl's workshops, people often want to make an original wig for the annual carnival – a big event in towns throughout Holland. “Once I had a group of people who all made the same wig during the

class. They won first prize in the carnival parade, which was great to see.”

She continues: “In a recent class a woman came to learn, so that she could create a wig-making activity for the young women at the prison where she worked. It turned out to be a great success.

“It is such a fun thing to do. When you are building a wig you forget everything around you. I don't always plan the final look. I just see what happens. I use all kinds of things. Once you start making these headpieces you will see things to use everywhere.

“My basement is stuffed with boxes of material – feathers, papers, fabrics, flowers, plastic fruit, leaves etc. I once made a wig with candy – I had to throw it away in the end as the ants loved it too!”

Illusion found Syl's passion contagious and hope that the photographs of her work and the step-by-step will inspire you to have a go!



Sea Goddess.



Stage Three

Again this stage depends on your imagination. Here sisal cotton is glued on to give the headpiece a resemblance to hair. However, you can easily glue on everything from fabric to leaves – the possibilities are endless!

Stage Four

Finally it's time to get decorating. You can tie or glue on the ribbons and then glue on the dried flowers. Leave the glue to dry and then it's ready to wear!

