**Horse Prepping Tips**

 **Preparation:** Your form is primed with an acrylic white. Wash the surface while looking it over carefully to see if there are any holes to fill or defects in the surface that must be fixed before proceeding. *(Use warm water, NO soap when washing your statue. You don’t want to leave a film on the surface that will cause your paint to not adhere properly)* **If small holes are found:** fill with a lightweight fast drying spackling compound. Smooth with spatula and let set before sanding. For your health and safety, **always wear vinyl or rubber gloves and dust masks or respirators when prepping critters**. Work in a well-ventilated space. CLEAN UP THE DUST WITH DAMP MOPS, DON’T SWEEP. If you find any areas where the primer appears to be light or flaking….a light sanding and then another coat of your own white acrylic will finish your prep work.

**Paint:** We recommend acrylics for your painting of the Statue. Latex wall or house paints are not recommended. Avoid paints that do not have a high colorfast rating -- you don’t want your design to disappear in the sunlight! If you are planning to **decoupage or apply mosaics** to your form**,** please call or email for additional information.

**Clear-Coat:** The art project should arrange for a final finish with an auto-body clear coat, which will create a hard-shell high-gloss finish with a UV-protection component. It is recommended that you do not clear-coat over mosaic or mirrored surfaces.

**Additions and Extensions:** Remember that anything you add to the creature will be vulnerable. Vandals (and the weather) will try to remove add-ons, so think “permanence” when planning and executing your design. There are professionals in your community who can help you do this, such as auto-body shops and other professionals who work with fiberglass. If you wish to sculpt forms onto your fiberglass form, use epoxy putty. Go to www.magicsculp.com and/or www.restorersupplies.com for epoxy putty and product tech support. To glue stuff onto your creature, use liquid nails or jewelers cement, epoxy adhesives or Bond 527 multi-purpose cement. We do NOT recommend that you add hats, bags and other items made of fabric. They will deteriorate outside.

**REMEMBER THAT BUYERS WILL NOT BE HAPPY WITH FAULTY ARTWORK SO WHEN WORKING WITH THE FORMS, THINK PERMANENCE!!! Note: These tips have been compiled from the experiences reported by other public art project artists across the country. Please regard all of these tips as *suggestions* on how to proceed. The entire process depends upon an artist’s knowledge of materials and proper application. If in doubt..EXPERIMENT. We are happy to share this information with you as a help in the success of your artwork as well as the success of the overall project.**