

Madame l'Osterhead

If you happen to have a headless torso mannequin lying around, you're halfway there. If not, you can create your own. We found that beans gave the gloves weight and made it easier to manipulate the pumpkin head into the perfect pose. And the moss camouflages the base of Madame, giving the effect that her body is coming up from the earth or a grave.

What you'll need

For the Body

- About 2 yd. of muslin
- About 4 yd. of gauze (sold by the yard at fabric stores)
- Gray fabric dye
- Regular-size bed pillow
- Masking tape
- 1 sheet card stock
- 1 large paper doily
- Bag of stuffing
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks or craft glue
- Sturdy base of some sort (we used a heavy paper towel holder that sits on a kitchen counter)
- Safety pins
- 1 yd. of gray ribbon

How to make it

For the Body

1. Dye the yards of muslin and gauze with the gray fabric dye following the dye instructions. Let drip-dry.
2. Use masking tape to shape the pillow into a female torso shape, and use more tape to attach it to your base so it won't fall over.
3. For the neck: Make a neck-size ring out of a strip of card stock and attach it to the top of the pillow with more tape. Cut out the center of the paper doily and attach the remaining ring to the outside of the card stock to hide it. Pleat the doily if necessary to fit it snugly. Tape or glue in place.
4. For the arms: Cut 2, 12-inch-square pieces from the muslin and glue into 2 tubes. Stuff them with stuffing (leaving them open is fine—they'll be covered up), and attach them to the sides of the pillow torso with glue, tape or safety pins.



For the Pumpkin Head and Hands

- Knife or carving tool
- 1 large pumpkin
- Doll's hat
- Scrap of gauze, dyed gray (sold by the yard at fabric stores)
- Tulle, crepe paper or ribbon
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks or craft glue
- Pair of long vintage cotton gloves
- Small dried beans (like lentils or split peas)
- Dried Spanish moss



5. Drape about 1 yard of the gauze over the front of the torso, pleating and pinning or gluing around the neck area for ruffles.
6. Wrap a strip of muslin (we tore the edges) around the waist to secure the gauze below the pleats. Pin or glue muslin at the back to secure it.
7. Wrap a strip of gauze about 6 inches wide around the neck to cover the edges of the pleated gauze and the card stock. Glue in place.
8. With the large piece of gauze remaining, drape it over the arms and torso like a shawl. Secure it to the waist with the gray ribbon and tie the ribbon into a knot at the back. Pull and scrunch the gauze around the arms, and tuck the gauze together underneath the arms to cover the arms completely. Pin or glue in place to define her sleeves.

For the Pumpkin Head and Hands

1. Hollow out the pumpkin by cutting a 4-to-6-inch circle through the top or backside of the pumpkin (large enough for your hand to fit through). Clean out the pulp and seeds with a large spoon and discard. (Or save the seeds and roast them later. Yum!) Replace the cut circle.
2. Cut 2 eyes and a mouth in the pumpkin. Cover the doll's hat with the scrap of gauze and glue the hat to the pumpkin. Make a crepe streamer bow and attach it to the hat.
3. Fill each glove with beans, then glue them closed.
4. Surround an area with Spanish moss. Now place the torso on top of the moss and fit the tops of the gloves underneath her arms and the hands and fingertips so that they're holding the pumpkin head.
5. Congratulations, you have reunited Madame with her head!

