



CREATING
THE
WORLD
FROM
YMIR

By Mackenzie Stewart

THE BEGINNING

‘In no way do we accept him as a god. He was evil, as are all his descendants; we call them frost giants. It is said that as he slept he took to sweating. Then, from under his left arm grew a male and female, while one of his legs got a son with the other. From here the clans that are called the frost giants. The old frost giant, him we call Ymir’

- Snorri Sturluson, *The Prose Edda*, 14-15

‘where did Ymir live, and what did he live on?’ ‘Next what happened that as the icy rime dripped, the cow called Audhumla was formed. Four rivers of milk ran from her udders, and she nourished Ymir.’

- Snorri Sturluson, *The Prose Edda*, 15

‘She licked the blocks of ice, which were salty. As she licked these stones of icy rime the first day, the hair of a man appeared in the blocks towards the evening. On the second day came the man’s head, and on the third day, the whole man. He was called Buri, and he was beautiful, big and strong. He had a son called Bor, who took as his wife the woman called Bestla. She was the daughter of Bolthorn the giant, and they had three sons. One was called Odin, another Vili and the third Ve.’

- Snorri Sturluson, *The Prose Edda*, 15



Ymir suckles the udder of Auðumbla as she licks Búri out of the ice painting by Nicolai Abildgaard, 1790

THE DEATH

‘The sons of Bor killed the giant Ymir’...’When he fell, so much blood gushed from his wounds that with it they drowned all the race of the frost giants except for one who escaped with his household. The giants call that one Bergelmir. He, together with his wife, climbed up on to his wooden box, and there they kept themselves safe.

- Snorri Sturluson, *The Prose Edda*, 15-16

‘What did Bor’s son do next, if you believe they are god’s?’...
‘...They took Ymir and they moved him into the middle of Ginnungagap and made from him the world. From his blood they made the sea and the lakes. The earth was fashioned from the flesh, and mountain cliffs from the bones. They made stones and gravel from the teeth, the molars and those bones that were broken’

- Snorri Sturluson, *The Prose Edda*, 16



Ymir attacked by the brothers Odin, Vili, and Vé illustration by Lorenz Frølich.

THE AFTERMATH

- 'From Ymir's felsh

Was the earth created,
From the bloody sweat, the sea,
Cliffs from bones, trees from hair,
And from the head, the heavens;

And from his eyelashes
The gentle gods made
Midgard for the sons of men;
And from his brains
All the oppressive
Clouds were formed'

-The Lay of Grimnir, 40-41



The creation of the world by Odin, Vili and Vé Illustrated by Lorenz Frølich.



THE CREATION OF THE WORLD FROM
YMIR'S FLESH

THE CREATION OF YMIR



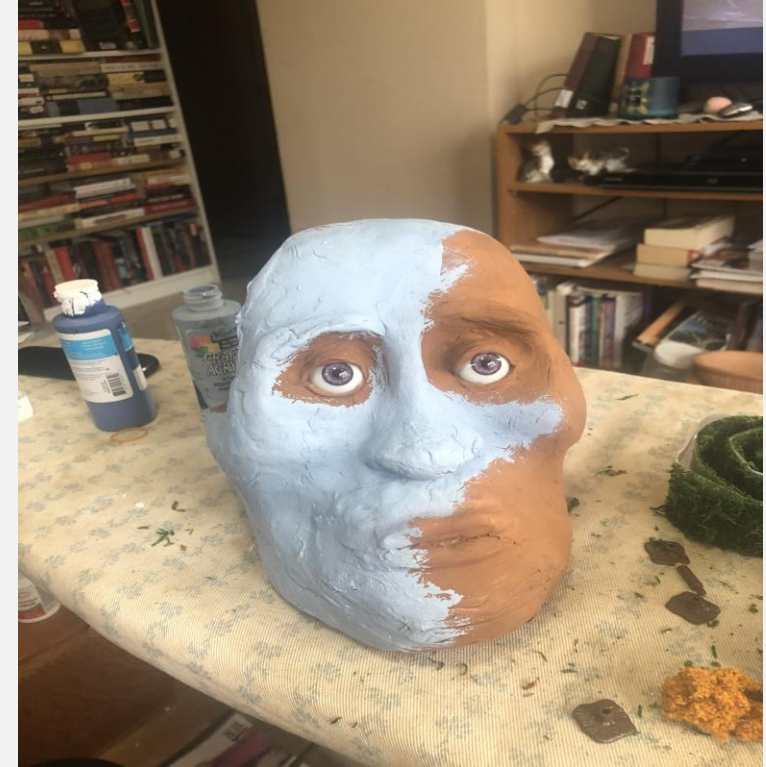
THE CREATION OF YMIR



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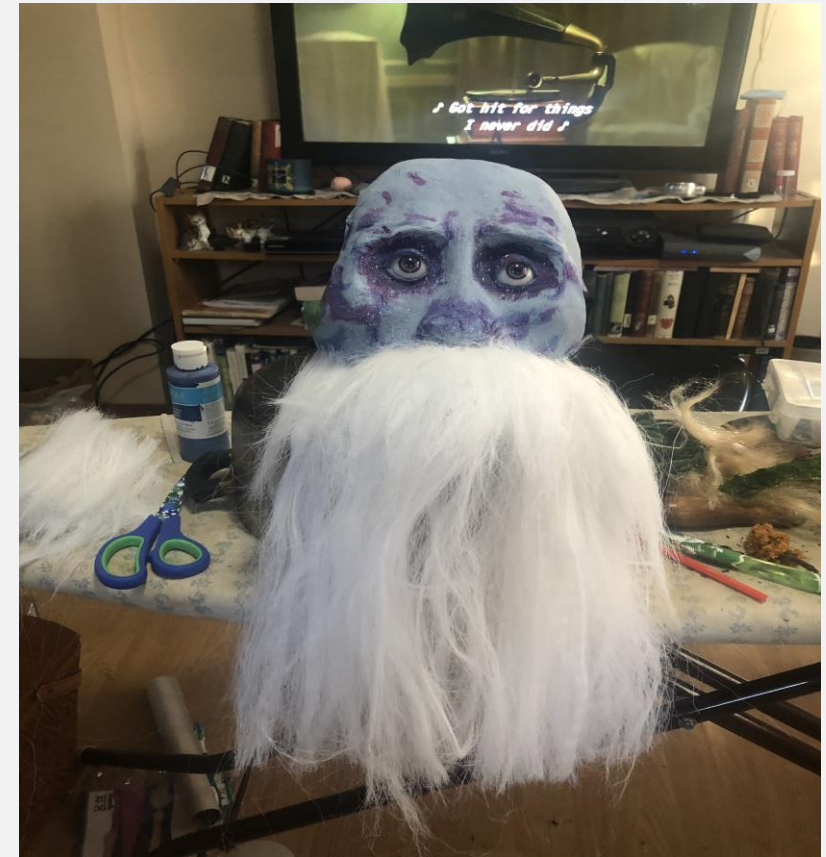
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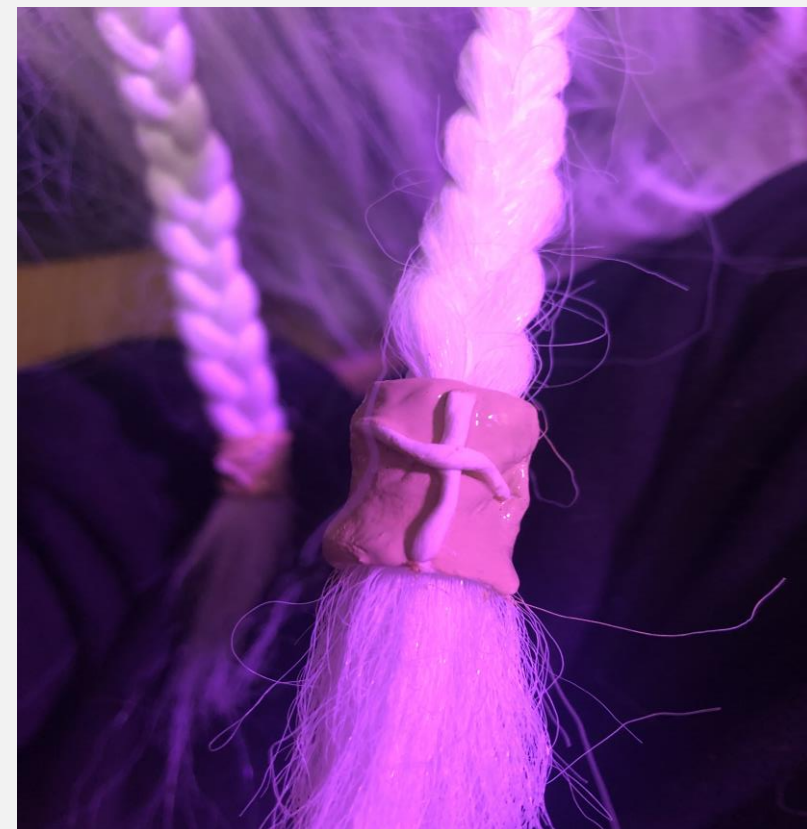
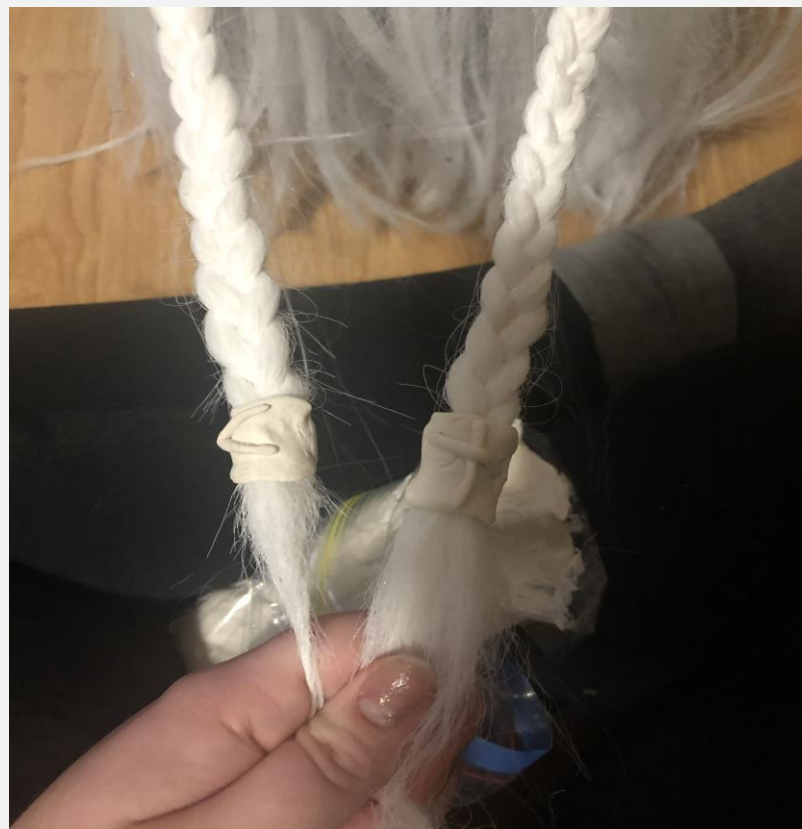
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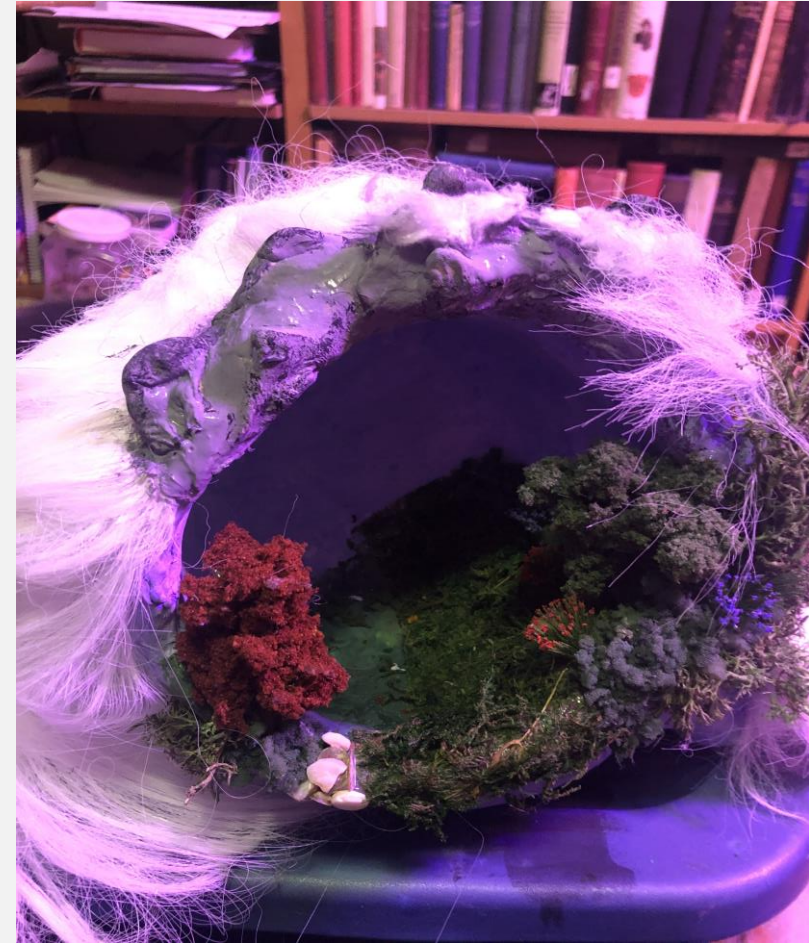
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