
Daily Creativity Challenge with Creativebug

Chapter 1 - Daily Creativity Challenge

Series Overview

(inspirational music) - Hi, I'm Leanna. I'm the editorial director here at Creativebug. - I'm Courtney, you may have seen me in classes, on live shoots, I also coach artists through the process of filming, and this month, I got to coach a lot of our staff, because this is... ^- CreativeBug's daily creativity challenge. ^ (laughing) ^ (drumroll on the table) - We have a lot of super, amazingly talented people who come in to San Francisco to film with us in our studio, but we also have a lot of really amazingly talented people here on staff. - Yeah, so we created a month long challenge where people on our staff got to tell us what inspires them, what sparks creativity, things that they love and enjoy to do. Everyone is super inspired by their own projects, and their own crafts, so we thought we'd share those with you. - And while a lot of our daily challenges that we've done so far have revolved around drawing and painting, this one, well it will have some drawing and painting. - There's still a lot of drawing and painting. - But there's really a little bit of everything. - Something for everyone, I think. One of our shooter editors loves his iPhone. He's gonna share with you some great ideas for combining creativity and technology. - [Leanna] And we even have our CEO showing us how to make an amazing pot of tea. - Because that's how she's inspired in the middle of the day. We have our marketing person, Ally, talking about plant care, we have Zinaida, our office manager, talking about how to create a plant press, we have another shooter editor showing us how to make a pizza shirt. You have to stay tuned to see what that is. - We've had a lot of fun filming these classes, and it's been really fun taking people who are usually on the other side of the camera, and putting them in front of the camera. We hope you really enjoy seeing what we're making every day, and also getting to know our staff.

Day 1: Color Palette Inspiration with Courtney

- Hi, it's Courtney. I make things all the time, all day long, every night always, and guess what sometimes the creative well is running dry. And I really have to push myself to make something. But I know that once I'm painting or once I'm making something I'm always really happy doing it. So it's just about getting over that hump and initiating the process and just starting something. So if I know that I want to paint, and I'm not really sure what I want to paint, sometimes I'll just sit down at my kitchen table with my paints and my sketchbook and I'll pick an inspiration image, and I will just pull a color palette from it. I'm not going to paint what I see. I'm just going to look at an image that I like and see what colors are working together to create this like harmonious image. You can do this exercise with a painting, a drawing, a photo of an object or an interior space, any of these you can pull images from. And it's a good way to kind of hone your skills at seeing color and color combinations. I'm going to start by trying to mix a little bit of this sort of minty, aged minty green. I'm not being precise about this, this isn't about color matching. It's just about getting a feeling for the color. So I can kind of test on here. I feel like that's closer. It's pretty minty green. There's a more piney green in these trees, maybe I want to capture that. It's closer. I'm looking at this dark brown color here. Just sepia. It's one of my colors to use. Maybe a little warmer, put some ochre in it. This red color, it would be easy for me to just say that's red and pick any red. But actually it's a orangy rusty red. So if I want to play with trying to get something close, then I can do that. And I actually really like how it looks with this mint green. I like these two happening together. There's also like a

mauve color, which I might have already had a similar color on my palette. Just mix it. This color. That's kind of right in between this pink and this purple color. I mix something that's in between so I can push it to be a little more red and get that pink color. See if I can find something. Push it to be a little more purple. Get that purple color. There's also an ochre color. It's a little dark, a little too green. I might just lighten it up a little. I'm not perfectly mixing these colors. I'm working with a limited palette of 12 colors. I can mix a lot of colors. I'm not necessarily going to be able to mix everything. And it's a fun challenge and exercise to kind of get close and see what colors you like. Maybe you wind up mixing a color that's not necessarily in this photo but you really love it and you love the way it's reacting with something else that you've painted, and that's fine. I'm not using a separate piece of paper to test my mixed colors, I'm just doing all of it on one page, and then I get the full range of the colors that I can mix, and I might learn something along the way. Really this is up to you about how much of this you want to explore. Do I want to mix every color that I see here? There's a very small amount of blue in her sari top, so if I want to I can just lay a little bit of that down. There's also black, and I never use black (laughs). Or very rarely do I use black. Can mix your own black but the black in her hair and in this little dog she has is a pretty true black. So maybe I do want to include that, because it's part of this particular image. And I feel like that really changes the way this looks. I like how these colors are working. I like these colors, they're more analogous with that little pop of ochre. I like how these two look together. But you could also just, you know, pick up all these sea glass colors and do something with that. I think that pretty well represents the colors that I'm responding to most in this color palette. I wanted to show you how I would do this for maybe a photograph as opposed to a painting, and I'm going to focus on what I like is happening in this photograph, which is how all these pink and reds are working together and still really pleasing. Sometimes colors that are like pinks and reds and purples can look really clashing together. But in this case I think they work. So I'm going to see if I can capture that on my paper. I'm going to start with this guy right here, this is smoke bush, and it's this really beautiful bordeaux sort of color. Add a little more indigo. Little more sienna. I think that's pretty close. Smoke bush color. I want something pretty light for this coral rose, so I might just clean off a little part of my palette. I rarely clean off a section but because we're going for something that's similar to what we're seeing, we're going to try to match that a little better. Start with a little bit of orange. That's a pretty warm orange but I am going to add a little pink to it. It might be a little dustier than what I see in the palette but I think that's pretty. I'm going to go to my red rose, and that is pretty saturated. And I think there's something that's just slightly more pink happening. Maybe a little bit of that, kind of a more truer red. Maybe something that's happening that's just a little deeper. Sort of like a blush and a smokey color and then these brighter red colors which I really like. You could of course fill a sketchbook full of color palettes inspired by imagery or art that you see. That would be so much fun to look through. Just this is super satisfying. There are of course abstract painters, and many painters who have used processes where they create palettes and you see them in sketchbooks, in museums. They're not the things that hang on the wall but they're so lovely to look at, and they kind of explain the process. You could come in here and find colors that work, and use them as a jumping off point for a fabric project, something that you're going to do in colored pencil, a drawing, another painting. These can just be a good source book that you've created. I have some other ones in my sketchbook. Instead of just doing swatches, I did little mini swatches and then this kind of very loose color wheel. I didn't let anything dry. I let colors bleed into one another, but I just wanted to stay with my blues and purples. I've got one, that one feels failed to me. It's like all green with one little pop of raspberry color. I don't love it, maybe I'll paint over it. This one was the colors that I was

seeing at this place called Apple Jacks, and it's like this really old school bar in the mountains. The person I was with was drawing, and I was painting and it was super fun. I think really looking at color around you, and taking the time to take stock of the colors you're seeing, not just that they're red, green and pink; but really what shade of red, what shade of green, what shade of pink will hone your skills for mixing color, for understanding how color works with other color and for using it in your own work.

Day 2: iPhone App Re-Org with Brian

- Hi, I'm Bryan and I am a videographer and editor. And I'm also the go-to Apple guy here at Creative Bug. And I absolutely love technology. And I try to be creative with my technology all the time. So what I'm going to show you is how to organize your apps on your iPhone by color. We love to organize things by color here, and I thought why not do it with my apps on my phone? I recently reset Courtney's phone here. And I thought it would be a great time to do it with her phone. One of my tips is that if you going to do this, it is advised that you might do this after you reset your phone. I do have friends that have tried this without resetting their phone and it takes a little bit longer, but, hey, if you have a lot of time, it's actually really fun. Starting with a fresh phone you have less apps to organize. So the first tip I have is to pick a neutral background. To do that, you would go to settings, and then you would go to wallpaper. The default one they have is kind of dark, so I like to pick one that's a little bit lighter, so you can see the app colors a little bit better. They have these still ones. And my favorite right now would be this ombre one that's kind of blue and it goes into a cream color. We're going to set it. We can set it to the home screen. So now we have the home screen set to this cool ombre look. The next thing that I like to do is put the apps that I use most frequently at the bottom. Courtney actually already did that. She has her phone, her email, her Safari, and her Spotify already at the bottom, so I'm not going to change those. I'm going to start organizing the apps by color. We have red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple. I do like to start with the white apps first and then end with black. I'm just going to start reorganizing them. I have a couple of white apps here. You're going to press down and hold. They're going to wiggle like this. And then you're going to start moving them around. I like to start with the white. And then I go from there. For all the white apps with color, I like to organize the apps by color within the white category. Right now, I'm starting with red. And I'll actually move this one over here, 'cause it has more red. And then what I do is the calendar has a little bit of red and I just back up and just, you know, it's just more like a feeling, which is part of the creativity of the whole thing. The next thing that I like to do is scroll through. We have a white one over here. And we're gonna put it over here. That one's right there. This one has white with a little bit of purple and blue, so I'm gonna put it right there. And this one's also white. Like that. Actually I would put it closer to this, 'cause the iTunes and the Boomerang kind of look similar. I always like to keep the rainbow. If the white category has a rainbow effect in it, I like to keep that last. So then after the white comes red. I'm just going to go for broke here. Looks like we have one red. The Instagram app is a little tricky, has a little of both, has a gradation in it. Let's see, red, orange, yellow. So this one, the Notes app, too has a lot of white in it, so actually I would put that in the white section. Going. So the next one would be green. And we have the Messaging app here. And then you'd have this one, the FaceTime app here. And then we have something like Google Maps, which has green, blue, and yellow in it. For apps like that I always stand back and see what color stands out the most to me. For me, green stands out the most. I'm going to put that in the green category also. But this is completely up to you. Whatever feels right to you, do that. I always put the Apple Maps next to it. Green, orange, yellow, green, blue.

And actually I think that the Instagram app goes in towards the purple category. A little bit. And it's completely up to you. The Clock app is actually very interesting because it has a lot of white in it plus black, but to me, the black actually stands out the most. So I am actually going to put that towards in the black section. Even though it has a lot of white in it. A lot of people use folders to find things quickly, but I use colors. For instance, Facebook is blue, so I go to the blue section to find Facebook. You could also use the handy search feature by just pulling down and typing in whatever app that you're looking for if you really can not find one. Red, orange, yellow, green, yep. I don't end with black here, I end with gray, because I like to make it seem like it would go from gray and then circle back to white. It's just a little thing that I have. And that would be it for organizing your apps. I have an example of what my phone looks like. And as you can see, I have organized a lot more apps than what I just did with Courtney's phone. Organizing your apps is like a little game. So while you're waiting in line, or perhaps waiting for dinner, or watching TV, you can go ahead and organize your apps by color. It's a great way to pass time, be a little creative, and personalize your phone.

Day 3: String Art Sketchbooks with Julie

- Hi, I'm Julie, and I started Creativebug with my cousin. Back then, with a startup and a newborn, I became a huge fan of what I like to call the multi-purpose craft. And these little stitch notebooks are the perfect multi-purpose craft. You can take everything, gather it in your bag. You can do them anytime, anywhere, you can stop and start. What I like to do is make a whole bunch of them. Can embellish on the back and personalize for each little occasion like teacher appreciation day, housewarming gift, whatever comes up at spur of the moment and you're looking for something to give. To make this project you just need a few simple things. You need a little scout book, or you could do a heavy card, you could do a notebook. You'll need some embroidery thread, and I like to use this ombré thread because it really does the design for you. You can do simple shapes and they make a beautiful design as you work with the thread. You need a pencil. You'll need a tapestry needle. You'll need a seam ripper to poke your holes. You'll need some scissors to cut the thread, and you'll need some simple shape templates made out of card stock, so you can trace your design and make sure it's even on all sides. A circle, heart, or diamond work well. For this project, I'm gonna use the circle. So I'm gonna start by centering it on my little scout notebook, and tracing it really lightly, just enough to see. We're gonna erase those trace marks after we poke our holes. Not sure if you can see that on camera. And then I'm gonna poke my holes. So I like to start at the top, in the center. And then the bottom. Sometimes it helps to open it up. Be really careful not to poke your finger when you're poking your holes. These seam rippers are pretty sharp. It's really important to have an even number of holes on each side. I like to do about 16-18 on each side, as you can see, my designs are really tight and I like to show a lot of colors. I just eyeball it, kinda space it out every couple of millimeters or so. Poke my hole in, and move on to the next one. So you continue making your holes all the way around the circle. I have one done here already, so I'll move to that. The first thing you wanna do before you get started sewing is to erase your circle, so that you don't have pencil marks, it's much easier to do this now, before you have thread, than after. You'll wanna use about an arm length's of thread, so that it doesn't get knotted up, it's easy to work with. You don't need to knot it at the end, we'll do that after our first couple of stitches. I like to start at the bottom. And go clockwise around the design. But you can really start anywhere that you like. So you're always working 180 degrees across the circle, and you're gonna be stitching clockwise. I like to stitch clockwise, you could do counter-clockwise but you always want to follow one hole after the next and go across. So after our first two pulls we're gonna take a moment to tie the knot in the

back, so that we don't lose out stitches as we keep going. Can use enough thread to tie the knot, very easily 'cause we can trim it when we're done. Got it tied pretty tight, and then we'll continue going around. I'll start to the next hole, to the left. I'll go all the way across the circle, to the next hole on the right. Crossing the one that we've just done, that way you get this nice, circular pattern in the middle. And again you do the next hole to the left. Don't do that with a pencil. Cross it over to the right. I'll do one more. Start at the bottom left, go to the next hole on the right and you can see how the thread is changing colors. So if you run out of thread, just tie on a new piece and continue stitching until you're done. I have one mostly made up here, so I'll just start from there. I've got the last two stitches to do. I'd ended up at the top of my circle, here, so I'm gonna go the bottom. Pull it through and you can see all the beautiful colors that have come through on the thread really make the design, that's a simple circle. And I've got my last pull at the bottom. Push it through the back, center it across at the top right near where I started. Straighten out my thread a little bit. And there you go. So when we're done, we'll take the back and we'll just tie a little knot. You can use a piece of thread that's already there from your original knot, or you can just a simple sewing knot, at the back, to tighten it up. I like to do it a couple times just to make sure everything is secure. You also might want to secure the knots with a little dab of glue to make sure they don't come undone, especially if you're giving it to folks who might be having these in their bags with a lot of other things. And there you have it. If you wanna further personalize these little notebooks, you could do a little doodle on the back. I like to put a little flower sometimes, little words, little bit of color. And you can personalize it for each person you're giving to. These are great to make a whole bunch in advance, whenever you have a stolen moment to do your crafting and relax. And you can have a whole pile and just grab what you need when you've got the occasion to go to.

Day 4: Found Photo Drawings with Courtney

- Hi, I'm Courtney, and I'm gonna show you an adaptation from a project in my "Playing with Image Transfers" book. Normally, I would do this with an image transfer of an old photo, but I'm actually going to use a regular photo, a found photo. I collect these, and I'm gonna use it as the basis of a drawing. So you can do this in your sketchbook. It's a nice way to play with a drawing, but have something to respond to, as opposed to just doing a drawing from scratch. And what I'm gonna do is extend the lines from the photo itself. I have a few different photos that could work. Something where the horizon line goes off the edge of the photo. There might be some other elements like trees or buildings, that you can continue drawing. The ocean, for example. I liked this one because it had just the base of the tree, and I thought I could really draw more of that. I want to cut off the white border, so I'll do that now. Just so I can have the photo go straight into my drawing. And I do want to tape this into place. I'm just gonna use some temporary washi tape for now. I can glue it down later. And you just start with your pencil, and you can extend these lines. Just gonna try to mimic some of that density here, lifting this up just so I can go right to the edge where the photo will fall. You could experiment with heavier, softer leads. I'm just using a regular old office pencil. Like some of these lines that come up... Just gonna make the texture here. And I get to imagine how tall these trees might be. That's what I love about this, it's like an animation, or kind of the photo is real and finite, and the rest is like a memory, right? Because it's a little fuzzy and a little made up, and only partially remembered. You get to invent it. If you're working with a family photo, and you don't want to trim off this white border, that's fine, you can just kind of visually extend your lines before you draw. You could also use an image transfer instead. But I don't mind, I don't know these people, so I don't mind removing the white border. Imagine that the tree comes down over here.

Maybe... Just like some little bushy things here, I'm just gonna do a little lighter pressure and start extending some of these lines out. There's probably some trees back here too. I had to imagine it. I'm gonna remove this washi tape for a little bit. Now try to mimic some of this grass, and draw these darker patches to begin with. Let's realign that. Just kind of mimic the texture of grass. You could do little tiny dashes, or dots, this could be as detailed as you like, or as loose as you like. Just kinda loosely shading in some of this, and then I can come back in with some detail. This doesn't matter as much because I'm using this mechanical pencil, but I'm working with it on its side so I have a little bit thicker tip, as opposed to just using the sharper point. That's more useful when you have a real pencil, and not a mechanical pencil, but this works too. And look here, this is all open space, but I see some trees here. So maybe I'll add those, and there's another little horizon lines, something like a sidewalk here. And try to keep going, grass comes here. Maybe I'll remove my washi tape and place it up here and down here as I work on this part. So it's really soft, this grass here. To avoid getting that ridge, I'll just lift this up a little. You can reposition the washi tape as you move around the image. I wouldn't worry too much about putting washi tape down on your pencil. It may not stick as well, it may lift up a little bit of the graphite. You can always draw back over it. The point is just being able to work around the image as you see fit, kind of imagining this landscape bleeding over onto the page. I think it's really sweet and soft, and kind of really dreamy, which is how a lot of these images feel to me, especially since I don't know these people. Curious just to see what that looks like. It's this cool framed out negative space. Maybe we'll move this and just put in her shadow. You can see that these little kids, their shadows spilling forward. So maybe we'll just do a little shadow here. And that could be it. And if this did have something written on the back, it says "1942," we could maybe put that here. Not gonna add a little place, or names, just the year. For whatever reason, I'm drawn to old photos, like I am to postage stamps or other things, things that have had this whole life and history before they come to me, and they sit in my house and sometimes they're on little shelves with other things, or maybe they find their way into a sketchbook. I like using them and giving them a new history and a new life. And this drawing exercise is very loose and free. You don't have to draw well. You don't have to be able to draw someone's face. I wouldn't recommend trying to mimic someone's face, or maybe you do and it's totally cartoony, and it's that contrast that is interesting. But I like just extending the lines and working from beyond that. I could add an animal in here. I can continue on this landscape, but I can also just leave it really simple, and it just kind of gives it another layer and creates a piece. And I think it's really fun to be able to respond to something, and often it's a lot easier than just coming to a blank paper and trying to figure out how to make a drawing. You start with a photo instead.

Day 5: Hand Turkeys with Faith

- Hi, I'm Faith. I love crafting of all kinds, but one thing I'm not good at is drawing. So the artist Lynda Barry has written a book called "Syllabus" about her experiences teaching art to non-artists. She's worked with scientists, and mathematicians, and this book is notes from an accidental professor. It's about how she tapped into all of these people's innate desires to draw, and how it's really important to get your hand on the paper. So one exercise she proposes is making a hand turkey, literally getting your hand on the paper, and I love doing this when I'm bored, in a meeting, over old work notes, on paper that's not precious, and here is how you do it. You get a piece of paper and a pen, and that's it. So you trace around your hand, give your thumb a little flair. These are your feathers. When you get to the bottom, round it off. Now you add the feet, add a beak, I think an eyeball is always very important, and then it just becomes a doodling exercise. So I'm going

to give him a hat. It's also fun to do this when you have a big box of markers, so you can experiment with color, but I've done it before when stuck at my desk, and just used highlighters, and pens, and pencils. I am using Koi brush pens. These are great because they deposit a lot of color, and they're good for layering. The whole point is that it doesn't have to look good, it's just for fun, it's just to get your hand moving, to get you working with the materials. Really, the more ridiculous, the better, in my opinion. I forgot the waddle. That has to be drawn in. So, essentially turkey components, hand turkey, feet, eye, beak, and waddle. Then you're good. You wanna turkey tour? - [Cameraman] Yeah. - So here's some past turkeys I've made recently over my work notes, because the less precious, the better. This one's my favorite because he's wearing a rain hat.

Day 6: Tea Time with Ursula

- Hi, I'm Ursula, I look after Creativebug, I'm the suit that makes everything happen so these wonderful people can create fantastic things. One of the things that I find that really helps me throughout the day is having a cup of tea, start every day off with one in bed every morning, it's a luxury that my husband got me used to when my children were tiny, it was my one treat, and then throughout my working life tea has been very very important, usually have one at 11, and then my body clock knows when it's coming up to 4 o'clock 'cause it's screaming out for tea and it revives me and puts more energy into what I'm doing, and also even the process of it just helps relax me and reset me. I'm gonna make tea in two different ways today, one is in this teapot that my father got for me, I had to carry it across the Atlantic thinking it was going to break, but it didn't, and it's a lovely little tea pot with a cup and I know you can get them in all the kitchen shops here in the US as well, and then the other way is a quick way of doing a cup of tea with a tea bag, but it's a good quality tea bag. So first of all the most important thing about making a cup of tea is actually freshly drawn water so it's the oxygen in the water that actually helps release all the loveliness in the loose tea. And you really don't want to be boiling the kettle a few times if you can't draw the water when you need it, the other thing about making tea, I'm just gonna pop this on, it might be a little bit noisy about making tea that's very important and it might be because I'm Irish and grew up in a cold house is you really have to heat the teapot and also something unusual is, my family likes to heat the cups and heat the mugs as well, we like our tea steaming hot. So for the first go I'm going to make some loose tea, and this is from David's tea, try to buy tea that has been farmed in a good way, 'cause a lot of abuse goes on in tea farms and people are tied to the farms. I try to buy organic when I can 'cause I know that it comes from a really good source and they look after their workers. Plus also the tea quality is absolutely excellent. So with this loose tea here, it's a black tea, I'm addicted to black tea, this is an Irish breakfast tea, I'm afraid of all of them flavored teas I'm not that keen on, I get a great smell and then I'm always disappointed when I drink it it doesn't taste as good as all the aromas, raspberries and things, but that's just my palate. So my kettle has just come to the boil, bring the pot to the kettle, not the kettle to the pot, 'cause again, that just makes everything that extra hard. This is not for tea this is actually just to warm the teapot up. I naturally put my hand to it 'cause I can actually feel it warming up and I can feel that yes, that's getting to a good temperature and now I need to dump this water out, and that's nice and warm. Oh, I'm gonna pop it into my teacup because it's actually gonna warm the teacup up at the same time, then the rule of thumb is, even if you have a big teapot, it's one teaspoon per person and one for the pot. It's very important to do that if you are making six cups it would be exactly the same, you'd put seven in, so you always put one in for the pot, okay, so this is a perfect pot for this cup so I'm going to actually fill it up to the top steaming hot. And then it's gonna work its magic. I'm gonna put it on top of the cup

so it's gonna heat my cup up at the same time, that's why I love this design. So this needs to steep for, people say, four to seven minutes, sometimes three minutes actually works a charm. But I don't have an egg timer here so I'm going to do it on my phone. So I'm gonna start that. Now while that's happening I'm going to show you a slightly quicker way of making a cup of tea and this is a really good quality tea bag, it's organic as I said, it's Clipperd Tea, they make fantastic teas and they do do herbal ones as well, you might notice it's a slight yellow color, that's because it's unbleached, and I seriously believe that I can taste, I probably can't but that I can taste bleach when we have bleached in the teabags. So just pop that in the cup, pour some water on there and you can see it's actually taking the color really really fast, much faster than the other tea, the reason being is that the loose leaf tea is much larger and much coarser, where as in the teabags it's a much more finely chopped, you can actually put your teabag in the pot as well, but this is the way I like to do it. So I know I can have a quick cup of tea, stir it around, it's a really fast way of doing it. I'm going to be really controversial here, I always pop my milk in last. Usually posh people pop their milk in first because they show the quality of their cups, back in the old days, cups would have cracked if you were to pop in the boiling water first of all so as people got more and more expensive cups, they use to pour the water first to show that they were quality. So I'm just going to, that's the teabag done. And I'm gonna pour in my milk and I'm gonna pour it into the color that I want my tea, very important to use milk, the first time I was offered half and half in the US for a hot cup of tea, I was horrified. I would do it now occasionally when I'm desperate for a cup of tea if I'm flying but milk is the best and I love 2% okay now the beauty of that, that took 90 seconds, let's put this over here, and let's just check the time on my timer, and we're good, 5 minutes 41 seconds and we're bang in the middle, okay, stop. I use a tea strainer like this, we have some pretty ones, my mother in law has beautiful ones, I use this because I prefer to strain the tea that way. I know sometimes there are balls and things that you can get here in kitchen stores, but I like this. So perfect timing, let's see what it looks like. Look at that lovely golden color. Let's just take this and put it over here. I think this is only going to need a few drops of milk. When I was in business on the other side of the pond I would make tea, we'd all make tea, we'd make rounds so we'd drink copious amounts of tea every day and I like making tea for people so as I have a spare mug, I'm gonna give this to Courtney and then I'm going to add controversy 'cause when I want a real treat, I dunk some biscuits. I do like rich tea, java cakes are amazing but you have to dunk them really fast otherwise they go soggy and fall off. This one here you can swirl it around for a few minutes. - [Courtney] What kind of biscuit is this? - This is called a ginger nuts, I think they're called ginger nuts or it might be ginger snaps here, but it's great with a cup of tea, not too long 'cause it gets soggy, and then in. Hmm. So you don't have a saucer so you can't put yours down, but cheers, cup of tea.

Day 7: Weekend To-Do List with Liana

- Hi, I'm Liana, and one of my favorite things are weekends. I work really hard all week, so when the weekend comes, I can't wait to really dig into a big meaty project. But one thing that always gets in the way is life. I have a lot of things I have to do. I have chores around the house and errands to run and I have to factor all of that in to the creative ambitions that I have. So, before I go into every single weekend, I make a list. It really helps me make sure I get everything done, I have a really good balanced weekend, and I don't feel like I spent too much time having fun or too much time doing the not fun stuff. So what I like to do is pull up my Notes on my phone. You could do this in your notebook or journal. I find it's easiest to do this digitally because that is something that goes with me everywhere and it's really easy to edit, alter, add onto as I go. So what I always do is I start with

a list of the things that I wanna get done. So here I have things like laundry, hiking with my sister, an email that I need to write. I know I want a big bread this weekend. I have a whole, just jumble of things. And actually, when I look at this, I start to feel itchy because I'm like, "I'm never gonna be able to get all this done!" To organize this overwhelming list, I will start by just creating three shelves: one for Friday, one for Saturday, one for Sunday, and I'm gonna start dumping things into their appropriate buckets. So I know, for instance, that yoga is on Sunday. So, I'm gonna cut and paste yoga into Sunday. I know I'm gonna have a really boring Friday night. I just kind of wanna go home, and zone out, and watch TV. So, that is a perfect time to do laundry. Let's just get the gross chore out of the way, right? I know that Sunday's gonna be my Bread Baking Day. So, let's go ahead and add that in there. That sounds like a perfect post-yoga thing to do. And that before I can do the bread baking on Sunday, I have to refresh my sourdough starter. So, I'm gonna add that to Saturday. When am I gonna be able to work on a hike with my sister? Probably not on the day when I'm gonna be doing yoga and baking bread. So, I'm gonna hit her up and see if she can hike with me on Saturday. And while I'm out and about, that's when I'm gonna go ahead and do all my errands. So, things are starting to take shape. I'm trying to mix in the chores and things like that. Get them out of the way, so that I can have creative space to start thinking about the things that I'm really excited about. And right now, I think Sunday is going to be an amazing day. Okay, here's what my weekend is looking like. I already decided I'm going to be taking it easy at home on Friday night, so why not do laundry? I figured, while I'm at it, let's just mop the floors and get it done. And while I'm in the middle of doing that, I think I'm gonna shoot an email over to my cousins. Saturday is when I'm going to be refreshing that sourdough starter and hiking with my sister. While I'm out and about, I'm gonna pick up the soda stream refills, and I'm gonna grab the zines for the art show from the copy shop. And then on Sunday is gonna be my awesome day 'cause I'm gonna go to yoga, I'm gonna bake bread, and then while that bread is baking, 'cause there's a lot of stopping and starting, I know I'm gonna have plenty of time to paint and start working on a new skirt project. Look at that. My weekend is planned, I no longer feel overwhelmed, and this is a really easy way to cross things off and add to it, move things around and you can do it on the go.

Day 8: Mail Art with Courtney

- Hi, I'm Courtney, and I wanted to share with you one of my favorite things to do, which is send and receive pretty mail. One of the things that's really hard about being an adult is just having a mailbox full of bills. And if you get in the habit of writing letters or sending postcards to friends often, they will send them back to you. So there are a couple of things that make creating mail art really easy, and that's magazines, just having some magazines and other paper ephemera on hand. If you're not into drawing then you can use rubber stamps, and I've got a lot of those and some ink pads. Card stock, or anything that you can make a postcard out of. This happens to be a mailing envelope, which is nice and rigid, you can use cereal boxes. You can dress up an existing envelope, or you can even make your own envelopes. If you take an envelope you already like, like I love these ones from paper stores, and you open them up, you can create a template. Now you can trace just using this, but you can also make something a little bit sturdier, out of a cereal box or a mailing envelope. I traced those envelope templates into these more rigid ones, so that I can use them over and over and over. And I wanted to show you how to use one of these templates to cut out an envelope using a magazine page. That's just one way to create kind of an interesting, eye-catching piece of mail. You could of course use a store-bought envelope and just dress it up like I mentioned, but I thought this would be a fun thing to show you. A lot of places sell envelope templates, but they're

so easy to make on your own. I want to get half of this girl's face on the front of my envelope, so this is gonna be the front of the envelope here. I'm just gonna trace this out. You could use an Exact-o and cut directly, but then you would be cutting through multiple pages of your magazine, so it's just easier to trace and then cut with scissors. And this is like a fun thing to prepare, you could just make a ton of envelopes so that you have them at the ready. Just tear that out. I tore a little bit into my template, that's okay, that's gonna be glued down, or taped down. You can set that aside. And then just cut this out with scissors. I think it's easier to make a full straight cut and then go back in and cut out these notches. So that's where I would have cut. I tore it there but I'm not worried about it, I can just tape it. And then go back in and cut these little notches. This is gonna tell me where my folds are gonna land. I didn't score this piece of paper, I'm just gonna fold it free-hand, but I do need to cut out these notches to show me where to fold. These indicate the lines that create the front and side folds of my envelope. So where those notches match up is where one of the folds happens. Here as well. Here. And, there. So I'm gonna tape this, and this will be our actual flap, and this is what our envelope front is gonna look like, and we can address it. I'm gonna use a little bit of washi tape, just to fold this down and tape the bottom part of the envelope together. You could also use a glue stick, because these pieces overlap a little bit. I had mine torn, I tore it a little bit, and I'm just gonna use the tape and that's fine. So that makes an envelope. It's super easy. And I can tape it closed once I slip something inside. I'm gonna save this envelope for later, because I have a piece of art I want to mail and it needs a slightly larger envelope and I have that ready. So this is a print that I picked up for my friend Mike. This is the envelope I made using my template and a magazine page. I just put a little post-it note on here. Now I'm going to tape all of that down, so then when it goes in the mail it's protected. I put a little post-it note for Mike, it says, "Made me think of you." Slip that inside. And then I'm actually gonna use some heavy-duty packing tape, because I want the label on the front to stay on and I want this to stay closed. I really love packing tape. You could put glitter or use washi tape and then cover the whole thing in packing tape and it makes it super, super sturdy. I'm mostly just concerned about that. I could put this part down with washi tape. And then I'll packing tape it again later. Put this right over the back. The other thing that you might need to do is put your return address. Because I just put packing tape there, I might want to do it on a piece of paper and then add some more packing tape on top. The post office won't take anything without a return address. If you just drop this in the mailbox which you can do then it doesn't have to have it. I'm just gonna add a little packing tape there as well. Protect that. Now all that guy needs is a stamp, but in addition to envelopes you can also just send postcards. This is a postcard I made for my friend Alfonso. The back is a cut up piece of a blind contour drawing I did of him just on a piece of cardboard. The front just has his name using a magazine cutout. I use my rubber stamp pad as a way to apply ink, so that's what creates this hot pink bar here. And both of these need stamps. If you bought a postcard that's standard, like 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 then you can use a postcard stamp, and that has a different postage than a regular stamp. This is a forever stamp, which means the postage will never expire. This is an older postcard stamp. It's 29 cents, I think it's about 33 cents now to send a postcard. Don't worry about supplementing stamps, because it's actually really fun to use a lot of stamps. That's something that can change the way your envelope looks, or your postcard. You can also use vintage postage, and I have a ton of it. You can get this on like Etsy, Ebay, you can go to stamp shows and get it, and sometimes you're only paying a little bit more than the face value, so you just want to make sure that you know what the postage is for what you're mailing so that you have adequate stamps on there. And it's super fun to go through all these old vintage stamps and select what you want to put on your letter. Because this is sort of a puffy

postcard, I'm just gonna give it regular postage like I would an envelope, so I can use one of my forever stamps that's for regular postage. I could do the same for this. If you're working with something square you need to put extra postage, so that's something to keep in mind when you are creating your mail art and sending your pieces. I was gonna show you a quick tip for just dressing up a regular, store-bought envelope. You can use a stamp pad as a way just to apply color, like blocks of color. And texture, different pads will have different effects. So you can layer that way. You can also use rubber stamps to create textures and layers. Let's do... And that's really fun to play with, you don't have to know how to draw, you can just bust out some stamps and do something fun. I can also just use a forever stamp. That means that this envelope is ready to go even if I use it in 10 years, or 10 months, or 10 days from now, that this is ready to go. And then I just wanted to show you some of the envelopes and stuff that I've saved. Whenever I order something off Etsy, or a friend sends me a really cool envelope I save it. And I liked this one because it was international, and I love this huge block of stamps here. I just like how graphic that is. You could totally send a piece of mail using all 10 cent stamps and have a big block of it. This is from my friend Christina, she's an amazing calligrapher, so I saved that because it looked how it looked. This was a piece from an artist in Canada, and she drew these awesome Sumo wrestlers, so I kept that. This is a friend of mine that I met when I was in high school in art school for a summer program in L.A. and we corresponded for two years and so I've kept this letter forever, and he had these little Dr. Seuss guys on there. This is a vintage piece of mail that I found at a thrift shop, and I just loved this amazing graphic on the envelope. Of course the handwriting is so different and it's from the East Bay, which is where I live, so I thought that was special. And this is my most recent piece of mail art, this came in the mail last week. So it has this cool collage and painting, and the friend who sent it is letterer, so it has this really beautiful application of my name and address. You can easily make mail art or dress up an envelope in whatever way feels comfortable for you. You don't have to have all the things. You can just start with a drawing, adding in different colored marker, or you could play with washi tape to dress up an envelope. Rubber stamps are an easy go-to if you don't know how to draw. Even just picking out special postage stamps can make creating a letter or receiving a letter even more special, and if you start this practice and get your friends into it, it's going to make going to your mailbox so much more exciting.

Day 9: DIY Plant Press with Zenaida

- Hey, I'm Zenida. I'm with Creative Bug. And today I'm gonna teach you how to make a plant press. Why press plants? I don't know, but for myself, I love plants a lot. I love plants because they're beautiful. Because they're life, they're medicine. They make the side of the road look really nice when their flowers are in full bloom. There's a million reasons why I love plants. So I'm gonna show you the easiest and most economical way to make a plant press. There are many ways to make them, but this is gonna be your easiest one. It's just little scraps that you can find at home. So what you'll need to start with, you're gonna need two pieces of wood. They can be any size, literally. I have two mismatching pieces, by the way. It's very easy to use whatever you have. You're gonna need some corrugated cardboard. You're also gonna need some paper. Newspaper works great. If you have a phone book, phone books are great. And you need some plants. You're gonna pick plants that aren't super succulent. You don't want ones that retain a lot of water. Those ones are gonna be a lot harder to dry, and it's not gonna dry as nice. So I have a couple of ginkgo leaves here. Just a couple that I found on my way to work. Also this beautiful little delicate purple flower I thought was gonna be really easy to press. You'll also need a strap of any sort. You know, I have a

this rubber strap. You can use a bungee cord. You could use a belt. You could use rope if you needed. You just need a small amount of pressure to keep all the plants and the layers together. Separate pieces of wood. And you're gonna start creating layers. Very simple layers. So you'll put a piece of cardboard down. And then grab a piece of newspaper. You want to fold them according to the size of your plant press and your plants. You want to make sure that they all fit. You wanna make sure that when you put your leaves down that you think about how you want your leaves or your flowers to look in the end. You're gonna want to place them that way. If you place them, you know, with little folds and what not in the leaves, it's not gonna come out as nice. Gonna put these right here, nicely. And you're really gonna close up your paper. Put another piece of cardboard. Another piece of paper. This one, I'm gonna take these off. So I'm gonna place this upside down, so that I make sure that I get all of the plant's parts flat and dried out nice. And if you'd like, you can also add little notes to these. Like in here you could put, you know, where you got the plant, what the plant was, the date and what not. If you're gonna make an herbarium. Here, we'll do one more. With both. These are a little dry. Little drier that I'd like. And then you're going to place your second piece of plywood on top. You can make it as high and as tall as you'd like. So you're gonna secure the blocks and your layers together, just like this. And you're gonna let it sit for, you know, 10 to 14 days tops. I wouldn't check it any time before ten days. You don't wanna let too much air into your press. And then... You get to open up your plants. You get to open up your plant press. You get all these pretty, cute little flowers. You can mail them to someone. You can start an herbarium. Oh this one wasn't that nice, but nevertheless, still exciting. So you might notice that this time I'm using paper towel. I used the paper towel because I collected these plants in the winter. They're a lot more moist than they are in the summer. I find that when they're extra wet, I like to use the paper towels. They help absorb more of the moisture. I like to keep my pressed plants as memories of what I did that day. I went on an herb walk or maybe I just went on a hike and I found these really beautiful plants. I'll press them and then if I'm with a friend or whatever, I'll like send them a postcard with you know some of the pressed plants that I picked from our hike and just a little note saying, "Oh, I had such a great time on that hike." Or I like to decorate gift wrapping. I like to use like a grocery bag and kind of use some tape to like tape on dried flowers. It looks really nice. You can make bookmarks. You can press paper. There's a million things you can do. All in all, it's just a nice memory to have of like a day that you spent in nature.

Day 10: Nature Rubbings with Courtney

- Hi, I'm Courtney. When I'm out and about walking around the lake or walking through the forest I often find little plants or acorns and things that I like to collect on my walk and often plants and leaves and other botanicals wind up in old dictionaries or pressed under many, many pages. If you saw Zenaida's plant press project then you could be pressing your plants that way, but then they often just stay tucked in those pages and they never get exposed again. So, I thought it would be fun to do a project to take those plant pressings and go to the next level with them. This is just a nature rubbing. You could, of course, do this with fresh plants. Things that are very dry and brittle will crack under the pressure of a rubbing, but things that are freshly pressed work the best. So, I have a little collection of leaves here. You could do this with flowers as well, something that has a little bit of texture so that we can capture the texture through the page. Using just regular 8 1/2 by 11 paper and a few crayons. I like to use this technique by removing the paper on the crayon first because I like to use the side of a crayon. Using something like chalk or an oil pastel is a little bit too soft. You need that rigid standard Crayola crayon for this project. I have a couple of 8 1/2 by 11

sheets here, some to put underneath when I'm doing the rubbing on and a few to actually do the rubbing on. You may remember this from gravestones or something, too, when you were a kid. You can also take rubbing of any texture, like wood or rocks. You're gonna place your pressed plant down on a couple of sheets with another single sheet on top and using any crayon of your choice with the paper removed, with your crayon you're gonna gently rub. You can see that the highest point underneath on the plant is the stem. That's coming in really dark. Wanna get those leaves too. Sometimes I go in a circular motion. It's whatever I feel like. You're gonna get some residual rubbing marks around it like kinda clouds. That's totally fine. If you're doing this with kids, that's totally unavoidable, so if they wanna rub really hard over the entire surface, the plant will still come out with the texture so that's totally fine. I'm gonna go right up to that stem so I can see it. It's just like another recording. I think these rubbings are pretty to pair with the actual plant and you could write what this is. This happened to be a fern. I would probably use a fancier marker but even with a crayon that's kind of a sweet little pairing. This could be framed. You could make a card out of that. Let's do another one just to see the difference. This is also pressed. You can see the veins on this really showing through, which I love. Also, that stem is very vibrant. You can rub over the entire surface, so if you wanted to get like a little bit of texture, you can. You can see the piece of paper that I have stacked on top is now showing up as a ridge. You could play with that, to make like a little frame in the texture, just like that. I also really love how this looks. You're essentially making a mono-print. Just by kinda experimenting with different leaf shapes, different textures and paring it down to a crayon color that you enjoy, I think you can get a really sophisticated look. They start a cyanotype kind of feel using this blue. Here's some other ones that I've made that I think are really pretty. Even the ones that are maybe a little less successful can still be texture. I created this little tiny book with these plant rubbings that kind of didn't have enough texture so I did these gestural really bold marks on the outside of the leaf shapes. Then I'm just gonna use this as a sketchbook so I can tape photos into this or write on top of it later. It can become a card. So everything about this is just about creating a first layer. You could do this in a sketchbook as a first layer and write on top. It would be a nice way to have like a nature walk journal and of course this would also be a great activity to do with kids. You could gather plants together, press them. Then it's another way for that nature to live on in your home and you can even make art out of it.

Day 11: Broken Jewelry Re-Vamp with Allison

- Hi, I'm Allie. We've all been there. We lose an earring, break a bracelet or a necklace, and you've got these leftover jewelry pieces and you don't know what to do with them. Well, instead of throwing them away, repurpose them into new jewelry. In this class, I'm going to show you how to repurpose a lost earring, and a broken bracelet into a pair of earrings and a necklace. So, to start, we're gonna need two very basic jewelry tools that will get you far and allow you to fix just about anything. The two pairs of pliers that you will need include a pair of flat-nose pliers, and a pair of round-nose pliers. To make the necklace, we're going to be using a lobster clasp, a leftover earring, which is right here, some jump rings, some chain. This is silver-plated chain and I cut it to 24 inches in length. To make the earrings with leftover beads, we're going to be using two earring hooks and two head pins, and I also have some loose beads. To begin, we're going to make the necklace from a leftover earring. This is the perfect project for those spare earrings that you don't know what to do with. So to start, I'm gonna take my chain and I'm going to add a jump ring to the end of the chain. Grab a jump ring, I'm gonna grab one of these small guys right here, so that the split is on top, facing you. The next step is you want to grab your needle-nose pliers and use them to hold one end

of the jump ring. While holding it, grab your pair of round-nose pliers. Use it to hold the other end, and now we're gonna twist just a little bit, so that you open up the jump ring and you can put it on the chain. We're going to grab the chain by the end of the chain. Now that I'm holding the jump ring in one hand, I'm going to use it to put it through the last loop. Just like that. So now I need to close this. And to do so, I'm going to take the needle-nose again, and like I did the first time, twist this so that it closes again. The next step is to remove the earring pendant from the earring itself. To do that, we'll use a pair of pliers, it doesn't matter which kind. Hold earring in place. Then we're gonna grab our needle-nose pliers, grab the end of this, and pull it back. So now that I've got that, that now opens this up and I can slide the charm right off. To make this charm a pendant, you're going to have to put a jump ring on it, same as before. Once the jump ring is on the pendant, you can now string it on the chain. The reason why you want to add a jump ring to the charm is so that the charm lays flat against your chest, and so also, that you can string the chain through it. To finish the necklace, we're going to add a jump ring to the other side of the chain, which I've done here. And we're also gonna need to slip on the lobster clasp. Once that's on, you're gonna wanna hold the jump ring, like so, and same as before with the other jump rings, move each end of the jump ring so that it, once again, is aligned. Close it up, and now you've just made a necklace. For the earrings, we're going to start with a headpin. And we're going to start threading on loose beads on to the head pin. Just like that. And now we're gonna cut the end. For this, we're going to use wire cutters, and we wanna cut about a quarter of an inch from the top of the bead. So we're gonna snip that. And now to bend this, we can start by bending with our hands. So grab it between your index finger and your thumb and just start to bend a little bit. Once you get it bent a little, you can always work that out with your needle-nose pliers. So now we've got the headpin with the beads on it. Using your round-nose pliers, twist the wire so that you can make a loop. Just like that. The reason why it's called a headpin is because the base of it is flattened out like a little topper. That way, when you hold it up, beads don't fall off and the base catches the beads. The last step is to open up the jewelry hook using your needle-nose pliers and we're gonna swing this on. Grab the pliers again, and simply close it shut. From a broken bracelet or necklace, you now have a pair of adorable earrings and a necklace, and all you need are a few simple tools.

Day 12: Watercolor Warm Up with Liana

- Hi, I'm Leanna and I love to paint. But before I sit down to paint anything, I find it really helpful to warm up. Just get the creative juices flowing and kind of paint something without any pressure. So, the first thing I like to do is get out just a nice medium size piece of paper and I love to tape off the edges because even when we're just warming up, I actually find it really helpful to have nice, crisp edges. There's something really satisfying about it. It also helps to hold your painting in place if you go a little bit off the edge like that. Keep it from sliding around. And what I really love about taped off edges too is that even if things go a little crazy while you're warming up, and sometimes they do, then when you lift off that tape, it brings a feeling of control and a crisp edge and almost like you did it intentionally. And sometimes things turn out a little bit prettier than even you thought that they were. So, I'm just using a standard painter's tape. And you want to make sure that you line it right up with the edges and press it along all sides. And then you're ready to dive in. The first thing that I do is grab one of my big, round brushes, this is a size 12. And I just like to work very wet and before I dive in, I kind of close my eyes for a second and think if there are any colors that I'm really feeling drawn to at that moment. Sometimes it's inspired by your surroundings. Maybe you're on vacation and you're seeing a lot of a certain tone. Other times, you just have a color in your head

that you're feeling drawn to that day. This is sort of your meditation, your chance to play with that color. So right now, I am feeling pink. Kind of a blue pink. So I'm gonna just put a little bit on my brush and I'm gonna dip it again because I want to start out a little bit pale. I'm just gonna start making squiggles. And you can see, I'm just kind of bending my wrist. I'm not worrying about this too much. I'm gonna go into my pink again and see if I can start adding little drops of color. We're playing with tone. I saw a painting recently that I really liked that actually involved pink and a little bit of green, which was a surprising combo for me. So this is a chance where I wouldn't normally kind of mix my pinks and greens, but I'm going to see how they look together because this is just play time. So, let's drop in a little bit of green here. Oh, that's kind of nice. And see how it spreads. And now I'm filling in little quadrants. Now, one thing I like to do is make sure that I leave a little bit of space white. I think I might add in another cool color, so maybe, let's see, I think this is a nice purpley tone. Let's get some purple going up here. It's starting to feel really cool. Let's add in some sky blue with that. Ooh, now we're turning kind of dark. Now it's feeling a little bit dark now, so how can I brighten this up? And again, you're just responding to what is being put down. See, this is exciting to me now. Like, ooh. It's like when you add that squeeze of lemon to a salad and the acidity just starts to brighten it up. Now, my pink has started to turn a little bit gray, so why not, let's just pop in and start adding more dots. And now we're having some kind of orangey moments. That orange is making me feel like, hey, why not see how orange reacts in this? And it's starting to go a little bit crazy, but that's what's really fun about it. So now, this green, oh right. Green, I forgot. I was working with green a little bit. Let's play with that. Add in some more. And you might make mud. And that's how you find out what makes mud. Is by putting things together and seeing what turns brown. You could sit down and kind of look at a color wheel and see which colors are going to play nicely together, but I actually think it's way more fun to just dive in and say ugh, I love that, I hate that. See how you're feeling about it. I'm actually really missing these gold tones. So, now it's heading more in that direction. It's turning into kind of a golden piece. And that is when really fun things start to happen. You get these kind of drips. And you can start to see, how does pink react with green? And you get these kind of, you actually start to get a little bit of a brown, but I'm going to remember that later for floral paintings because I actually love that little bit of brownish tone that you get. Because that's actually what you would see in nature at the intersection of, say, a stem and a rose. There's always a little bit of a dark, maybe a little bit of a brown, an earth tone. So, I just learned something right there, that maybe I wouldn't have learned if I was really trying to be precise in a floral painting. Now at a certain point, you'll just step back and say, I think that I am done. Or I think I've gone too far. Or I think I'm just feeling like I have this in the right place. And at that point, you're gonna step away and just let it dry. And maybe keep coming back to it. I always like to stand back and look at it and say, how do I feel about this? So, I'm not sure if I'm done with this one yet but either way, I will come back to it or I will just set it aside and let it dry. And now I feel kind of warmed up and ready to start working on things. Let me show you what some other ones have looked like when the tape comes off. This is one that I did which was experimenting kind of muted greens and blues where I started dropping in some brick reds. And I love these rusty earth tones here, and up here, I got some really cool fractal action going on, and that's because I remember I was painting outside on a hot day, and my paint was drying really fast. So, I was getting this cool effect. And I never would have discovered that if I weren't just kind of playing around. And here's another one I did recently which was kind of a fun experiment with yellows, and again, with some of those rivulets of brick and a little bit of dark blue running through it. I didn't always do these watercolor warmups. I used to just kind of dive in and then just slug through whatever the first

painting was. I have found since I've started doing this it's a great way to free myself up, takes the pressure off, allows you to play, and sometimes you even wind up with something pretty.

Day 13: Stamp Sorting with Courtney

- Hey everybody, it's Courtney and Charlie! And I have a ton of craft supplies at home, and when I'm feeling really overwhelmed about what a mess or a chaos they all are, I like to take one tiny corner, one tiny box, one tiny item, and sort it by color or size or whatever is gonna make me feel like I did something. It's gonna give me that creative spark, and I know it's just a tiny little moment, but it's something that'll help kind of ground me when everything feels a little bit out of control. And one of the things that I could be sorting from now until I die are my postage stamps, because I have so many of them. And they're really fun to sort. This goes back to, you know, putting your markers in rainbow order from when you were a kid. And you can do this with markers, with pens. You could do it with fabric. You could do it with your yarn colors, with your embroidery floss, you can do it with buttons. In whatever order you think is helpful. So I have a lot of blues happening here. This is kind of greens. This is helpful if I wanna make a collage. I could be sorting these by their postage amount if I was gonna use them for actual mailing. This is more like a black category. Green, black, this is multicolor. Oh my God, I love that one. How amazing is that graphic? And I actually will use these postage stamps, most of them, for actually mailing things. I am a collector of all kinds of objects. I collect pins randomly, so lace pins, sewing pins, dressmakers' pins, and they actually came in really handy last year when I curated a show that had almost 500 pieces of art that all needed to be pinned to a board. We used 5,000 pins, so I was happy I had my pin collection then. Oh, this is another amazing one. This is Chief Joseph from the National Portrait Gallery. So incredible. Let's do ... I think this is on the green side. Okay, put a blue. These are actually blue and this is actually green. Green, green. Got a lot of multicolor ones here, too. You could also sort these by their country. This one happens to all, this pile happens to be all United States postage, but I could be doing this by country. Just collecting makes me happy. And postage stamps are something that take up just a small amount of space, and they're really fun to use, and I love getting mail that have interesting postage stamps on them. I don't have a purple category yet. I'm starting to get some color categories developing. I have a blue one, a green one, a yellow one, red, white, and blue because that seems to be a recurring theme, kind of ochers and blacks, and this one is multicolor. And I may resort that later. And I'm just doing kind of generally what things are. The red, white, and blue is pretty obvious. Oh, these are so many good ones! (laughs) That one's awesome. The joy for me in this is just really being able to like take a survey of something that I've collected. Often I'll get a whole mass of vintage post cards, or an old photo album. And I don't necessarily always sit down and spend time looking through it. So I like to go back like this, and the sorting feels a little bit proactive, like I'm categorizing these in a way that I can use them later. It saves me a step later. I think, overwhelmingly, the blue category is the one that is standing out. Surprisingly, there's not a lot of red. I find in foreign postage there's a lot of red, but so far I have a lot of blue. I'm just gonna show you what the blue one looks like. So much. Some of it is pale blue with accents, some of it is more solid blue, which is a lot of fun. Blue with red. Maybe now I would look at this and say it's more multicolor. I like that that's a dark blue. I could also just sort these according to theme, and these are both space themed. Maybe red goes with purple. There's also a lot of red, white, and blue. Once you have these sorted, you can decide how you're gonna store them, because you don't wanna put them back in a big pile. I would put them in a vintage cigar box perhaps. I have some type drawers that have individual stamps in them. I also made this little folding case, which is two book covers

and some little channels for the stamps to go into. This might be something I could throw in my bag with my sketch book. And then I'll always have postage when I wanna send a post card or mail a letter to somebody. So this is just another way to display the things that I have sorted, and it's gonna make me happy when I open it and look at it, I already know. I actually need to fold them or tear them down to size so that I can put them in to these little channels. I'm totally saving these little offcuts, because I could paint these and make my own fake postage with that later. Maybe all those will go down here. Now, for a true stamp collector, you're probably not supposed to tear these up, but I'm not using these to collect them for their value, I'm just collecting them and using them for the value to me, which is art making, or letter sending. It's not for their monetary value. So I don't mind doing this. I don't mind tearing them apart. And that means I can fit them all into this little case. Let's fold that. And maybe this one I also wanna arrange by color order. It's like a fun little trading card case. I'm just gonna fill this up, keep all my blanks down at the bottom. I could resort this according to its monetary value, its postage monetary value. But this is something I've been doing since I was a kid. Not only the stamp collecting, but just sorting things. I used to sort my Lucky Charms marshmallows by color for the bowl. That sounds a little OCD. I don't think I'm necessarily OCD, but I really value preciousness. I never used my stickers when I was little because I didn't wanna waste them. So I sorted those. I remember getting into fights with my mom about how messy my room was as a teenager, and I would just go and open my tackle box and sort my beads. So it's not always the most productive, but it always felt really good to do it. And I think it brings, it allows you to resurface the joy of something that you've been collecting. And I know for myself, a lot of the stuff I have, I have so much of it, I tend to get overwhelmed and it feels heavy, but doing this reminds me how much I love every single one of these postage stamps. I love looking at the images and I like to know when they were from, and I like that I can use them now, and it doesn't feel heavy. It feels amazing. It makes me happy. For me, it's the postage stamps that I love to sort, or it could be beads or often my markers or my paints. I really love to sort my tubes of paint. It makes me super happy to just look at them and take a survey, and reorganize them by color. I think it kind of excites that six year old self and the back to school of reorganizing all of your markers. But for you it could be something else. It could be collage ephemera. It could be your markers pens. It could be post cards that you've received, or the Christmas cards that you actually want to enjoy at the end of the season before you put them away. This practice of sorting and surveying, although it's a little bit proactive, and it may tidy a tiny corner of your craft room, it's something that for me is really inspiring and puts me into a creative mind set when I'm feeling overwhelmed.

Day 14: Stenciled T-Shirts with Erik

- Hey, what's up? I'm Eric. I make videos here at Creativebug. And today I'm actually going to show you how to make a really simple stenciled t-shirt. This is one that I've made previously and you can see it's a little faded looking. This black t-shirt kind of absorbed a lot of the ink, I think. So I'm actually going to use a gray shirt instead. What you need for this project is some freezer paper, just a little bit of water to wet your brushes, some paintbrushes, anything to clamp a t-shirt down to a surface, it's just to keep it taut so that when you're painting, it doesn't wrinkle up. And any kind of fabric paint, because we're making pizza and using yellow and red. You can actually mix these two to make a lighter crust color. You'll also need a cutting mat, a razor blade or an X-ACTO, a pencil or pen, I'm using a manila folder just to act as a guard so that I don't get the other side of this t-shirt wet with paint, so I'm going to stick it in and pull the print on top of that. I have a piece of freezer paper I already cut to size here. And lastly, you'll need an iron to make the freezer paper actually

stick to the t-shirt. To begin, I'm just going to freehand draw this right now which might be a little sketchy, so bear with me. The first thing I'm going to do is attack the crust because I can trust in the crust. I know it's always going to be one shape. It doesn't matter if it's lopsided. And you can kind of just think of these as basic shapes. Break it down into the most simple form possible. So next is triangle part of the pizza. And this bottom edge is where I want it to look like it's gooey, dripping cheese. And then connect the triangle up here. Now this is important. This little line right here is what separates these two areas. Since I am cutting this out, this'll be the dividing line to delineate between crust and cheese. Now that I have my basic shape drawn, I can actually dive right in with my razor blade. It's really hard for me to get curvy lines with an X-ACTO blade, so a lot of this is probably going to end up being pretty angular. And I'm just going to loosely follow this. Remember it doesn't matter if you follow the outline because I am just painting over this, it's a stencil. Just going to go in there and hold down the edge of the paper so it doesn't really curl up as much. Since I am an editor, this part, I can tell, is pretty boring. I might speed this up. A couple jump cuts real quick. And like I thought, it is a little bit zig-zaggy and kind of jagged, but I think that's what makes it cool. Now all we have to cut out is the crust. Since I am adding the pepperoni last, I don't need to cut out a stencil for it. I'm just going to paint it right on over what we've already done. Next, I'm going to iron on the freezer paper directly to the t-shirt. That's the cool trick about freezer paper is that it has this shiny side to it and it has this matte side to it. I drew on the matte side because that's the up side, the side facing you. Alright, just smoothing out the wrinkles. Now is the time where you want to slip in the manila envelope to protect the back side of the t-shirt from getting wet paint on it because we only want the graphic on the front. So I'm just going to slip this in here. This is the time where you can decide where you want your graphic. I think the middle might be a little too low. I'm going to kind of inch it up a little bit towards the chest area so I can have it dead center. I can see where the manila envelope is laying. I can feel that. Take your freezer paper, place it over the spot where you want your graphic, take your iron, which should be hot. Give it a quick press, kind of iron it as if you were ironing your clothes. I noticed a little problem right here. I ironed on this, creasing it, so I want that part in the stencil so I'm just going to flip it up with my blade. Kind of loosely reapply it. I'm going to come back at it with the iron. I really want all these edges to stick because if they don't, you're not going to get a clean edge. Clean edge is basically what makes a stencil look cool. I'm going to run my finger over the edges just to check and see if there's any wrinkles or air pockets or anything. We're all good to go. The seal is nice and tight, I'm ready to add paint. I'm going to use the shiny side of some extra freezer paper as a little mixing palette. Squirt out some red and some yellow. I'm going to blend the two together. Some ketchup and mustard. When you would dare your friend at school to eat any of your weird concoctions like mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise, all in one sauce. That's what this should look like. I could tell right away this is sticking to this fabric better than it did on the black t-shirt. And it's just going to pop a little bit more since it's a light background. Some contrast is good. Slapping the paint right on. I kind of already like that color. I'm going to give my brush a little bit of a rinse. Most cheese is yellow. I know if you go to France, they'll look at you weird like an American, but in America, cheese is yellow. So we're going to go super yellow. Really slap it on thick here because it's absorbing a lot of this paint, I can tell. I might even grab some of the t-shirt paint and just have a little pizza party on it. Just gob it on. And it's cool to brush right off the edges because if you made your seal correctly, everything will come apart with a nice, clean edge no matter how sloppy you paint over it. It's a good thing I put that manila envelope down because I can see it's getting really soggy. In some cases, you might want to wait for this to dry, but I've tested this out already and I'm just going to paint some

pepperonis right on top of it. You could freehand paint your pepperonis but I actually have this handy little foam dot. And this works great as just a nice mark maker. I'm going to dip it in the red paint and just sort of do pepperoni marks. Dip two. It's real thick. Here's a little trick: I want pepperoni falling off the edge here, so I'm going to use the edge of that freezer paper I'm using as a palette, run it all the way up to the edge here, and just get half of a pepperoni hanging off the edge. To create the illusion there's more pepperoni. Peppers delight, alright. One more right at the edge here. That is good. You would normally want to let this dry. I've let this dry for about two or three minutes just now. But there's a little bit of greasy pizza and that's fine as long as you don't think it's going to spill onto it as you peel it off. You may have noticed that I did not use the clips that I mentioned. And that's just because I felt it out, I put my hand pressure on there, that seemed sufficient so I just went with that. This is the funnest part. On your mark, get set, pizza. Not bad. It's a little baby slice. Make sure to let this dry before you wash it and wear it. Also, depending on the brand of paint that you got, you might need to heat set it before you wash it, as well. So make sure to read those instructions. What I love about this project is it's super duper simple. It's two colors of paint, two cuts to make a stencil, and, I mean, look at all this fun we're having. I think I know what every member of my family is getting for Christmas this year.

Day 15: Library Love with Courtney

- Hi, I'm Courtney, and I absolutely love going to the library. It's one of my most favorite things to do, it always has been. It's something I used to do with my dad when I was a little girl. Go to the local college library, which was open at night, and totally magical for me, and he of course, being a dad, would just let me wander through the stacks. And now as an adult, it's my place for inspiration when I've had a long day, or I just feel like I need a little boost of creativity, it's the place that I go. Of course I love the downtown Main San Francisco Public Library. It's a really special place. They have a history room, an incredible archive, and little gallery spaces throughout the library. But I also really love the Mechanics' Institute Library which is a private library. It's also walking distance from Creativebug, so I often am there in the evening. And I love to just wander the stacks. Sometimes I go with something particular in mind, but sometimes I just go through the sections and I can definitely tell from the spines of the books which ones are the oldest, and I'll pull them off the shelf and sometimes I'll be surprised by a magnificent cover, like this one. So I thought I would just share my most recent collection of books that I found when I was there last. This first one is called *The Californians*. It's from I think 1926. I love the cover of this. I'm really interested in kind of old books about California, even when some of the information is outdated, I think that's kind of interesting and kind of tells where we've been in this state in our history since it's so brief. I love that at the Mechanics' Institute they have these beautiful book plates. And because this is an older book, it also has perforated pages. So a lot of libraries had these perforation kind of stamps that they would punch into some of the opening pages of a lot of their books, as opposed to just a rubber stamp. Although this one also has that. I haven't fully read this one yet, but I love to just kind of browse through the pages. Sometimes there'll be margin notes. And of course they have the actual plate in the back where they literally still stamp the due date. So this one is due October 4th of this year because this is the time I checked it out, but before me, no one had checked it out since 1986. So I'm happy I found that little treasure. Also love to wander through the floral section, the garden section, anything about botanicals, because I often find books that have incredible covers like this one. I love the embossed cover. This book is entirely about camellias, and these plates are incredible. I might have checked this book out more than once. I just, I can't get over how rich the color is. There used

to be, I think, little vellum sheets over this, some of which have stuck to the pages. There might have been some water damage or some moisture or something. And I actually live at my grandma's old house and she had this incredible rose garden and a beautiful camellia bush that I get to enjoy every year. And I just love these little tiny extra things that are tipped in, like this one says *erota*. Just sometimes there are these little notes, or sometimes you find accidental book marks, things that have been tucked in the pages. So awesome. This guy is another book on camellias, but this has more photographic as opposed to drawn illustrations, but still super rich, vibrant colors. Sometimes I'll use this for painting inspiration, or the shape, or just to flip through. I feel like there's so much visual stuff in the world, you're being saturated all the time with imagery, and part of me loves that, but I like to kind of be selective about what it is that I'm taking in. So even if I don't necessarily draw from this, it's still something that I really enjoy to look at. Just, look at that spread. That color is so incredibly rich. And then I usually check out a place, like travel books. Like I'm dying to go to Japan, I still haven't been. I hadn't seen this travel guide. This is a contemporary travel guide. I love that it's printed on matte paper. It's got something about Kyoto, which I'm dying to go to, and Tokyo, as well as other places in Japan. I haven't actually sat down with this one yet, because I just picked these up a couple of days ago, but I thought this was like, a good inspiration to keep this top of mind as a place that I wanna go to next. So that guy. And then I got this Herb Caen's Guide to San Francisco. This was probably published in the 60s. It has an incredible map of the city. It's got an original little book plate. It belonged to the Colonial Hotel. Let's see when it was actually published. I think 1957 is when it was actually published. Has these cool little spot illustrations, which are super representative of the time, and I have this kind of enduring fantasy that I'm gonna go through this book, and find all the old hotel bars, and the ones that are still around, I'm gonna go and have a cocktail in each of them. This is something that I've been wanting to do for the last five years, since I've been working in San Francisco. I just love the idea of going back to like, the Alfred Hitchcock time of San Francisco, and that's what these kinds of books make me think of. So I picked this up to plan my next weekend adventure, and just to flip through and look at some of these illustrations, 'cause they're super, super awesome. And of course, I flipped to the page of museums, which is... It's got the Legion of Honor, which is one of my favorite museums. The de Young, which has changed since this book was written. Yeah. So this is a good one. And then, last but not least, I often will also wander, like, the comic graphic novel section. I was actually looking for a specific book, and I didn't find it, but what I did come across is this Edward Gorey book, and he's an illustrator that I started liking when I was a little kid. I used to watch the British Mystery! with my dad on KQED, and he did the animated illustrations for the Mystery! hour. And then as a teenager I bought a lot of his books. There was this great book called *Amphigorey*, which is the complete compendium of his illustrations, and so this book I just picked up, because I hadn't read it yet. And I was kind of laughing at myself, or to myself rather, that this guy looked like the ultimate like, I dunno, hipster dreamboat with the mustache. Especially because he's petting lions here, and that's like one of the common dating app images is men petting lions, so I thought this was hilarious, and that maybe could be used for something later. The library is an incredible resource, and if you haven't been there, it's free to join. It's a great place for kids and adults. A lot of libraries have late night hours so you can go after work, or you can enjoy them on a Saturday morning. If you've never been into a library, or you haven't been in a long time, it's never too late to go, and you can just start by browsing a topic that you might be interested in, you can check out your local history. A lot of libraries have history rooms with archives. Really amazing things, like ephemera. You can find photos from your area, sometimes old menus, old newspaper ads. It's worth talking to librarian,

because they are an incredible resource of knowledge and information and know their collection really well. It's a place that I feel totally recharged and refreshed. And another good tip about the library that a lot of libraries offer, is that you can check out museum passes there. So if you wanna check out a museum you haven't been to before, you can usually go on the website or in person and check out a 24 hour pass, and you can get into the museum for free. It's one of those unknown tips that I think is really useful especially if you have friends in town, or family, and a lot of people with you, because then you can take like up to four people to the museum for free. So check out your library. It's one of my most favorite places to be.

Day 16: Houseplant TLC with Allison

- Hi, I'm Allie and I'm a bit of a plant nut. For years I've collected plants of all different kinds and I've learned a few techniques for how to keep my plants alive and beautiful with minimal maintenance. The first of course is water. Water is the most important element to keeping a plant alive. In order to check the water levels of your plant and whether or not your plant needs to be watered simply stick your finger about a half an inch in the soil and feel whether or not it's damp. For regular house plants, you'll need to check the soil once a week. For succulents, as over here, you'll need to check the soil, every two to three weeks. In addition to water, sunlight is the second most important element to keeping your plants healthy. Different plants have different sunlight requirements. So, check the label that the plant comes with and also feel free to move around your plants from one room to the other to see what works. The plant will tell you if it likes where it is because it'll be healthy. In addition to water and sunlight, I have a couple of techniques that keep my plants healthy and blooming year round. The first is to dust the leaves of plants. Plants can get dusty from house dusts and it's important to keep them nice and fresh. You can just wet some paper towels and simply dust the leaves. You can also put your plants in the shower. They love showers. It's a great way of getting dust off. Just like that. The last tip to keeping your plants looking beautiful and this won't hurt the plants, most plants can be trimmed within reason without doing any damage, is to cut off any dry ends. Even healthy plants get dry ends, so you're not hurting them by giving them a nice little trim. So, with just a little bit of TLC you can have a house full of beautiful, oxygen producing plants to enjoy everyday.

Day 17: Watercolor Art Journals with Liana

- Hi! I'm Leanna and I have always kept journals, and journals, to me, were always just for writing in. It wasn't actually until recently that I kind of put it together that I could incorporate artwork into my journals, and so I want to show you the art journal that I have been keeping and give you some ideas for how you can maybe merge some of the crafts that you love. In my case, writing and painting. I went ahead and picked out a journal that had some nice, heavy watercolor paper, and it feels a little bit extravagant to have this journal that has these big, beautiful pages on it, but it's really fun getting used to it. So the first thing that I did is I just kind of painted a big sploosh of color, and then I went over it and started writing over it with a micron pen, and it was exhilarating to write over a painting. I had never done that before. I highly recommend it. What I wound up doing is going through the journal and just doing paintings. Sometimes I would cover an entire page, sometimes I would just do a little section of it, and, in this case, I couldn't bear to write over the figs, so I actually wrote around them. In some cases, I have painted whole spreads and haven't written over them yet, and I don't even know how I'm going to write over them. For instance, am I going to write over these flowers or around them? Or maybe I won't even write on this page at all. In other

cases, I actually wrote on the page and then I went in later with paint and kinda painted around it. This one I actually like the juxtaposition of leaving it blank, and on and on. So I've had a lot of fun doing this and filling in the pages. I think I'm going to write over this page today and I'm just gonna write a little poem on here that I jotted down recently. "We begin with creativity, always on a right-hand page. "Just like a book, you must begin on page one "or else you skip the first steps of the journey. "We begin with curiosity, "Who is this character? Will I like her? "Will she continue to keep me engaged?" ^"There is one way to find out. Turn the page." ^Me. - [Courtney] You wrote that? - Yeah. - [Courtney] That's so cute! - Me! (Leanna laughing) That's actually something that I wrote, and I wrote it in a different journal, and I thought it might have new life on this page, and actually, looking at this, I think that this page is stronger now that it has words on it, and what I love most about it is that it combines two things that I really love, which is writing and watercolor.

Day 18: Painted Dot Faces with Courtney

- Hi I'm Courtney and I always keep my sketchbook and a little travel watercolor set in my bag with me. Also have a dedicated painting backpack so that I'm ready to paint and have all my materials whenever the feeling strikes. And something I like to do with friends or even just on my own is paint big dots of color and then go back later and add little faces to them. I actually have a sketchbook where I've started dots of color and other people have added the faces, and it's really fun to see how the styles vary and it's a fun thing to do with other people, collaboratively. I'm just going to show you my approach for painting the dots, which is very, very simple, and then, kind of, a few different ways to make faces. But you could do this in your own way, however you like, just a very loose and quick dot, and they can be any color. These could be animal faces or human faces, or maybe you decide that you don't want to do faces, you just want to make patterns on all of your dots and that's fine, too. Because I am right-handed, I'm actually going to rotate this and drawing it upside, so I don't smear the dots that I just painted. And you do want to do this after the dots have dried, if you're going to be working with a marker pen or a pencil, colored pencil. If you're doing more paint on top then you could just work when it's wet. And now let's do like a little mouth, here. It's giving this girl the side-eye. I'm just using a Micron, a big, fat one, cause I press really hard on these and ruin the tips, all the time. This girl's got some bangs going. Maybe, what do we think? Does she like him? Is she looking at him? Maybe she likes him. She's got like a little smile. She's actually deciding if she like him or not. And I don't normally draw like this. I normally paint all my figures, so the way I handle marker pens is really different then the way that I handle paint. But, I think it's good practice sometimes, it's kind of humbling. These figures are a little silly looking. Actually, I was going to try and make a boy but I think I'll make this a girl instead. She has like, little, flip-out hair. Maybe she has a bow. Now maybe this girl is looking down, so I see her eyelashes. She kind of has some like, awesome earrings on. And... Oh my god. (laughing) That's so (beep). (talking muffled by laughter) - [Crew Member] That's a pretty little lady. Maybe it's a baby? - Oh my god, (laughing) it's like a turtle. (talking muffled by laughter) It's almost like your mom from the eighties. They're not all going to be pretty. We'll just go with it. Maybe, she has a lot of eye makeup on, some cool earrings. And this last guy, we have something like that. Got a little character. Oh, with Donald Trump hair. This was just a fun and silly little exercise that'll make you laugh if you do this with a friend. It will make them laugh, for sure. And I actually have a sketchbook where I had other friends collaborate. So, some of them are animals and you can all see the distinct styles emerge and I like that I started with just these color dots. Again, if faces are not your thing, although I think this would be a great way to practice your faces, if they're not your thing, you could cover these with patterns.

You could do animals. You could do almost anything just starting with something on the page, so that you're not facing a blank page when you open your sketchbook.

Day 19: Thrift Store Haul with Faith

- Hi there, it's Faith and I'm going to tell you my foolproof method for getting over a creative rut. I love to go to thrift stores when I need things for my home but sometimes I go to thrift stores and look at it as an art supply center. I went recently and decided that I was going to look at things only as supplies or materials as tools, not to think of them for their utility value, but to think of them how they could inspire creativity or contribute to a project, or just spark that exciting moment when you think, I can do something with this thing. Here's some vintage books, this one's the "The Magical Mimics in Oz" and the illustrations are great. They can be used for collaging, for transparencies, or the book itself could be used as a book safe where you cut out the inside and use something else. This "World Atlas" is older so it has these great colors. These can be used for collages or art journal pages, they can be ripped out entirely and this can be used as a cover for a sketch book. These were very cheap, \$1 each. This glassware I thought was so gorgeous. I was delighted to find each of these for \$1. These can be lining a mantle, they can be in front of a window, they can just decorate your studio, maybe used for votive holders, they would look great with tea lights in them. This one in particular I thought I could make a candle or even, this is blasphemous, I wouldn't shatter it on purpose, but if it got broken the color is so gorgeous it could be used for mosaics. Ring boxes for some reason are always plentiful at thrift shops. These were I think 29 cents and 50 cents. I love that this could house something like a little book, or a love letter, or a tiny diorama, a pop up. I found some fantastic fabrics at thrift shops but even better is when you look for clothing that you can tear apart and use for the fabric. I look at extra, extra large men's shirts. Moo moo's, big skirts, those can be fantastic for fabrics. Here is a men's shirt that I'm going to cut up and use in a quilt for a friend's baby. Here is four yards of fabric that was a \$1.50, this would have cost us so much more in a craft store and it's gorgeous. I can use it as a backing for something. Here are bookends, industrial, they're 69 cents and they can be decorated to be absolutely fantastic. I've been looking for nice book ends for a long time and I just haven't come across the right ones but I figure why not make my own, of course. And then the last is paper ephemera. I am a book maker so I always need decorative paper but sometimes having different papers in the inside of the book can be fantastic as well. These varieties of papers are great to have on hand for so many different things. John Socal is an artist on our site who does art journaling and she shows how to use different papers in the art journal but also how to make a journal out of these different papers. So this map could be cut apart and used with these other pieces in the inside of the journal. This is consumer reports for cookware and just random scraps of office paper that if they were new they'd be a lot more expensive and also they wouldn't have these weird details with the edges being faded. I've only spent about \$15 and I have dozens of projects that I want to work with now.

Day 20: Scarf Tying with Julie

- Hi, I'm Julie and I'm a Founder of Creativebug, and I'm here with Faith, our on-staff Professional Crafter. Here in San Francisco, where the Creativebug headquarters is you never know what the weather's gonna be like. It can be cold one minute, foggy the next, hot and sunny, so we always like to have scarfs in our bags or around our necks. So today, I'd like to show you a few different ways you can personalize your style with some scarves. This first look is something I've been seeing all over the city, all over Union Square. And it's just a little simple bow. I'm gonna start by draping it

around Faith's neck, gonna cross it over for a little tie. We're gonna find a good spot and we're gonna make just a little bow. Loop it around, pull it tight, even it out a little bit. Fluff up the sides. And there you go, nice and simple. - [Man] How do you feel Faith? - I love this, it's adorable. Not necessarily a cold-weather look, but more of a, to add some pizzazz. - So obviously this a great look for a long, thin, lightweight scarf. The next look is also good for a warmer day when the sun finally comes out in September. And it's perfect for a little small square scarf. One that you might have that you inherited from your grandmother or something. So first we fold it over into a triangle and then we do that bandana fold that you remember doing as a kid in junior high. Fold it over, almost the whole way, but you're gonna leave a little triangle. And then you're going to wrap it around your neck and give it a little tie in the back, a little bit snug. Should want it to have a nice, clean look And then from the front, we're gonna straighten out that little triangle, pull it a bit loose, showcase it and turn it to the side a little bit. So now we've done a couple of warm-weather styles, and I think we'll flip now to a cooler weather style when the fog comes out in the afternoon and catches you by surprise. This is best for a long, kinda cozy scarf, long rectangle. It looks great under a coat or a heavier jacket. So we'll start by folding it a couple of times to get a good width, so you can actually see over the scarf. Fold it about three or four times on the end, then smooth out the middle a little bit. And then I'm gonna wrap it around Faith's neck and straighten it out, make one side a little bit shorter so we can wrap one side around. Get her neck cozy and warm. And then we're gonna cross it over and make a little tie. We're gonna pull that tie kinda snug as well. She doesn't get any of that crazy San Francisco wind catching her as she gets on the train. And we're gonna tuck this little center tie under to give it a nice clean, cozy look and smooth it out. Straighten it out and you're ready for your coat! And finally, we have one more. And this is a look you can use if you start out with a scarf around your neck tightly-tied so that you're nice, warm and cozy, and the sun actually does come out in the afternoon, like we see right now. You can use the same kinda scarf, a long, rectangular scarf. And again, we'll fold it up. Fold it in half, lengthwise. And we'll fold it in half a couple more times so it's not too bulky around the neck. And then we'll wrap it around Faith's neck as well. This time we're gonna keep it low and give her some room to breathe. So once you get the sides even, you cross it over to make a tie and... Kinda figure out where you want that central... Size to be, how high or how low, it's your choice. And then we're gonna take each side and we're gonna roll them tight so you make kind of a smooth knot, a little design element. I'm just wrapping it over, trying to keep it smooth, trying to pull it tight. Look at this nice blue flower showing. And at the end, you just tuck it under. This takes a little bit of maneuvering. You can tuck it on the inside or outside, really whatever works for you. And the last wrap, when you tuck it in, got a little bit left, with that nice little blue flower peeking out. You just gotta work with it to get those ends in. And just smooth it out. Then we'll do the same on the other side, wrap it around tight. Make sure everything looks good. It can get a little lumpy at the ends there. Smooth it out again. And just tuck in that final piece. This one came untucked a little bit, that does happen. You just have to rework it a little bit. And this is even easier to do on yourself. Great, so now we've got four different looks with four different scarves. It's a great way to expand your wardrobe, stay cozy, stay warm and stay cute.

Day 21: Matchbook Pocket Altars with Courtney

- Hi, I'm Courtney and I really like the idea of creating, like, a sacred space or a place where you put something with intention and focus, like an altar. It could be a place where you just collect objects from a nature walk, maybe you light a candle. When I was in high school, I had a lot of Virgin Mary icons on the wall and I took those to college with me and in my house now, I still have kind of the

concept of altars, but they don't necessarily have the Virgin Mary in them. I also like the idea of making a very tiny altar, something that you could carry around with you or give as a gift. It's something that's contained and then could be opened to reveal a tiny little reminder or surprise in a matchbox. Save your matches for another purpose. And you can open this up. We have a couple here, so I'll show you two ways. You can open this outer sleeve and you could paint this on both sides. You could use this as a template with cardstock. You could just even reverse this, if you want, and re-glue it for a blank casing. I'm gonna cover mine in washi tape, which is super easy. And I'm just gonna do a lot of layers of washi tape. You can tear it. That's one thing I love about washi tape. I'm kind of creating a patchwork look. Not lining anything up. I was thinking for this little box, I would do something about nature, so I'm keeping the outside kind of neutral. I really love this graph paper washi tape, 'cause it reminds me of, like, an old ledger, maybe where you had scientific notes. Go all the way around. Washi tape is repositionable. So, if you don't get it on there just how you like, you can go back over it. Because washi tape is transparent, you're gonna have to do a couple of layers to cover up the graphics that were on the matchbook or matchbox, which is fine. I like the really layered look. Gives it a really nice feel when you hold this in your hand. It's kind of velvety and layered. I'm gonna do another one here. There. You could tape a little tiny word. I just like the texture. I think I'm gonna put one more here, so it's not like stripes. Just a little more layered. Then, I have the interior. Again, I could paint this. I could also cover this with washi tape. I was actually going to put another piece of paper inside. I have this origami paper that's actually foiled on one side, so it's really bright and shiny. I'm just gonna very loosely trace the length of this and slip it inside. I'm gonna cut just inside of that line, because it needs to fit within the tray. This is a lot of just quick trial and error. Feels a little snug. Give it a little trim. There we go. And, because this is foiled, it's gonna hold its place pretty well. You could add some glue stick, if you wanted, but usually the tension alone will hold this in place. Because I am gonna wrap this around the box, I could glue it, but I'm actually just gonna use washi tape for this too, because it's so easy. And it matches the outer. So, there's my tray. And then we get to fill it with objects. You could do a little painting inside. You could cut out a photograph and place it inside. I have some things I've gathered that remind me of being outdoors. Like this little bit of pine tree. I think I'm just gonna put a few needles. Pine needles, that is. I could wrap this with some thread. I have a little bit of twine here, so they're not loose. It would be amazing, actually, to just put a bunch of pine needles only in there and then, every time you opened it, it would smell like the forest. I think that would be great. This little pine bough was collected a while ago, so it's not really that scented any longer. So, it's not like a little bit in there. I could glue that down, but I'm okay with it just floating. I have some other little things I've collected. These super tiny little dried-out blossoms. I think these are pretty, so I'm gonna put those in there. Again, I could glue them down, but I don't need to. I have these little winter berries. I forget what the name of this plant is called. Just gonna put those in. You could put a nice little quote about nature, but I found this rather demanding command. Outside, exclamation point! This is from my vintage kids book. So I thought I would just add that. And I could float it or I could tape it. I think I might tape it underneath. So, I'll pull this back out. I don't want it to fall, since it's like my reminder to go outside. Again, just using washi tape. Of course, you could use glue. But then, I can change what goes in here. It's super easy. And you have this tiny little treasure and a reminder to go outside. You could fill this with anything. I have two grandmas that have passed on, one that I was very close with and one that I had never met, but I have little collections of theirs, like buttons from the grandmother I never met and I thought it would be nice to do, like, a little photo of each of them in a little tiny box with an object that was theirs. You could do this for a place that you visited or a

place that you want to go to, with photos. You could, like I said, fill them with dirt or sand from a specific place and then actually label on the tray where you were and the date. Really, it's this tiny, tiny little canvas to be filled with anything that your heart desires. I made two other little altars. This one is an ode to the color blue, because I'm really into the color blue right now and I had saved this magazine page from, I think, some kind of catalog and it had this beautiful blue velvet texture. You could, of course, cover this with real blue velvet. These bright, kind of, ultramarine sequins, just because they're shiny. This little bit of broken mirror that has a blue tint to it. And, just to contrast everything, this little tiny bit of gold, because I think blue and gold are really pretty together. It's like Yves Klein blue. It's just a color that reminds me of Joseph Cornell, this little box. And this one, I love that origami paper. I love the metallic foil. It's so satisfying. I like how kind of neutral this is. And then I've been thinking a lot about the moon recently. So, this is just a little drawing, super quick graphic drawing just glued in there. A little tiny moon to carry along with you. These are just a tiny, fun little way to express yourself. You can gather your craft objects or maybe some natural objects, place them in a tiny little box, transform the box with washi tape or paper clippings, and then you can give this as a gift. It would be such a nice alternative to a card or something like that. And then, I love that it's just a tiny treasure that's hidden inside this very tiny little box that can easily be stored.

Day 22: Mat Makeovers with Allison

- Hi I'm Allie from Creativebug, and one of my favorite projects to do is to change the wall art in my house. An easy way to do that is to change the look of the mat. For this project I'm going to need paper, I'm using decorative paper but you can also use vellum paper, felt, fabric, whatever you like. I'll also need a mat as well as a cutting board, an exacto knife and a ruler. So the first step is you want to turn your paper over with the print side facing down. The front of the mat is beveled and has a beveled edge. The back is flat. With the beveled side facing down, cut along the outer and inner edges of the mat using your exacto knife. I also have a ruler so that it helps steady the mat in place. Now that you've cut the outer and inner edges with the exacto knife, which means you've basically traced the outer and inner edges, you're going to remove the mat, put it to the side, make sure exacto knife is in, and carefully and slowly remove the cutout from the remaining piece of paper. Sometimes you might have to tear the edges to wiggle them out. If you find that you have an edge that is stuck feel free to take your ruler and your exacto knife and just cut til that piece gets loose. This process couldn't be any simpler. And the fact that it is not adhered to the mat means that you can change out the paper or fabric as often as you like. So I'm gonna simply place this paper over the mat, you can see it has a perfect fit, when I'm finished I can add the rest of the picture frame, the frame itself, the backing and the glass. This example right here is the finished result using the same decorative paper. And you can see how easy this is to change out. In addition to decorative paper, you can also use vellum paper. Vellum paper is see through but has a printed design on it, and it's perfect against white mats and also colored mats. This frame I've used a gold confetti vellum paper that adds just the right touch of whimsy. This project is fun, easy, affordable and 100% customizable. And it's a great way to add a decorative touch to your walls.

Day 23: Easy iPhone Videos with Brian

- Hi, I'm Brian and I love editing video and I've just discovered that I really love editing video on the go on my iPhone. So I'm gonna show you how to edit a 30 second video with music on your iPhone using iMovie. Open up your iMovie app and we're gonna create a new project. I like to select Movie. There's also this cool option you could select called Trailer where it's more automated so you can

select clips and then select a song and then it does it all for you. But I like to be a little bit more creative than that and hit the Movie option. When it opens it will give you the option to choose a clip and I shot a little video around the set today so I'm gonna start with this one here, Create Movie. You can start with any clip. I chose one that I knew that I was going to start with but these can be moved around later if you like. You can preview what the clip looks like. The slate closing like this. The next think I like to do is choose a song because I really like to edit to music. So I'm gonna hit the Plus button, choose Audio, the Playlists. I'm gonna choose Uptown Funk. It has a good beat and everything so I'm gonna use that and it's gonna drop down right there. So let's take a look at what we got. So right now I hear the music and I hear the audio from the clip. I like to remove the audio from the video clips so I can just hear the music. So what I'm gonna do is tap on the video clip and they'll have options at the bottom. I want to select the one in the middle which is the audio option and turn that down all the way. There's a slider here. You can actually put it at very low. You can bring it up all the way. I'm gonna turn it all the way off. I'm done with that. Let's take a listen. ("Uptown Funk") I like it. So let's add another video clip. We're gonna go back to the Moments. There we go, and I'm gonna add this one of Alison. (Alison laughs) I like that. So we're gonna tap it and we're going to hit the Plus button and it's gonna drop it in right there. I want to turn down the audio. Oh, it already knows that I don't want the audio there so it's already down. ("Uptown Funk") There is a transition if you notice. So between each clip there is a little symbol, looks like two triangles facing each other and that means a transition. iMovie automatically adds what they call a dissolve so you'll see it go from one clip and slowly fade into the other clip and that's just a style choice. I personally don't like the fade so I'm gonna tap the box with the two triangles and it'll give you options at the bottom. They have everything from sliding to wiping to a cool little fade but I'm gonna hit, and even a star (laughs). We got, I'm gonna hit None. So now let's take a look. ("Uptown Funk") Perfect, I really like that. If I wanted to go ahead and start with Alison maybe already looking my way, what I'm gonna do is tap on the clip and I'm just going to slide over the slider til I see where I like. I wanted to see when she was looking my way. So now let me take a look. ("Uptown Funk") Perfect. Let me add another clip. We're at five seconds. I have the set here. I have these cool flowers that Courtney put in the background. And again I'm going to take out the fade. ("Uptown Funk") And the reason that I like to pick a song to edit to is because I like to listen to the beat. So this clip of the flowers is a little long so I'm gonna listen and I know I can kinda tell by like just listening to the song that the beat is about to happen. So I'm going to select the clip and bring it back down to about where I feel like it was about to hit that mark. ("Uptown Funk") Yeah, so the next clip that I want to do, the finale for this would be Charlie because I love Charlie so much and he's always on set sleeping of course. And again I'm going to take away that fade and as you can tell editing is just re-watching the same clip over and over again but it's actually really fun to watch. ("Uptown Funk") (laughing) He's so enthusiastic about this song. So what I want to show you is actually something that I took a video of at one of the social sketches that Courtney does. So I'm gonna go back to my projects. I'm gonna open up Social Sketch and this is a project I've already done and let me play it for you. (playful happy music) When you're all done and you're finished your video the last thing to do is to save your video. So what you want to do is hit Done and a lot of times it will say Untitled. You want to give it a name, so I titled this Social Sketch and hit Done and you have some options at the bottom of the screen here. We have a little Play button, a little Share button and a little Trash button. So you definitely don't wanna trash it but you do wanna hit the Share button which is in the middle. So you hit that and it gives you a whole bunch of options. We can post it Facebook, send it to Messenger. We have a whole bunch of apps here but what we want to do is hit the second one

which is Save Video. So we're gonna tap that. Then it gives you some options on how big you want the video. So most video that you shoot on your iPhone is going to be 1080. Newer iPhones have 4K which is four times as large. I can either save it in 4K, but a lot of times you're gonna show video, I would just do it at 1080. 720's even pretty nice but 1080 is about the standard. And it's gonna show it's exporting, and it's now telling me that it is in my photo library. So I'm gonna go to my photos and I'm going to look at it. (playful happy music) So that's how to make a video using your iPhone. These are great to go back into your camera roll and find different things that you have taken maybe over the past month or maybe at a birthday or an event that you've attended, and while you're sitting at home or I like to do this when I'm out and about. I'm sitting on Muni, I have my headphones in and instead of just browsing on Facebook or Instagram I go ahead and take a bit of music that I'm obsessed with and go ahead and edit some video to it. And what's awesome is that when you post it to Instagram or to Facebook your friends are going to absolutely love it. They're gonna think that you probably did this on the computer. In fact, my mom has been getting into the whole mobile editing thing and she's been impressing me with her little Miata videos. She'll go on Miata runs and edit it all on her phone and in fact she'll be editing it while she's sitting in the Miata during the event. So it is actually a really really really fun thing to do and it gives you a little burst of creativity which you may not have at that time.

Day 24: Stash Tidying with Liana

- Hey, it's Leanna and recently I read the book *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up*. Along with pretty much the rest of the country I also was forced to look at my surroundings at my home and be slightly horrified by how much I have amassed over the years. But one place in my home that really needed a good eye was my craft room. And I'm sure a lot of you out there can relate to this, I'm a cross-crafter as they like to say, I don't just do one thing. I knit and I sew and I draw and I paint and I collect all sorts of art supplies. And some of these things I've had for years, decades even. I've taken them on moves across the country and why? I don't really know. So I spent some time really giving my craft room a critical eye, and literally holding things up and saying does this bring me joy? Thank you Marie Kondo for bringing that into my life. So I'm gonna show you a little bit off my method that I brought to the mix in addition to the Marie Kondo method. Let's go ahead and start with the yarn. So here are some examples of, this is like really on a minute scale of what I had amassed, but this is just kind of a typical example of what a lot of people's yarn stashes look like. It's kind of usually a mix of single skeins and partial skeins and, oh god, when you start digging in deeper it gets a little scary. Really where I like to begin is by sorting out the whole balls of yarn and setting them into their own little pile. Really asking myself, okay there is a lot of yarn here, there's definitely another project in this, but do I love brown? Not that much. I don't really know what I'm going to use this 70 yards of brown yarn for. So I'm gonna put this in the probably give it away pile. Here's another one. This is a little abandoned project. I started crocheting something and then quickly realized I didn't really like the way the pattern was working up. And you know what is really easy to do? Just start pulling it out. And I'm not gonna get rid of this yarn cause it's good yarn and there's a whole bunch of it here. No shame in just stopping and saying this one didn't work for me. Let's give it another life later down the road. So these are a few examples of things that do and don't work. You will occasionally have a really precious partial skein of something like this pure linen and this is not something that I would be willing to part with. This is something that I actually think would be great for wrapping gifts with. You maybe aren't gonna get a whole project out of it, but you could really wrap a beautiful gift. In fact I have this baggy here which may look kind of crazy because these are

like the tiniest little balls of yarn but these are just precious little bits of yarn that I always use to wrap gifts. Who needs ribbon when you've got yarn laying around? So this is where my little bits of cashmere and alpaca that I just can't bear to get rid of go. In this little baggy. And I actually use them which is the most important part, but I think just going through and actually asking yourself, what are you gonna use? Are you really gonna use this teal chenille yarn here? I mean, I remember why I got it and there was a reason for it at one point in time, but that reason has kind of come and gone. And I really don't think I need this in my stash anymore, so I'm gonna put it over here with my giveaways. And remember, your trash may be somebody else's treasure, so bring it to work and leave it out on a table. Maybe somebody wants to take it. Give it to a friend. You never know. And then this also applies really to your unfinished projects. I know everybody's got these laying around. And this is one for instance I have to tell you, the last time that I worked on this project was Christmas four years ago. And in that period of time, it has sat in a drawer in a bag on the needles. And what is really sad is that these needles then haven't been used for anything else in that whole period of time. And that's just kind of a tragedy. So while I have one of these mitts done, I really have to ask myself, am I going to make the other one? I don't know that I am. And I know that that's a really sad thing, but, because it's kind of a cute mitt, but I don't know that I am. And in the meantime I'm not making a cute pair of socks with these needles. So ask yourself the questions, the hard questions that only you can answer, and I think I'm actually gonna slip these ones off of the needles and pull it out. Don't hate me. So this also applies to your fabric. Similar rules. I mean, really holding things up and saying do I love it and is there enough fabric here to work with? To do the kind of work that I like to do. So I can go through all of these and say, okay yeah, I can see this being a baby quilt down the road. This could be a pillow. Oh, this is Heather Ross fabric. Not gonna get rid of this, this is classic. But then I'll get to these kind of like, weird you know, like a single jelly roll strip in olive. Okay, I'm not gonna do anything with one long strip of fabric and these colors are not exciting to me at all. It's time for them to go away. They don't belong here. Similarly, I've got these kind of weird little bits that maybe I loved. I mean, how cute is that little comma fabric. But other than maybe making clothes for a clothes pin doll, I'm probably not going to do anything with this. So again, it goes in the giveaway. Another thing with storing your fabric is really just making sure they're all nice and neatly folded up. Things like this drive me bonkers. Like, I'll cut fabric and just leave these little tags hanging off. So it's really good to go through them with your scissors and just get rid of that nonsense. You don't need that. It's just making folding more difficult. Another pet peeve here is fabric that I find laying around like this. Like, what is going on with that? That's not helping anybody. And it's just causing chaos in your drawers. So really taking a moment to smooth it out, and fold it as nice and neat as you can so that you can make a nice stack. It's a little bit OCD but this is a great thing to do when you are feeling a creative block and you just kind of want to be involved with the materials. But maybe don't feel like making anything yet, or you're considering what you're gonna make next. Another thing that can be very frustrating is the marker drawer. We all have a drawer like this with the pens and the markers. Again, this is like a small portion of the markers and pens I have laying at home. I bet that half of these don't work. So why not just sit down, gather them altogether, get a piece of paper, and just start going through. Okay, that one is maybe on its way out. We've got the sharpie looks good. Let's see about this guy. Oh, that is a sad marker. That is a really sad marker. You're going with brown. And on and on we can just keep testing these. And it's really satisfying to have kind of your winners and losers. And you'll be amazed what you have left at the end of it. I bet this one is dead as the day is long. Oh, look at that. You're gone. Another thing that is really helpful in kind of clearing your space and clearing your mind is

going through your actual finished projects. So sometimes you even finish things but you don't really do anything with them. You have them laying around. Maybe you knit a sweater and you're really proud of it. Or you were at the time, but it never really fit you right, and why are you hanging on to it? It could have a new life in a different way. Maybe you need to give it away and move on, move on to the next project. One thing that I have laying around quite a bit is artwork. And I have like stacks and stacks of postcards and painting and all sorts of things. And some of them I love and I would never give away. Some of them I love and would consider selling. Some I just enjoy as little mementos, and other ones I don't think were successful at all. Any why on earth would I hang onto things that I really didn't like? One way to transform artwork that you aren't necessarily crazy about is by turning them into gift tags. I have here a handy dandy hole punch and a piece that was experimental and really did not work for me at all. So I'm gonna take this handy dandy hole punch and put this piece to the knife. See it was a postcard. I'll turn it over and you can actually get the placement of it by looking on the bottom. When you're happy with where it's gonna punch out, oh look at that. We have a super cute gift tag from something that was really not all that cute before. Here are a few others that I did from another postcard painting that I also think turned out well. Just poke a little hole in the top, and you've got a really cute gift tag on the back. These are just a few ideas for what to do with your excess stash. And I promise you that once you've cleared out the cobwebs, gotten rid of the things you are not crazy about, you're gonna be so much more excited to go into your craft room and start making.

Day 25: Monochrome Collage with Courtney

- It's Courtney and Charlie. He's gonna be my assistant for today's creativity. Huh, baby? (Laughter) I can't do it, my transition's terrible. I can't. Okay one more time, one more time, Ready? Hey, it's Courtney and Charlie and one of the things that happens to me often is I get overwhelmed. I feel like maybe I want to do something creative, and I pull out my supplies, and I'm confronted with all the things I've collected and all the markers and the paints and the pens and it can be super overwhelming, but now you've dragged all this stuff out into the open, you might as well do something with it. And in those moments, I think working in collage, and really narrowing down and editing, and honing your skills for just picking one type of item, or one color palette can be really helpful, and allow you to create something and feel successful, but not feel overwhelmed. So I gathered some of my (mumbles) right here, and I thought I would look through it and kind of do that process for you so that you can see how I select things. The way you select things might be a little bit different. But I think it's always helpful to see how someone sorts through and edits and pulls back because I find that's one of the hardest things to do as a creative person. Of course, I love my neon pink. So maybe I'll put my pink things together. Could go in that direction. Got these like multi-color things happening. A lot of purples, I love wrappers. This is sort of in between. Kind of like ocher and gold colors happening. Just sorting things can be helpful, initially to see what feels like it emerges. This yellow Carambar. It's like a French caramel wrapper. This usually has a joke inside of it. This could fit in my yellow pile, but it could also go with my multi-color pile. So I'm just going through my items, and separating them. I think the color that is popping out to me is more this like earth tone. These yellow, gold, and kind of browns. Even though, gotta strong kind of pink presence also. Just cause that's what I collect. Um, I don't have a lot of blue in this particular palette. Just a few blue things that can stay there. Yeah, I think mostly gold, ochery things are showing up, so I think maybe that's what I'm gonna use to create a collage, and I'm not creating like a scenic landscape or anything like that. I'm just gonna start cutting and attaching things into my

sketchbook. I like to, for this practice, you can use Washi tape. You could use regular tape. You could use glue stick. And if you have anything chunky or heavy, I recommend using a Tacky glue, that's my favorite for like buttons, or pieces of glass, or anything that's a little more three dimensional. I'm gonna start with just using a glue stick, and gluing down just things randomly. I might do kind of a grid shape. Use a little bit of Washi tape. Got this like gold, kind of palette happening. It's a piece of paste paper I made. Maybe I'll tear this one. I'm not overthinking this. I like kind of a grid format. But not perfectly gridded. I think it's a fun way to kinda archive a single color palette. Swatch of fabric in there. Love these Chinese papers. Things could be overlapping. I could tear this in half or cut it. I could just use a scrap of it. This paper's very thin. This feels a little crooked. Let's see how stuck down it is. I can still peel that up a little. Love it. Some more Joss paper. Could put down. Maybe I'll save that. Do this little one. The glue stick'll work fine on this little bit of fabric. I don't need anything heavier for that. I got a stamp here. Let's put it this way. I got that but I think that's veering too much toward the pink color, so I'm not gonna use that. This is super bright orange, but I actually really like the contrast here, and I still feel like it's in this family. So maybe I'll just use a little bit of this somewhere. Three dots in a row. This doesn't have to be perfect. You could also introduce some marker pens, other media. Got that neon orange. Could use paint. Got my little travel set here. Put on some ocher. Some little paint swatches. Got this Jane Hotel cocktail napkin that I love so much. Not sure where I want to put it just yet. Maybe I'll just leave it here until I figure out how I want to use it. Cut this bag. Tear it or cut it. Gonna put it there. Put it there. Just by working in a single color palette, kind of frees me up from overthinking things. It's laying things down and responding to them. Maybe I want to add some neon yellow here, in gel pen. Maybe I'll just cut off a little bit of this. Glue it down. You can also apply glue straight onto your sketchbook. Depending usually you glue to the smaller object, but in that case I knew exactly how big that strip was gonna be. This really cool yellow Washi tape, so maybe I'll use some of that. Brand new roll. Love the pattern on this. It's so pretty. Kind of reinforces my grid theme. I really like these marks, actually, these kind of, they're really similar to just a brush marks, so maybe that'll inspire me to work in a brown tone, and create some marks just like that. There are little ones too. They're kind of like (mumbles) ones. And there's zig zaggy ones. They look like marks on a map. (mumbles) That's fun to kind of take those and enlarge them and play with my paint. I want to continue a little patch of brown here. This isn't even paper for a water color, but it doesn't prevent me from using a little bit. I'm not saturating the whole page so it's fine. I have a lot of vintage photographs. I collect them and vintage postcards. And I have a few here, and we can see if any of them see like they fit. I like all the red tones in this one, but because it has such a green contrast, I feel like it's moving away from the warm, and I'm really trying to keep this monochromatic. I gave myself a little bit of structure, just working these kind of gold ocher tones, so I want to stick with that. I think this black and white could work, because it's aged, it has kind of a warm cast to it. This one is a photo in Japan. I don't know the year. I'm gonna guess like late 60's, early 70's. This is super warm toned also, just because of the way the photo was taken. I really like that one. And then I have a landscape. It's too, even though it's kind of on the warm side for the browns, I feel like the blues kind of detract. It could complement orange. Orange and blue are complementary on the color wheel, so if I wanted to add a pop of blue that's totally the place I could do it, but in this case I don't feel like it's the right fit. I think I prefer this photo, and instead of gluing it, I think I'm gonna use some Washi tape. I have this buttery yellow that would be pretty. I oddly think I'm gonna go with this graph paper. I like how vintage a lot of this feels. The graph paper kinda reminds me of ledger paper, and, um, even though it's green, I like the cream tones so That's just a choice I'm making. Slightly out of our color palette. I

also like the width of it. It's about a quarter of an inch. So that's gonna get taped down. I wanna bring another piece of gold in. So I think I'm gonna use this piece here. It's coming together. And this little feather. Maybe I wanna use somewhere. Just let him hang out, until I figure out the right space. I like this. This is one of the things I think about. Okay, this is square. This is square. I could line them up at the bottom. I could line them up at the top. This is a principle that has stuck with me since I was the editor of my yearbook in high school. When you're lining up photos or text blocks, they either need to be really off, or they need to be lined up. If something is just a hair off, it looks unintentional. So things could be totally off skew, but they need to be really off skew. So just barely off is not gonna cut it. I could change the shape of this, or I could layer this piece down here which I think I like. Let me just cut this down, and see what happens. Make it not square. Still want to leave some of that yellow. I think maybe I like it there. And what, do I want to glue it? Do I want to Washi tape it? I think maybe I'll glue it, but only at the top so it still lifts off the page. I think I want to do a little bit of this orange color too. Cut that down, and do a little bit of glue on the back. Have a scratch piece of paper for this. Just put that there. I like that little reference, and it's picking up some little oranges from here. I think this feather needs to come in soon, still not sure where. Might add a few more marker swatches. These oranges are referencing the oranges here which I like. Not worried about things are dried up, or if they skip or if they're not perfect. This is not about perfection. I think I'm gonna do another patch of ocher paint. Here. Keeping it pretty linear, because I like the grid that's happening in this collage. I also really like these little dots. Maybe I want to replicate that in paint. Three's my favorite number, so three. Things happen in three. I don't think he's gonna fit in here any longer, but that's okay. Willing to let go of certain things. I think I wanna do another strip of this paste paper. (mumbles) I think I like that piece. The back of that's actually pretty cool too. I gotta little glue there. No problem. Probably be covering it up. Could work on a scrap piece of wax paper too, which is helpful. Alright, the size of that gap is bothering me, so I want to draw in it. Gonna do some long, kind of irregular lines. That's fine. Gonna mimic those here. Do them horizontally. Just those two spaces left. Can go back and look at my other elements, see if I want to replicate them anywhere. This is the same as this. Have a little bit of that green, maybe I want to use some of that Washi tape on its own. Could use it here, or I could use it over here. Still have that little guy. I think I'll put him there. Still have this feather. What are we gonna do with this feather? Maybe he'll just live there. I'm gonna keep him sort of free flowing, so I'll just put him down with some Washi tape. Like an old Victorian scrapbook. Tore my Washi tape so that I could tack him down. Maybe I wanna also use that here. As a reference, still have this little tiny piece. This could go somewhere. There we go. I think I really like the way that looks. I still have all this other stuff I have to put away and deal with, but at least I made something, and I didn't have to over think about composition, and one thing led to another, and just by creating it down to a color palette, I'm really happy with the cohesion that's created on this page. It also feels really satisfying to see all these different kinds of textures, and materials come together in a single color palette. I would totally recommend doing this exercise in a sketchbook if you're feeling stuck.

Day 26: Paper Beads with Faith

- Hi, it's Faith. I love reading magazines, but I also love using magazines as craft supplies. One of my favorite things to do is to make beads out of magazine pages because the colors in the magazines have already been art-directed, so we know that they go together, so it works really well for making paper things like beads. For this project, you'll need a stack of magazines, some scratch paper, a small piece of card stock, a cutting surface, a ruler, a skewer, a paintbrush for glue, and a paintbrush

for paint, an X-Acto knife, a very sharp pair of scissors, a plate to put your beads on after they have been mod podged, some thin leather cord, acrylic paint, and some Mod Podge. I use satin finish but you can use glossy if you'd prefer. You only need two pages for this project, so pick something that coordinates color-wise. I like to use it from the same ad because the colors generally match up. You'll insert your ruler into the magazine. This is so that you can get a really good straight edge. And here's your X-Acto to cut along, I'm a righty, so the right-hand side. I'll do it for this one as well. And then, we'll cut each page into two four-inch strips. There'll be a two-inch strip leftover. I really like this spooky blue gray with the clouds and how it fades into the earth, so I'm going to use both these pages that I can get two portions of gray and two portions of earth tones. I'm lining it up on my cutting mat to make sure there's a straight angle and that it's straight. To make the bead, you'll need your skewer and your Mod Podge, paintbrush, and be sure to remember which side is out. So, I want this to be at the end of the bead. This is what I want the bead to look like, so I'll begin with this side, flip it over, and wrap it around. This takes a little bit of finessing at first, but you quickly get the hang of it. And if you start rolling it and it seems off, just use your thumbnail to straighten it out. It's really tight around the skewer. I think the tighter, the better. And then, when I finish it, some people like to glue it while it's still on the skewer. But I like to take it off and then twist it to make it a little bit tighter. So leaving about a half an inch off, take your Mod Podge and brush it off the edges. I find that this helps make a really complete seal. You don't want to be any dry spots. And then roll into the glue, into the Mod Podge, and there'll be some on the outside, which is exactly what we want, and leave it on the plate to dry. With the rest of your magazine pieces, repeat this process. You'll end up with four tubes that will further cut down into beads. We have four tubes. We're going to cut them in half each. They're four inches, so we're going to cut them at two. You can eyeball this, you can use your mat, either way is fine. In total, we'll need five beads. I really like these brown ones at the top. I'm wondering if I should do a little bit more, or if I just want it to be more subtle. We'll be cutting these down to make a shape, and we have two options here. These, I just cut them progressively smaller, and this one, the edges were beveled. This is what we're going to be doing. Take the top one and bevel the edges at about a 45 degree angle. Make sure, when you're making the cut, the top is at the seam. And then, I use the top to show me where I should be making the cut on the smaller one. That's still just generally eyeballing it. You're welcome to measure it if you'd like. I recommend trimming these while they're still a little bit wet before they've dried completely, because it's easier to cut through them before they get super hard. Also, you can keep trimming them until you've reached the desired shape. Because we're eyeballing it, it's going to be necessary to take a little time doing that. This step is optional, but I think it lends a really nice effect. I'm going to put gold paint on the edges to clean them up. If you don't want to use gold paint, I would recommend using a little bit of Mod Podge, just so that where you cut is smoothed. Just dab it on gently and make sure that paint doesn't go on to the front. Check it and wipe it off, if necessary. Once your beads have dried, we'll string them together. I'm using a cord that's about 45 inches long. Mine is leather, but you can use wax, linen, embroidery, floss, whatever you'd like, as long as it's thin enough to pass through the beads. Starting with the bottom bead, you'll string through one side, bring it to the center of the cord, and then insert the other side of the cord through the bead. This bead needs to end up in the center of the cord, so the easiest way I've found to do that is to pinch the ends together and pull it downwards. The cord is essentially trapping the bead, and we'll repeat this all the way up. Get your next bead. And you also make sure that the seam from where we glued it up will be in the back. You'll determine what the back is once it's all been put together. But make sure that the second bead, this seam is on the same side as the seam on the first bead. I'm putting

the second cord through the bead in the opposite direction. If the cord gets tangled, let it hang down. Repeating this with the third bead. I love how this looks, but because we've cut the beveled edges, I don't want it rolling around when I wear it. So, I've cut a piece of card stock, and we'll be gluing it to the back. Remember, the back is where the seams of your tubes are. I'm putting the Mod Podge on the shape, a fairly thick layer. Then gluing down, and it's okay if a little bit is peeking out. We can trim it off after it's dried. You have a few minutes before this dries entirely to continue adjusting it, but once it's dried, tie a knot, and it's ready to wear.

Day 27: Inspiration Boards with Allison

- Hi, my name is Allie. I'm a jewelry designer, and I work at Creativebug as a marketing manager. And one of my favorite things to do is to make mood boards using magazine tear-outs, cards, any paper clippings that I find interesting. When starting a mood board, I like to have a specific idea or inspiration in mind. And, for this one, I'm going to be focusing on fall colors and metallics, and how those juxtapose each other. So, for right now, I'm going to start to pull some of the pieces that I've collected, and move them around on my board. I tend to like to have larger pieces be either on the edge or centered in the middle, or a mixture of both, that way, the weight of the mood board isn't slated to one side or the other. And keep in mind, you can find inspiration anywhere. In magazines, on drink coasters, even photos. And for some, of course, you're gonna want to cut them out, so make sure to have a pair of scissors on hand. (cuts) When cutting out images, remember that they don't have to be perfect, it's all up to you and how you want to use them. So, right now, I've got a good start on my mood board. I'm gonna continue to play around with images and see how smaller pieces work with larger pieces. And eventually, once all the pieces are set, I'm going to want to adhere them to the board, with either tacks or washi tape. So, when it comes to placing items on a mood board, keep in mind that you can totally overlap, you don't need to have pieces be exactly next to each other. If you like that precision, that's great. But, for this one, and how I like to make mood boards, I tend to put everything together into a collage. It's okay if some images are hidden and some are not. It's really about how they all co-exist together in the same mood board. Keep in mind that, until you feel like the mood board really speaks to you, and you like how everything's placed, keep moving items around just see how it feels. For my mood boards, I love cutting out images of handbags, or jewelry, or outfits, interior design. Anything that really speaks to me, and inspires me. Your own photos can work, too. I'm ready to start tacking. I am using thumbtacks because I'm using a corkboard for this. If you were to use another type of board, you would, of course, want to use an adhesive or something that can keep these on the board that doesn't actually puncture it. In addition to tacks, I'm going to be using washi tape, which, this one is in a really fine copper rose-gold color. And the metallic sheen on this compliments the metallic in my images. So, I've wrapped up my board, and I want to remind you that an inspiration board can always evolve. You can always add and remove items to it. And you also want to be on the lookout for items that inspire you in your everyday life. Remember to always take those items with you, because you can use them to create your very own mood board.

Day 28: Red Lipstick 101 with Zenaida

- Hi, I'm Zenaida with creativebug and I'm going to discuss red lipsticks and how to find the best one for you. I personally believe that everybody looks good in red lipstick. I love red lipstick. However, there are a few general guidelines that you want to abide by when looking or applying a red lipstick. So, depending on your skin tone, and depending on what color you're wearing, that's

gonna be the major deciding factor on which one you choose. So, I brought along a variety of my favorites from home. However, believe it or not, I have a million more tubes. Personally, I'm a more olive tone type person, so I tend to stick with more true reds. There are tubes that'll range, you can find at the drug-store for \$6, and then we have some that you can find at department stores for \$60. So, we'll start with one of my new personal favorites, this Tom Ford lipstick. It's a treat, it's something that I wouldn't buy myself all the time. It is fairly expensive, but I will say that it is worth the price. The color is beautiful, the pigment is so rich. It also comes off as matte, but it's not drying, which, to me is very important. So, when it comes to testing your red lipsticks, testing on your fingertip is probably gonna be the most accurate place to test, as opposed to your lips. This is called Ruby Rush. We'll test another one here, this is called Rouge. It's by Christian Dior. This is gonna be a little more orange based. I like to wear it at Giants games. We have another one here, NARS, this color here is gonna be a little more rich. Believe it or not, I like to wear it in the winter when I'm a little more pale and I also like to wear it in the summer when I'm a little more tan. Again, breaking all the red lipstick rules, but as you can see, there's multiple variations in texture and color, just based on the three that I have tested so far. We have a matte, we have an orange base, which is gonna be a little more creamy and shinier. We also have this red here that is gonna be like a hybrid. It's kind of like a creamy matte. On the side here, you'll see that I have some pencils, some lip crayons, lip pencil, as well as some lip gloss. I like these as well. Sometimes, I like to mix them all together, other times I like to wear it just plain. Lip liner, I have a love-hate relationship with. People really like it, they think that it locks their lipstick in, which, it actually does, I will say. However, there are times that I do find that when I wear lip liner, the edges of my lips stay very red and the inside of my lips fades, so the fading process is really uneven and kinda makes for an ugly in-between when you just don't have the time to, like, freshen it up, just doesn't look that good, but, again, it does prevent feathering. It also helps to keep your lipstick in your lip if your hair, sometimes I have red whiskers. It's kind of weird. So, the lip liner actually does really help with that. I love a nice lip crayon, one of my favorites being this NARS Dragon Girl. It's a nice, true red. It's pretty matte, so I do like to mix it with a lip gloss, typically, when I'm wearing it. I love the way it's soft, it's velvety, the color goes on nice and it just colors my whole lip. So, gloss, I normally like to use this Chanel gloss with the Dragon Girl lip crayon. It's nice, it's kinda translucent pink. It's called Pirate, it's one of my favorites, but I like to only put it in the middle, just a little bit right here. It's red lipstick, so you don't wanna make it too flashy, although it is already kinda flashy, but if you put it in the middle, it kinda gives it a little moisture so it's not as dry, and we also have a matte lip gloss, which is pretty new. This goes on pretty wet, you'll see, but it dries extremely matte. I should practice on here and you'll see on the paper how matte it is. I'm gonna move forward with this, so, plain, regular, grocery store lip gloss, I've got some Burt's Bees in rhubarb. It's one of my favorites, which, this color, here, I love for the winter time. It's more of a, like, pinky red that won't dry my lips out and it's cheap, it's really nice. My last favorite cheap lipstick is going to be this other Burt's Bees lip crayon and it's called Napa Vineyard. This one here is just a nice little crayon that's deeper, it's like an almost burgundy color that I really enjoy wearing in the winter time as well. So, yeah, I really love my red lipstick. I wear it every day. It's like my cup of coffee. It wakes me up in the morning. It also dresses up my outfit, makes me feel better. I've been wearing it every day, but I can actually put it on without even a mirror, so let me show you really quickly. (jazzy music) (kissing and laughing)

Day 29: Dot Sticker Garlands with Courtney

- Hey everybody, it's Courtney and I am a super collector. You probably already know that. One of

the things I love to collect are office labels, which may sound strange, but if you think back to your childhood and you collected stickers it's kinda like the adult version of that. I think I'm really attracted to them because they're something you can buy in a pack, there are lots of them, they often come in neon colors, and the other thing I love that makes me instantly happy are buntings or garlands. So, I thought, why not combine the two and make a really cute and easy polka-dot garland or polka-dot bunting using office labels and some embroidery thread? Unlike regular embroidery floss that comes in a hank, this spool is twisted so it's really easy to work with. I like working with this thicker thread because it can actually be part of the design. You could play with a yellow dot and a contrasting thread. I'm using this lovely tomato red. I'm gonna keep one part of it on the spool and I'm gonna undo about an arm's length. It's a nice crafting length that everyone's familiar with. Before we start adding our sticker dots leave about a foot. That's so that you can hang your garland. Then start with your office stickers. These are some neon yellow ones. You're gonna place one sticky side up with the thread roughly in the middle and the second one, you're gonna line up and press down. And you've got this really cute little double-sided dot. You could, of course, do this with two different colors. They would naturally twist and you'd have a multi-colored one. You could pair little dots with medium size dots, with large dots. Really, anything is possible. That's a hair off. I'm not worried about it. I'm just gonna keep going. If you can't find any fun colored dots, you can buy the white labels or white dots. Make sure they're not super glossy, that they're a more matte finish, and you can color them yourself. You could use brush pens, test out some of your mark making techniques, let your kids draw on them. You'd have this really fun kind of confetti look, which I think would be awesome. You can see I'm roughly placing these about an inch and a half apart. It doesn't have to be precise. This couldn't be more simple. If you're working with the really small dots, it's nice to just kind of press your thread down to the center so it stays in place while you're trying to place the top dot. You can continue this for as long a length of garland as you'd like to make. Of course, leave another 12 inches at the end and snip it. They can be stored on cards. You can tuck them into an envelope for a birthday. I have another one here I made in the same awesome neon yellow dots but this time with a pretty lavender cord. You can see what it looks like when it's much, much longer. How 'bout some mini dots for a little tiny garland? I think this is so sweet. You could put this on a tree, in a doorway. I think they would look really nice layered. They look great together. Then of course, the kind of standard garage sale or office dots in the medium size. I really like this classic royal blue. They're just like instantly happy and festive. I think that you don't need to have a special occasion to put a little bunting or garland in your house. Everyday is a special occasion. You could easily make these while watching T.V. or even just waiting for your rice to cook for dinner. They come up really quick and they can be stored and used all year round.

Day 30: Sorting Artwork with Liana

- Hi, I'm Liana, and believe it or not, I don't always feel creative. Sometimes I'm inspired to make something, but I don't actually feel like pulling out the paints, or pulling out the yarn, or the fabric, and, I just wanna be in kind of a creative mindset without actually making something. Sort of a lazy thing, I guess. But one of my favorite things to do, is actually, pull out my artwork and treat them like baseball cards. Kind of going back to a childhood thing of sorting, and just experiencing what you have made, and looking at it, and appreciating it, and looking for themes. And this is something that you can do with your knitting, or clothes that you've made, in this case, I'm gonna do it with some watercolor postcards that I have done. I actually only started painting a few years ago, when I first came to Creative Bug, and, I started out with some pretty humble beginnings. It's fun for me to

go back and see what I was making when I first started painting. And what I really love to do, is get out my baseball cards, and start sorting them into piles. I think I'm just gonna start sifting through these. There was a period of time when I was really into painting watercolors, and then I would go over them with Microns, so I have a feeling we're gonna see a few of those emerge. Here just a little still life. For a while I was doing forest scenes, so I'm sure that's gonna be a group, This may not look like a beach, but to me this is a beach, cause I know I painted this in Palm Springs at a pool, so it has a kinda beachy vibe. I would put that in forest. Kind of like, bright blobs, that might be a theme that emerges. Oh, here we are with the beach again. Oh yeah, we've got a few here, with the watercolor and Microns. Oh these were one of my first poppies. See, that's what's really fun about this, is that you kind of, are going down memory lane. You know, you've already heard me say, that one I did in Palm Springs, and this one, you know, was one of my first poppies, and poppies have since then have become one of my things. I know this is from the night that I first painted poppies. And that's really fun to look back on. I'm gonna put these in with these florals, so I'm seeing kind of a yellow-green theme emerge. Oh, another beach. This one was from Mexico. You start to see, it's interesting how much you remember as you go through them, exactly where you were. I remember this one actually is a painting I did with Courtney Cerruti, our very own Courtney, at one of her Social Sketch, so Courtney, I believe, did this feather here, and these marks, I think I went in and added the lines. So this was a collaborative piece. As I start going through them, it's funny how these themes really emerge. Landscape, we haven't had any of those yet. I might have a sixth group. I think that's a beach. I remember that one from Marin, from a hike I was on. Wait, this one, I definitely remember painting, because it's nuts, and I remember, I took a picture of it, and I posted it on Instagram, I love posting pictures of what I paint on Instagram, there's a great artist community of people who I don't even know personally, but, we all are liking and commenting on each other's work. And I remember specifically, Pam Garrison, commented on this one, and said, I love it! And I thought, oh, I thought it was crazy, but if Pam loves it, then, it must be worth something. So, it's funny how you remember even the comments, and the likes, or the ones that you thought were gonna be, you know, getting lots of comments, and likes, and didn't get any. (laughs) So, at this point, I could even go in further, and start to break them up into botanicals, or flowers, and start to see themes emerge. I'm also seeing some of these yellow florals, like these look nice together. That's kind of a cute little grouping there. We've got some nice kind of muted, mountain scenes here. I like the way that there's a little bit of color in that. The beach scene is fun. And, you may wonder, why are you doing this? What is the point of going through and doing this? I have to say, it's actually really fun, because sometimes you don't even know what you've been doing. I had no idea I had done this many pieces that included watercolor and Micron. And, seeing it all together, I can say, wow, I really went through a phase there of doing that, and that was clearly something that was special to me. Another thing that, I think is really helpful in doing this, is sometimes I will sort them to see which pieces maybe I would want to sell, or which pieces I would never sell, and are just my favorites, or the most special to me. I could see these ones, hanging them together in my bedroom, you know, and I maybe, painted these at different times, and, never really thought of them as a collection together, but they might look really nice. Same with these beachy ones. I don't know that I would do that pink one now. But these four could be really nice all together framed. Maybe they'd be a gift. Another cool thing that you can do, if you wanna put your work together, into a collection, is make a zine out of them. Courtney actually sat down with me and helped me pick out some artwork, and scanned it, and turned it into this adorable little zine for me. It was really mind-blowing to see this work, kind of all put together in a way that I had never imagined it, and so, Courtney is

officially my publisher and editor. I'm eternally grateful to her, for pushing me to do that. And, it is now something that I can hand out to people, I could sell, if I were doing an art opening. It's just this cool little moment in time. And, no matter what you're chosen craft is, this is clearly something that I have really gotten into. But whatever your thing is, I'm sure that you have amassed a ton of it. And it's really fun to go through and pull out all of the stuff that you've made, and kind of look at it together, and really give yourself a pat on the back. It's a great thing to do, is just look at it all together, and be proud, you have put all this time and energy into it, and I'm sure it's gonna get you into a more creative mindset for making your next thing.

Day 31: Blind Contour Buddies with Courtney and Liana

- Hi, I'm Courtney. - And I'm Leanna. - And we're gonna show you how to do a blind contour with a buddy. This is one of my most favorite activities. It's great to do with anybody who can draw, who has never picked up a pen before and cannot draw. I do it on a lot of first dates. If you know anything about me or follow me on Instagram, it's something I do a lot with friends and it just makes everyone laugh. - It's a major icebreaker for sure. - Yeah, it's really fun. So, the way this works is you want to pick a kind of bold maker. You could do this with a pen or a pencil, but it's nice to get a nice bold line. You're gonna look at your subject. It could be a person, it could be a still life in front of you, it could be a small puppy named Charlie and you need to not look at your paper while you're drawing and you're not supposed to pick up your pen. The idea is that you're just kind of drawing the lines that you see and if you need to go in to draw an eyeball or a nose, you just keep it as one continuous line. They all look ridiculous. They're all amazing. It doesn't matter your talent level or your fear, just do it. It's fun. - Okay, so no cheating? - No cheating. Don't look at your paper. Don't pick up your pen. Sometimes I even time this 'cause that's really fun too. So, these are quick. These are super quick. - Okay, are there any tips on where to begin? - I always begin at the left side of the person's face, but you could start in the middle, you could start wherever you want. - I was just thinking I'd start with your eye. - Okay. - Okay, I'm gonna look at my page to find my starting point. - Okay great. Ready? Go. It's not a race, but you should keep it quick. I'm intently looking into Leanna's eyes. - I think I just gave you a uni-row. - [Courtney] It's possible. - [Leanna] Like a pretty bad one. Oh god. - Teeth always look really scary. (laughs) - I haven't even gotten to your mouth yet. I don't think. - [Courtney] Okay, I'm done. - [Leanna] I can't remember what I did. - [Courtney] I think I'm done. I'm not looking at it though. - [Leanna] Uh oh. And your mouth. Oh, this is gonna be interesting. Don't hate me. (screams and laughs) - [Courtney] I think that looks just like me. Leanna, what do you think? - [Leanna] This is kind of like Courtney in motion. I'm going through a cubist phase here. - That is awesome. She just has like one pupil. I think those might be her teeth, I'm not even sure. - I actually like your nose. I think I did a good job there. - My mouth is all the way over here. You can see how fun that is. You inevitably get a reaction out of the person you're drawing with because you're kind of intently looking at their face and then you can't help but burst out laughing. - It's shocking really. - It's very intense. And then you see them and it's even more hilarious and you can easily do dozens of these. There something I always love to go to when I'm feeling stuck or I want to do something creative with a friend that doesn't think that they're creative because even if you know how to draw, your blind contour drawing's gonna look as silly as the person who's never picked up a pen. That's not Leanna. I'm not talking about Leanna. - Oh, thanks a lot. (laughs) That was my first drawing I ever did. Thanks a lot Courtney. - You know that's not true if you've seen her paintings. - Okay, we hope that you have enjoyed doing this daily challenge with us. As you can see, we're a little punchy towards the end. - Creativity should be that way. It should

be both creative and a little silly.