Mixed Media Painting on Canvas with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Mixed Media on Canvas
(cheerful music) - Hey, everybody. Welcome to Creativebug Live. We're live like we always are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which means you can write in and ask us questions so please feel free to do so. We love all your questions and comments. You might notice that I'm in a kitchen for this shoot and that's because Wilton is here this week, which is awesome. They're gonna be joining us on our live shoot on Thursday, so make sure you tune back in for that and ask all those questions about your cookie and cake decorating because they're gonna be here and they can answer your questions. We're gonna tackle a mixed media project today. And what I love about mixed media, and I think it's one of the things that makes it really accessible but also maybe a little bit scary for a lot of people, is that you can do anything. Which means you can cover anything up, you can use almost any material, you can glue something down, you can paint on top of it, you can stamp, you can draw, you can punch a hole in it, you can add fabric, you can sew. Whatever you want, the sky is the limit, and I think that's a great freedom but sometimes that's also a little scary. So I'm gonna walk you through how I would approach putting together one mixed media painting. And you can go from here. Be sure to ask questions because I can troubleshoot other things along the way even if you're not seeing it in front of you on the camera. I'm starting with a canvas board. I like these because they're super lightweight. If you're shipping things to friends or maybe for a show or something, it's not too bulky but you can do any of these techniques also on like a heavy duty paper that will take paint. So mixed media paper, a watercolor paper, you can try it in your sketchbook, you could do it bigger or smaller. Like I said, there's a lot of flexibility. I'm gonna start by just getting some color down so we don't have a white canvas. And you can use a plate for this. I'm using palette paper, which is sort of like a waxed paper so it doesn't absorb my paint. And I have a Basics acrylic paint here. You could use craft paint. I like this because it's a little bit heavier bodied. And I'm using a flexible kind of scraper tool. You could use a bowl scraper from a kitchen store or you can use a credit card. I actually have a class on Creativebug that is a credit card abstract painting technique and that's basically what I'm gonna use right now. I'm not overly mixing this, I'm just getting some color down. I will have, and I do have, a pack of baby wipes handy because I'm gonna be using this throughout the whole process. We had Mou Saha here earlier. She was our Creativebug artist winner. And she was a very neat mixed media person. I'm a very messy mixed media person, so I need my baby wipes handy. If that's the only thing you take away from this live shoot, you're already ahead. Baby wipes are like your best friend. I'm just putting down color. I could leave some white space here too even if I want, but I think I wanna do as much color as I can in just a really thin layer. Try not to over mix it. The color contrast between these two colors is pretty slight so if I just mix it and make it all blush tone, that's not gonna work. But have still some pinks here and some ochres, and I think that's fine. I am gonna use my baby wipes to wipe this off, wipe off my fingers. And then the other tool that is essential for me but doesn't have to be essential for you unless you're kind of impatient like I am when I'm a crafter and so you don't have to watch paint dry is my heat gun. Because I'm going to dry every layer before I move on to the next. So excuse the noise, but we're gonna heat this up. This is a great time to write in and ask a question if you have one, just while we're waiting for this to dry. I tried to keep it a pretty thin coat here. Might just wipe off any paint that's on the edges. Another baby wipe. Let's wipe off my table. I'm gonna

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heat it up a little bit more until it's dry. You wanna be careful not to burn your paint. It'll create little bubbles. If that happens, remember you're gonna be layering, so you can cover it up in the process or you might like the way that that looks and that's fine too. You can play with that. Still a little wet. You can also take a baby wipe and remove color or spread color around. So I'm doing this partially just so this paint is thinner and we can dry it a little more quickly. - [Woman] We have folks who are just joining us and they're wondering what surface you are painting on and what you are painting with. - Hey, everyone. Welcome if you're just joining us. I am working on a mixed media painting and I'm starting with my very first layer. This is acrylic paint that I squeegeed on with a flexible scraper, but you could also use a library card or credit card. And I'm going to heat it up. I'm working on a canvas board and I just want it to dry before I do my next layer, which is gonna be a silk screening technique. But it also works with stencils, which you'll see in just a sec. This heat gun is essential for moving quickly between layers. We're almost there. Okay, great. So you could use a stencil for this or you can use a silk screen, and I actually bought these thinking they were stencils and was super delighted to realize they're actual silk screens. This is by Martha Stewart. This one happens to come in like a little paisley pack. You can see I've already used this one 'cause there's still a little bit of paint on the surface, but I've washed it off and it's reusable. One side has a light tack to it. And you cut them apart. The blue, where you see the blue, the paint will not go through. And where you see the white is where the paint will go through the screen and make a design on your canvas or on your paper. So they are reusable. You do need to wash them out after you use them, because if the paint dries in the screen, then it's not gonna work any longer. Almost. (laughs) There's a backing on this, I just have to peel it off. Hmm. Okay, here we go. I think. This is worse than watching paint dry. Oh my god. Alright, well, let's just use the one I've already used because I can't get that one off. It's actually very easy. (laughs) But I just cut my nails, I don't have much nails to work with. Okay, so I'll just peel this off and we're gonna use this paisley design. So you can reposition it, place it wherever you like. You do wanna make sure that this layer is dry. And I'm actually gonna put it kind of just right of center. And I like it going off the canvas a little bit, I think that creates a little bit more dynamic and professional look when you're working on creating any kind of pattern or surface design. Having it go off the page as opposed to just have it edge up awkwardly toward the edge of your canvas. The going off the page is preferable. I'm gonna use a lighter color for this. So I'm just gonna use some craft paint. This is like a creamy kind of color. Put it on my palette. Use a credit card or this flexible scraper and we're gonna just squeegee it onto our stencil here. Try not to go off the blue because you will go straight onto your canvas and then it's not protected. What's happening now is that paint is going into that opening where the screen is, into those little tiny mesh holes, and where there's blue, the paint is not going onto the canvas. Now, keep in mind that we're approaching this kind of like fast and loose and it's not gonna be perfect. You aren't gonna have the most perfect stenciled image but it's gonna be pretty awesome. Remember, you can always go over it. So that's really pretty, I love that. I'm actually gonna rotate my canvas and do another one. I don't have to wash it out in between in this case because we're still working. Let's do one in this direction. I'm not gonna smear it too much and I'm actually gonna try a different color right on top, without washing, without changing, just to see the effect. Why not? If I hate it, I can glue on top of it. I'm using a little black this time. And what I love about this squeegee painting besides it being really easy is that you use very little paint so usually your layers dry pretty quickly. You definitely wanna use a paint that has a little bit of body. Anything that's too thin like an ink would just go right through the stencil and bleed. So I'm using the silk screen, this is a Martha Stewart little silk screen kit. I had never seen it before. I was pretty excited. But you could also do

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this with a stencil, doesn't have to be a silk screen. And you can see that the black is mixing with kind of the creamy tone, that's fine. I also got a little black paint, I can wipe that away with my baby wipe. We'll remove that. Oh, I love it. It's like a lacy spiderweb kind of color. Now, you do wanna rinse this. Because I'm live and I can't run to the kitchen, I can't rinse mine, so I'm just gonna put a baby wipe over it, keep it wet until I can take it to the kitchen and rinse it so that I can reuse it later. Have a little black there that I don't want, so before it dries I can just baby wipe it away. And we're gonna heat this layer up also so that we can move onto the next. The idea is that every layer, you want to heat up and either seal or protect so that when you're using the wet layer on the next level, it doesn't pick up your paint or your ink or your marker pen, whatever you're using. And I am heating up both of these silk screens, both of these patterns. - [Woman] We have our next question. Brianne wants to know-- - [Courtney] Hi, Brianne! - [Woman] How are silk screens and stencils different? - So the question is what's the difference between a stencil and a silk screen. So the silk screen, I'm gonna show this to Devon. Devlin, sorry. And see if he can see this with his camera. If I can peel this up, since my other silk screen has paint in it. Alright. So this is a silk screen. The blue is where the ink is not gonna go through or the paint. Now, can you see that this open space, there's this really fine mesh. So a silk screen, it burns away. And when you're actually burning your own screens, this whole thing would be blue or coated. And then when it burns away this, and the ink only goes through that fine mesh. The mesh is almost like a nylon like pantyhose. And actually, we have a silk screening class on Creativebug with Hilary Williams. She's an excellent teacher. She's a San Francisco Bay artist that now has moved out into the country and has this amazing silk screen studio set up. She shows you how to silk screen and she would explain the process even better. Because we're not making our silk screens, but she does in her class and she's a silk screen artist. So that's what a silk screen does, but a stencil just has a full open cut. And you can make your own stencils, you can buy stencil template paper and use an exacto knife, trace on a design, and cut your own stencils too. Let's see how this is. I think it needs to be heated up just a little bit more. Good question, Brianne. Thank you for tuning in. Now my next layer is going to be a squeegeed layer back onto the canvas, like we did with our first layer, so I really want to make sure this is dry because it's a very delicate pattern and when I drag my squeegee across or my scraper tool, I don't want it to pick up this paint. Especially the black. Again, if it happens, don't worry about it. It's mixed media, you can just move on. You can just give it a touch and see how things are feeling. I think I need to do a little bit more here. So I want to add a little bit more vibrancy and color, I can go with this pretty orange tone or I can go with my hot pink. And because I love hot pink, we're gonna do that. Just gonna pour a little bit more on my palette. It's my palette paper. And I will baby wipe off my squeegee tool because I don't want the black to go into the hot pink. These are really great. And like I said, if you don't have one of these, you can just use a credit card or library card. The neon paint colors tend to be a little bit more translucent than some of the other paint colors that we've used, which have a little bit more white base. And that's exactly what I want right now is some transparency. So you can see as I scrape it over, that silk screen design, I still get a little bit of that peeking through, that's kind of the beauty of mixed media work is that you see all these layers and they can create texture. Even if you are not sure what's going on in the layers, they still add some texture and depth. Alright. Think that's good. And we're gonna heat up that layer. You guys should kind of get the rhythm by now. Now if you're doing this at home, you could be working on multiple canvases or multiple pages at once, that way you're not waiting for things to dry. Or while you're waiting, you're actually working, which is great. Depends how much space you have. And the next thing we're gonna do is add sort of like a focal point. I'm gonna put a face. I love faces, it's what I

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paint and draw most often. That's kinda what I gravitate toward, but a lot of people either can't paint faces or haven't tried or really scared to try. So I'm actually gonna give you a little cheat. I'm gonna show you how to trace a face and we're gonna collage it on and it's gonna go in seamlessly, it's gonna look like you painted it onto your canvas. So we're just gonna put this aside for a minute. And you need some kind of image to trace. So I like W Magazine, it's a nice fashion magazine. I've got some pieces of tissue paper that I've cut. I just had a big pack of white tissue paper. You just want something that's kind of in an economy pack, because the thinner the tissue, the easier and more seamless this process is gonna be. And I just trimmed it down to slightly smaller than my canvas. And you can trace letters, you can trace landscapes, anything that you wanna trace. Buildings, whatever you have a hard time drawing on your own. And I picked this lady here. I love her look. Now, you do want to trace this with something that is waterproof because we're gonna be painting over it. I'm using these Pigma pens. They have an archival waterproof black ink and they come in a little pack and some of them are brush tip. So I'm gonna use a medium brush tip. And the reason I'm using a brush tip is because I want lines that are a little bit looser, a little bit more painterly. I'm just doing short, small strokes because I don't want to perfectly trace this, I want it to look like my own. So these brush tip markers can help me stylize my tracing a little bit and make this image a little bit more my own. We're gonna add color in just a minute with some watercolor. What's awesome about this too is it allows you to kind of composite images so you could then trace someone else's hair if you didn't like her hair. You can trace her neck and then collage on a different outfit if we wanted. But I do actually like her collar here. So I am going to, with the side of this brush tip, just do some loose and messy hair. We can always paint over this when we collage it down. And actually the rest of this I can even do without my original image. I'll just move that and I can continue to work on the hair. And actually, the more you trace, the more your hand will get some muscle memory for what it's like to draw faces. And the more you're looking at faces and images, the more comfortable you'll be drawing them on your own. Before we cut that out, I want to add a little bit of color with some watercolor. This could be anything, you could even use acrylic paint, but I just want a really tiny hint of color. The craft paint is maybe a little bit too strong for this. So just very quickly, just some color in the cheeks here. - [Woman] We have our next question. Serena wants to know, will mixed media painting work on any sort of canvas? - The question is does mixed media painting work on any canvas, and the answer is yes. You could do this on an unstretched canvas like drop cloth. I love using drop cloths from the hardware store because they're very inexpensive and you can work really large if you want. And that way you can work in sections. Or using canvas board, which is canvas that is glue mounted to a hard backer board. You can use a traditional canvas panel that has some depth to it. You could use a wooden panel. Pretty much anything you can glue or paint on, you can make this on. So if you did it straight on the wall, that would work too. It's not gonna come off, but you could do that. We're just adding a little bit of color here. I'm doing this all in like a very light blushy tone. We're gonna have to let this dry too, so we'll use our heat gun in just a minute. I'm gonna leave, I think I'm gonna leave the clothing kind of open. I just want to add some color to the face. And let's pick a color for her eyes. I love brown eyes, it's actually my favorite. And I'm gonna use my heat tool just to heat this up. And this is why the permanent pen is really important, because we're adding watercolor, we're gonna be adding some mod podge on top of this which is also wet, and if I had used some other kind of pen, all of this would be bleeding and our tracing would be totally for naught. The tissue paper dries pretty quickly. It is going to get wrinkly and that's totally fine. There's a little bit of just unexpectedness and a little bit of messiness that just is natural in mixed media painting, so you're gonna definitely have to get

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used to it if you wanna work with mixed media. But luckily that dries really quickly. And we're gonna attach it onto our canvas but I'm gonna cut out a little bit. This will become pretty seamless and I'm gonna show you some techniques for integrating this into your collage or painting, but I want to get rid of as many hard edges as I can because that will help us. So just using some scissors, we're gonna very loosely kind of cut around our figure here. This would be really fun with a dog portrait also. If you, of course that's where my head goes always, but if you wanted to do a really cute gift of a dog portrait and you're not really confident in painting or drawing someone's dog, you could trace a photo. But then totally make the painting your own by adding your own layers. You can add lettering or stamping, which I'm gonna show you in just a minute. - [Woman] Our next question comes from Diane. She is asking is that tissue paper or tracing paper? - Good question. I just traced an image using tissue paper, so this is the kind of tissue paper you'd find in like the gift wrap section. I got this at my local Jo-Ann. It came in a big bulk pack, which means I can trace hundreds if not thousands of images. I just precut it down to roughly the size of my canvas, that way it was easier to manage and that way I knew kind of what size image I needed to trace. Alright, so this is going to become even more transparent once I glue it down. And I do want a little bit of that layering to happen. I like how underneath this, that pink jagged line and this beautiful paisley is coming through onto what is kind of her clothing. So I think dead center is gonna work for me. This is gonna get glued down using a little bit of matte mod podge. You can use gel medium if you're more comfortable with that. I often use gel medium. But I wanted to give this a go and it's worked really nicely for this project. I'm just gonna use a foam brush and instead of applying this to my tissue paper because it's delicate and it's gonna become more fragile when it gets wet, I'm just put it all over this canvas. It's gonna dry clear. This is why it's important that your layers are dry, so that when you put down this mod podge, it doesn't smear any of your beautiful layers from below. So I'm doing a very consistent coat but it's thin, I don't want to see any ridges or puddles or bubbles because it's gonna take forever to dry. And it could cause rippling in our tissue paper. - [Woman] Courtney, could you remind the folks at home what kind of pen you use? - So I did our tracing with a permanent pen. I really like to use a brush pen because it gives me a more painterly line. And I used a Pigma brush. They're the same people, it's by Sakura, so it's the same people that make Microns and some of the other pens that a lot of our artists use, easily found at your local craft store. This is going right in the middle. And with my finger, I'm just going to gently press down, starting sort of in the center. You are gonna get some ripples and that's fine, but you're gonna try and work some of them out just with your finger. And then we're gonna encase this in more mod podge. But you can see that already this is not really looking like a collage layer, it's starting to look like part of your painting. And we're gonna integrate it even more in just a minute. Oh, that tore, no problem, just tear it off. Alright, you're gonna go back in with your mod podge and we're just gonna coat that. Remember, this one happens to be matte, which I really prefer the finish of as opposed to the glossy but whatever you like, you can use. The thinnest coat possible, but you definitely want to get even coverage all over. This is gonna seal this layer in. The great thing too is like once this is sealed and dried, if you make a mistake in your next layer, you can wipe it off with a baby wipe, which is awesome. If you don't seal it, you can't do that. The mod podge and the acrylic paint kind of have a plastic finish when they dry, which allows you to like wipe away any mistakes very quickly. There are really very few mistakes in mixed media though because you can just glue right over it. Okay, that's good. We'll use our heat tool. How's it looking so far? I think it's looking pretty good. You'll notice that the glossiness of the mod podge is gonna start to go a little bit matte as this dries. Oh, have mod podge on my finger, so it's sticky. - [Woman] Our viewers at home are absolutely

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loving this. - Awesome, thank you. I'm actually really excited about this project. This isn't normally how I work. I do a lot of watercolor at home just cause it fits my lifestyle right now. Really you should make the art that works, that you can do, right? It's that whole thing about the camera you have on you is the best camera. So this isn't really what I normally do but I was really excited about this project because when I teach, and I teach often in person, a lot of people are kind of scared about painting a face or drawing something representational, so this little tracing technique on tissue paper becomes a really seamless part of your overall painting. So you can be doing mixed media but you can also use this in collage. Even if you're working on an acrylic painting and you consider yourself more of a painter, this is a great way to get some line work introduced into your work if you're not comfortable making those marks on your own. But as you get the practice going, you will become comfortable and you'll have a new skill, which is really awesome. So I'm just gonna, there's a little bit of tackiness right here in the middle, so we're just gonna heat this up a little bit longer. Alright, that's probably pretty good. I wanted to show you just a few more techniques for adding more layers. And this is just a few layers. You could go more than this, you can go less on this. This painting could be done now if you're excited about it, that's awesome. But I wanted to show you how to stamp on this. I personally have a ton of rubber stamps that I've kind of fallen out of the habit of using, but using them with paint is a new way to kind of re-excite me about them and I want to show you this really quick technique that Yellow Owl Workshop shows in one of her classes on her site about how to make your own stamp pad. And I think she uses it with stamping ink and I'm gonna show you with acrylic paint. So you need some kind of paper plate or even a glass plate works fine as long as you wash it off. We're gonna put a little bit of craft paint here and I'm gonna start with black because I want a black ink. Actually, you know what? Let's do white. Because you can't actually buy white stamping ink, it does not exist. So this allows you to use your rubber stamps and get a white, really opaque impression just by using some craft paint. This is that like kinda tone that's a slightly warm white. I want it to be thin on my plate because we're gonna stamp into it. And then you're gonna cover your paint with a little bit of craft felt. So this is just one of those like 25 cent sheets of craft felt and I just cut it into a little square to fit on my plate. And this is the really fun part. Let's pick a rubber stamp. I'm gonna use this one because I think the motifs speak nicely to the ones that I silk screened earlier. You're gonna start to press hard, just so that paint comes through that felt. If you need to add more paint, you can lift this up. Because I'm using a paper plate, it absorbed a lot of my paint. So a little bit more. Spread it around so we get nice even coverage. Put your felt back down. Awesome. So lots of stamping until my rubber stamp is covered in my craft paint. And now I'm gonna place this. So it allows me to add a layer without using my silk screen. I can't use rubber stamp ink, there isn't white, but instead I'm using this craft paint. - [Woman] Courtney, could you tell the viewers at home about our special offer? - Yeah. So I'm mentioning all these classes that you can find on Creativebug. I teach a lot of classes on Creativebug. I was just mentioning Yellow Owl Workshop's class. And if you're interested in more mixed media, you could look at Lisa Congdon and Pam Garrison. We have some new classes that'll be coming out with Mou soon. And if you're new to Creativebug, you can get two months for free, one class to keep forever and a 30% off coupon at Jo-Ann. And Aly's gonna post the link for that so thank you for tuning in and asking questions. If you watch and ask questions, you get a reward! It's pretty awesome. So I'm just adding more layers here. I can go over part of her hair. Alright, I think that's good. I still wanna have this pink kind of covering part of this white so that I can then see this white here as something separate. Also I wanna stamp in black. I can use ink for that. So I'm gonna dry this layer and then I'm gonna show you how to stamp in black. Then we're almost done. That

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layer's nice and quick to dry because it's a nice thin coat of paint. Again, you wanna be using something that is waterproof so that every layer, we can go onto the next layer without smearing. I love this massive stamp pad. It's archival ink and it's waterproof and it's black. So we're gonna use that with this stamp. I could also use a star. Let's use this guy. So nice even coverage on my rubber stamps. You do wanna re-ink your stamps. Let's say I wanted to stamp my star multiple times, you want to re-ink between each use of your stamp. Also have a class on how to properly stamp and some tips and techniques for lining things up, overlapping things, and creating patterns using rubber stamps. Now because this stamp is a solid shape and I'm working on canvas, you are gonna see some of that texture. Actually love the way that looks, so Dev's gonna get a shot for you. You can see that canvas texture in there. I think that's really cool. - [Woman] We have our next question. Kelly is wondering do you have to use felt? What is the reason you use the felt? - Good question actually. I showed earlier. Right now I'm using a commercial ink pad but I was showing earlier how to use craft paint with felt to make your own stamp pad. And the felt is actually really necessary because one, the acrylic paint is slippery. So if I were to put this nice slick rubber stamp down into that paint, it would just go all over the place. The other thing, if you saw the stamp I was using, it has a lot of intricacies, lot of little tiny negative spaces, and if you don't have that felt, the paint's going to go straight into there and you're gonna get a big blobby impression instead of a nice tight clean impression. So my dahlia stamp, I got some really lovely detail in here and that's because I used the felt. So it helps distribute the draft paint evenly and give you a nice even impression without too much paint. Alright, I'll set these aside. We're gonna dry that last layer and then we're gonna do some lettering with our permanent brush pen and I think we'll be done. Alright. So now's the fun part because I'm actually really terrible at lettering. Really terrible, so if I mess up, I'm gonna wipe it away and you're gonna see that live on camera. I'm gonna do a couple of things to help me. I'm gonna use a brush tip pen, because I paint a lot, that feels a little bit more comfortable to me. If you need some tips and tricks for lettering, you can check out Michaela's 30 day challenge. She works with Sakura of America and she has some great tips for excellent brush lettering. So she can get you up to speed if you've never tried this. And also what should I letter? Do any of you guys have a suggestion? I could do a quote, I could do an inspiring word, you could do someone's name. I have a lot of space here, so I think I'm gonna actually, I'll use either the medium or the large brush tip. Does anybody have any ideas for what I should letter? Alright, anything, we'll do anything. Alright, I'm gonna just write "And so she did." Because it leaves you up for interpretation what the first part of that sentence is. And I just wanna make sure this isn't tacky because I don't want to clog up my brush tip. So Michaela's advice is thick on your down strokes, light on your up strokes, and that's still hard for me to do but that's what the lettering challenge is for. I'm just gonna... If you can hear that squeak, it's because I have a layer underneath here of mod podge. And so she did. I definitely wanna dry this layer so I don't smear it. You could also check out Lisa Congdon and Pam Garrison, they have some great lettering tips and techniques in their own styles. And I'm gonna stop here. I could keep going, I could stamp, I could do a second tracing, another collage. I could start adding some image transfers to this if I wanted. You can check out my image transfer class on Creativebug. That's the awesome thing about mixed media, that really the sky is the limit. It allows you to play and experiment with all different types of materials. You could do craft paints and acrylic paints, you can add collage layers, you can try your hand at lettering. I have another one that I made before just to show you. These two kind of speak to one another because I used a similar color palette. You can see the layers of that same silk screen. Here I just did it in white. I traced a different face. I added some more stamping on top with more layers and painting and then I went

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back in with that permanent marker to show some doodling. So it's a great place for play and experimentation. We always enjoy these livestreams, we love all your comments and questions, so thank you for tuning in. We'll be back on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. PST with Wilton, showing you some really awesome cookie and cake decorating ideas. If you are unfamiliar with Creativebug and you've just joined us, welcome. And you can check out two months of our classes for free, you get one class to keep forever, and a 30% off coupon to Jo-Ann. We have over 1,000 classes in all kinds of categories, including mixed media. We'll see you on Thursday. (cheerful music)

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