A Color Conversation with Tara Faughnan with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 -
Color talk with Tara
(upbeat music) - Hi, everybody. It's Faith from "Creative Bug," coming at you live like we do every Tuesday and Thursday, 4 p.m. And, I have a special guest. - Hi, everyone! I'm Tara Faughnan. - And what are you doing here? - Well, I'm filming some classes. - Three classes. - Yes. - And, they've been so amazing. We just finished thew last one. - Yes! Yes we did. - A few minutes ago. - You guys have been amazing. You have made this process- - You've been amazing! - So easy. - I know. You've been (laughing). (both chuckling) - It's mutual admiration society going on. But really, you guys have, it's been fun. - I've had a blast. I'm so glad you also did. It starts off tricky, but now you're like, "Oh, I can do this all time." - Really tricky, didn't know what my name was on Tuesday. But now, I know where my name was. - It's Tara. - Yeah, it's Tara. I know I'm a quilter. I know those things today. I did not know them on Tuesday. - It's hard when you're asked- (Tara laughing) - When you're like, (Tara laughing) "I don't remember because of the lights." But no, she's done an amazing job. And, we're totally enamored with her quilts, and her quilting style. And you can see behind us, there's one on the wall, and one hanging. And everyone who walks by the studio goes, "(gasping) That quilt is gorgeous!" Right? We've actually like give tiny tours of- - Oh, nice, nice. - Here's the quilt. It's Tara's quilt. And I was particularly enamored when we first started talking. Of course, we have to ask about like, what was your first quilt you ever made? And I thought yours was really...special. Would you care to share with our audience your first quilt story? - Yeah, yeah. I mean, I started quilting after the millennium. But, I learned how to quilt via the 1931 style. So my Mom gave me this book by Ruby Short McKim. And was originally published in 1931. It was re-published in the 70s. She was cleaning out her sewing room. She gave me this book, along with some fabrics. So, I read through it. And I was like, "I'm gonna make a quilt." - Right. - I remember it was summer. It was a heat wave. And I was like, "I'm gonna make a quilt." - Right. - I had a couple of weeks off of work. So I sat down, and in this book it tells you to make a cardboard template. Trace around it, cut it with your scissors. And I think it even said you can stitch it together by hand, or machine. And I called my mom, and I was like, "Can I sew this on a machine?" She's like, "You can sew it on the machine." So, a couple of weeks into the project, my template started to melt, because I was using like a magic marker, like a felt-tipped pen. And it started to melt the cardboard, the corrugated cardboard that I was using. - Of course. - Yeah. - And so, I went down to the quilt store, and I was telling the women about how my first quilt was going. And I was telling her, "But, you know, my templates are melting, "and all the tips are getting round. "And maybe there's like, one side has been shaved down "by the marker." I was making an Ohio Star quilt. And, as I was talking, her jaw just kind of... - She just had the fear in her eyes. - Oh she was like, "Oh honey." And she took me over to the wall of rotary cutters, and there was like mats, and rotary cutters. - She said, "I'm gonna show you something." - She told what they did. And she gave me a big discount, and like sent me on my way. And, I still have that rotary cutter 16 years later. - And the thing I love- - It's quality- - About this rotary cutter- - quality rotary cutter. - Is we have to show the folks at home is, you've been using, it's like worn down. - [Tara] Yeah, it's flat on side. - [Faith] Because it's 16 years. - [Tara] Yeah. - [Faith] And, it's amazing. - But I love this rotary cutter. It's like an extension of my arm. - And, you've come a long way since then. - Yeah, I fully, I've, you know. That first quilt I also though it had to be hand-quilted. I attempted hand- - You must of spent a long time with it. - Oh, I

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attempted hand-quilting and then I gave it up. - But my mom gave me like her old quilting frame. Like one of those big like eight feet long, right? And, I'm sitting there. - You're committed. - Living up in the country. I was like trying to quilt. But I thought my stitches had to be tiny, and I gave up. And, I eventually took it off the frame, and just machine-quilted overlay on quilting stitches. - Really? - Yeah. Like I just, I was done with the hand quilting. - And we are live. So if you have any questions, or just wanna share your incredulous disbelief of this process. (Tara chuckling) Or, if you wanna share your first quilt story, we'd love to hear it. Everybody has one. - And I love questions, so. - And she loves questions. - Feel free. - Do you still have that quilt? - Yeah! It's on our bed. - Really? - Yeah, yeah. - So, it turned out okay? - Yeah, it turned out great, you know. - So, you're blasphemous. - Right. But you know, 16, 17 years later, it's completely falling apart in the batting shelling, but I used polyester batting. So, that's not going anywhere. - That's pristine. - It's fantastic. And in fact my husband just said, "We need a new bed quilt, "but could you use polyester batting?" - He did not? - Yeah, I'm going to. - I love. - He wants it to be the same weight. - Yeah. _ He says it's the perfect weight. - I love this- - So, I'm making- - It's funny. - A quilt right now. And, it's gonna have polyester batting on it. - It's amazing. - Yeah. - Um...what? - I know, it's quilts (indistinct), I'm doing it. - I really love it. My first quilt is not, should not see the light of day, ever. I don't think it has, actually. I think it's been in a corner of a closet for, all the apartments I've ever lived in. - Oh, you should bring it out. - Maybe it's a tradition now, though. - You can use it as a bathmat. - I was- (Tara laughing) - I could use it as...I mean, it's small. - Then, it should be used. - There's a lot of fleece involved. (Tara laughing) - [Liana] So we already, we already have a couple of questions, Tara. - Oh! - Okay. - [Liana] If you're ready for them. Stacy would like to know how often do you quilt with batiks? And Adam wanted to know how long it took to quilt, to make the quilt that you just showed? - Which? This quilt? - [Liana] How long did that quilt take you? - Oh, okay. I'll start with that question since it's fresh. I have no idea. A couple of weeks if I was gonna quilt it straight through. But then, I did a bunch of hand quilting on it, and that probably took, I don't know, four or five days. I think I do remember that part- - [Faith] For these? For the triangle quilt? - [Tara] For the quilting. Mm-hm, because I was also new to hand quilting, so it was really quite a long time. - [Faith] No, no, I think that sounds short to me. - [Tara] Oh! - Because we should tell them about the double wedding-ring quilt. - Yeah, that took a year- - Which took? - One year. - A whole year. - [Tara] Yeah. - [Faith] So, don't feel bad if you can't piece together and entire quilt in, and hand-quilt it in four to five days. - [Tara] Yeah, yeah. - [Faith] I love it. - [Tara] Yeah. The first question was? - [Liana] Do you ever work with batiks? - I don't, I like really solid fabrics with no difference in tone in the fabrics, so I don't. If they would make a solid batik that was solid-solid, I'd absolutely use it. Or, a handbag fabric that wasn't marbled, I would use it. But, I don't like the difference in shading. - And solid color is your thing? - It is my thing. - And so, I thought we could talk a little bit about some of your processes- - Great. - As you think about. - Great. - When you put together a quilt. - Okay, that sounds great. - So, we have these guys. - All right. So first, I'm gonna talk about value a little bit. And value is just the lightness, or darkness, of a fabric. And it's a really great tool that I focus on a lot. So right now, I'm just gonna show you some pink and yellow. Of different values. So, we're gonna start off easy. So, here's a light pink in a light value. It also has low contrast, meaning that there's not a lot of distinction. When you squint your eyes, you can't really differentiate whether one is light and one is dark. And here we have another really light yellow. This is a very light value. And, not as much distinction. So, we start ramping up the color. Look how much that pops, right? - [Faith] That's really pretty. - [Tara] Whereas, these are really kind of calm, and soothing. And here, we're just continuing ramping up the color, playing with the value. Our pinks are darker. Our yellows

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are much darker. And in this one, we've gone really light on the yellow, really dark on the pink, and it's so super-vibrant. But look what happens when we, I've just played with the value of pink and yellow. Look what happens when you get all of these dark, dark fabrics in there. It becomes to me, a little oppressive when I look at it, right? - [Faith] It's kind of muddier. - [Tara] It's just...woo! I don't know, it's really intense. And then so, but look what happens when you throw in some of these lighter colors. All of a sudden, the whole quilt kind of opens up. - [Faith] It's so much more interesting. - [Tara] Right? Now the other thing that is really interesting, is look what happens when you have these high contrast blocks all together. Again, your quilt gets super intense. And I don't, I go, I quilt with my emotions. And I get really uncomfortable when my quilt gets too intense. Which I guess, when other people look at my quilts, they might think they're really intense. But I definitely have areas in there, of these really soothing, low contrast colors. And they kind of balance it out for me. They get less dramatic in some ways. But also, now that block stands out. - [Liana] We're having technical difficulties. - Turn this back on? - [Liana] Yeah, if you can. - Yeah, that turned off. - I don't know. - [Liana] All right, now we're back. Great. All right. - All right, hi, everyone. - [Liana] I lost your camera, too. - We're back. - [Liana] Now we're back, great. - Where were we? - We were at the really exciting part. - [Liana] Everything's back on screen. - (chuckling) We're at the really exciting part. - [Faith] I think that the colors were too intense for the camera. (both chuckling) - [Tara] Everybody's like wow, drama. - [Faith] Game on. - [Tara] So watch this, this is really interesting. So this stands out really quit dramatically, right? But as soon as we put all of these ones in, it starts standing out a little bit less. Like, because this one is bright. And this one is really high contrast. So, it's a really fun thing to play with, to play with value, how something stands out. And what I like to have is areas of high contrast and low contrast in my quilt, and it really keeps your eye moving. It adds a lot of interest. - I'm into it. - Yeah, I mean, that's just pink and yellow. - [Faith] Well, it's pretty obvious once you lay it out, and you take away the neutral ones, and you're like- - [Tara] Yeah, yeah. - [Faith] And then we have these examples. - [Tara] Yeah, this is another fun little tool, or trick, that I like to play with. And it's just about the intensity of color. So here I have this pink and orange. And it's pretty, it's pretty intense, you know? It's very dramatic. But look what happens, I've kept the orange exactly the same. And, I just darkened that pink. I just dulled it down a little bit, and I love playing with that. Just like really slight, subtle variations in shade. And look what happens to the orange, it's electric in that color combination. - [Faith] It's a totally different flavor. - [Tara] Yeah. That's a really fun, fun tool to play with. - [Faith] And then, here we have this amazing optical illusion. - Yeah so, the last two really dealt with value and color intensity. And this is just playing with what one color looks like when you pair it with another color. And, I still focus on this in my quilts. Like, it's, you just never stop learning with this one. So these are all the same turquoises. And look at that turquoise with the khaki, it's like nice and soothing. And then with the white, it really starts to pop. - [Liana] Brianne wants to know, is there a particular resource you use to learn about color and its variations? - Yes! Trial and error. (Faith chuckling) - Seriously. - Good answer. - That is what it's all about. That is how I learned about color. - Brianne just asked if there was a particular resource that Tara used to learn about color. - Trial and error. - Trial and error. - Yeah, yeah, just doing it. Just playing with it and noticing what I liked and didn't like. - And I know in a lot of these classes we've been going through- - Yeah. - You always encourage the students to play around and to experiment- - Yeah. - And see what works for them. And it seems like for you, it's a very intuitive process. - It's so intuitive. And, it's really hard to teach intuition. You have to discover that for yourself, right? Like, but generally most of us know how to put colors on our bodies, and in our homes. - Right. - But then some reason when it comes to quilting, there's like a block. - Well, I like,

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that could also be a pun about quilt blocks. (both laughing) I'm so sorry, forgive me. - We're getting off kilt again - But these are a perfect example for pairing things. - [Tara] Right. - [Faith] And how- - [Tara] Yeah, so look at this aqua. - [Faith] And these are exactly the same. - [Tara] It's exactly the same color. And it's crazy, because when I look at this, I mean, this looks like a green aqua to me. And that looks like more of bluey aqua. This has more yellow-ly in it, it's crazy. - [Faith] And, it's definitely the same. - [Tara] The same. - [Faith] Color. - [Tara] It's exactly the same. It doesn't even look the same when you put it next to each other. Because, it's so interacting with this white. Whereas this one's interacting with this khaki. I mean, it's fascinating. - [Faith] Do you have a favorite of one of these? Or do you don't wanna- - [Tara] No. - [Faith] Offend them. - [Tara] Yeah. (chuckling) They're all equally- - [Faith] Pick your favorite. - Proportioned. - Your children. - Right. - Now for the last one, I definitely when you showed this one in the classes, I was like, "Oh my God, I gotta go home "and try this out myself." - Okay. - It's how you pick out the colors for your quilt. - Yeah, so I have all of these pieces that came from a quilt that I finished, I don't know, a couple of months ago. And I thought, I brought them in today, because I thought it would be really great to show how I pick color. And, it's super-simple. So, instead of going to my fabric stash and pulling out 60 fabrics, I don't do that. I start with maybe five. And, then go from there. So maybe I'll start with magenta. I almost always start with magenta. Because, it's the color that I love the most. And is in every single quilt that I've ever made. - [Faith] Is it? - [Tara] Yeah, maybe it'll change. - [Faith] It's your signature? - Yeah. I mean, it's just every...it's just- - It's really nice. - I have not found a color that this does not go with. So. - All right. - What I'll do- - We shall see. - I'll start. And, I'll just pull a color that I think goes really pretty with magenta. I love that color combination. And, I'll have those two down. And, I used this process when I made the double wedding ring that's behind us. And how to pick colors for the arcs. So, now I have these two colors. I just ignore the magenta, and I take up that green. I would not put those two colors together, but I'm gonna keep this one aside. And, I'm gonna choose a color that I like to go with the green. - [Faith] And, you're just scanning? - [Tara] Yeah, I just kind of run it over my fabrics. And then, I forget about those two colors. And, I'm gonna choose a color that I'd like to go with the blue. I could choose this orange that's really hot and bright. But look what happens when I tone the orange to like more of a pinky color. - [Faith] Oo! - [Tara] Right? I doesn't have quite as much contrast. And then, again, I'm not gonna put those two colors together. But, I'm gonna find a color which I really like with that coral. - [Faith] It's so fun to watch you do this. - [Tara] And then, look what happens. These guys are right next to each other. I wouldn't put them necessarily right next to each other on the quilt. But they have this blue in between. All of a sudden, they're not really talking to each other as much as they're talking to this one. Now I have all of these colors laid out, and I might, I feel like it's a little bit redundant. So maybe, I'll just substitute out. Oo! (Faith laughing) What happened? That's crazy. Maybe that's too crazy. - [Faith] That's great. - [Tara] Maybe that's too crazy. So, I'm just gonna tone it down by putting a dark color right next to it. - [Faith] Oo! - [Tara] And then, it just kind of like tones it back down again. - [Faith] And so, when you're making the double wedding ring quilt, do you do this for every single? - Yeah. - That's amazing. - Every single arc, it's really fun. It's really addictive. - How many colors did you put in that one quilt? - Well, this quilt that I pulled these chips from, has all of these colors. I don't know, it's 60 to double wedding ring. - [Faith] 60! - [Tara] It probably has a couple hundred. - [Faith] What! - [Tara] Because it's from my scrap bin. - [Faith] Oh, that's right. - [Tara] My all time scrap-in. Like all the scraps that I ever created. - All of the scraps. - Because I never throw away fabric. - I now regret throwing away that sea foam green that I thought I was never gonna use. - Right. - Because it could of ended up in something like this! - I know, I know. -

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[Faith] Do we have any more questions? - [Liana] We do. - [Tara] Oh, okay. - [Liana] Well Denise would like to know, what style quilt could I make for my parents, for their 60th anniversary? - Oo, Denise, that's a hard question. - Denise wants to know what kind of quilt she should make her parents for their 60th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to your parents, that's quite an achievement. - I wonder, I mean Denise, I wonder if, if there's like a... Like a 50th anniversary quilt. So then, I wonder if there's certain quilts- - Like a standard. - Like a standard. That would be a really interesting thing to look up online. You know, to see if there is a standard anniversary quilt. I know a double wedding ring is super classic for people that are getting married, right? And, you're saying 60 years? - Yeah. - Maybe a double wedding ring. - That would be my first choice, is the double wedding ring. (Tara laughing) It's really special. - [Liana] 30 double wedding rings. For 60 rings. - [Tara] Yes. - [Liana] I would stay with that. - Liana is our moderator, and also apparently a genius. And she says if you have 30 double wedding rings, that would be 60 rings. I love that idea. (Liana laughing) That was great. - Yeah, that would be a great quilt to make. (Liana sighing) - [Liana] Okay, let me see. I feel like there were more. Okay, it's gonna be...oh, Anita. She wanted to know do you ever use the black and white phone feature for color placement? - Yeah! I do all the time. I have a really small...oh, should I repeat the question? - Sure. - I keep seeing you going over there. Anita, was it Anita? - [Liana] Anita. - Anita asked if I ever use the black and white feature on my phone for...what was it? Just for quilt design? - For finding value? - Yeah, and I use my phone all the time, because I have a really small studio. Like, it's short, I can't get away from the design wall. So, I'll look at the quilt through my camera. - Oh! - And, miniaturize the quilt. - Oh! - Yeah! - Because you can't back up enough. - Yeah, I can't back up enough. I can't like get away for, far enough away. So, I'll just stand there. And, then I'll also take pictures. And then, walk away from the quilt, and go sit and look at the picture. - Really? - It's really interesting. Like what you can...like, you'll look at a quilt on the design wall, and you won't see the most glaring thing that really annoys you until you look at the picture. And you're like, "Oh, there it is! Right there." So, I do. - That's a good question. - I don't necessarily use the black and white feature as much. But, I have in the past. And, it's really useful for seeing value. - Okay. - Yeah. - Well, thank you so much for your questions. And Tara, thank you so much- - Thanks. - For joining us. You've been an absolute rock star. - Oh, thank you. - I'm so excited for your classes to come out. - Yeah, me too. - And thank you, all of us for watching. We'll see you next week. - Bye, everyone. (lively music)

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