Altered Book Pages with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Altered Book Pages

Altered Book Pages

(upbeat music) - Hi everybody, it's Faith from Creativebug coming at you live like we do every Thursday, and today is a really sad day but also wonderful day. The sad part is, my daily challenge is done, and by mine I mean our daily challenge. Courtney and I just completed a 28-day Altered Book Challenge where we did an altered book spread every single day for this month. Today is the last day, and because I have a hard time saying goodbye, I didn't even watch the last episode of The Sopranos because I didn't wanna get to that inconclusive conclusion. It was too much for me. So (laughing) in that spirit, long live Tony Soprano, and long live altered book pages. This was a really great class, and the people who participated in it are some of my favorite artists I've seen on Creativebug. Definitely check out the class gallery. There is some amazing questions and comments throughout, and I was really inspired by a lot of the work I saw. So for today, I'm going to answer some of the questions that came up and also do just a couple of techniques that I saw or that I was asked about. I'm going to be using Saints and Strangers because like what an amazing title, why wouldn't I? And this is an old book. And we had showed you in one of the early days how to remove a single sheet if you wanted to make more room so that your book wouldn't get over stuffed. But someone had said, what about removing whole pieces of signatures, and that is actually a spectacular idea for creating more space in your book. So a little bit of book anatomy, this is I made a text block. So this is what when you take your book out of its spine, this is kind of what it looks like in the back. It's made up of a bunch of signatures, and a signature is a gathering of sheets, and they're sewn. So you'll see there's no thread, there's no thread, until you get into the center of the signature, and then oh look, you can see the threads. So to make more room, we're going to tear out a few sheets of each signature. So in the book, I'm going to find the spread with the threads running through it, and we're just gonna rip it out. Also, if you're sensitive to book violence, turn away now, it's gonna get gory. That's actually one of the questions that I had gotten the most in this whole class. How could you rip apart books? Find a book you hate. Find a book you already own. Find a book that's literally on the street. We find garbage books all the time. Do what you need to do to get into a position where you can feel comfortable ruining, destroying, crushing, killing, and then rebirthing a book because that's what happens when you make an altered book. So in this book here, I've already ripped out some signatures. And the way you find the signature is, it's a bump, and you can eyeball it at first because we're going to page through. So I'm going in this bump right here. I'll point to it with this guy. And then we're going to find the middle of it. And I've already counted, each of these signatures consist of nine sheets. So we're going to rip out the middle four. It's kind of a treasure hunt, a treasure hunt that ends with destruction, my favorite kind of treasure hunt. That's not true, I haven't gone on any other destructive treasure hunts, only this one. So you can see the threads running through the middle. So we're just gonna rip it out, and we're gonna rip out four too. You might want to pull out some of this excess, these petal pieces. If you can get your fingers in there, that's preferable. I went a little too crazy earlier today and accidentally tore a thread. That's what happens when I get real wild is books get hurt. But even if there's a little bit left inside, that's totally fine. Gonna do two more sheets. And so this way, when we add excess material to the inside of our book, it won't puff up. We had saved this lesson until a couple days in, and I had some panic questions about my book is puffing up, it makes me feel very

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uncomfortable on a visceral level. I think it has to do with like when your book is too puffy, it's like when you have a yogurt container and then the top is bulging out. Don't eat it if that's what's happening to your yogurt container. And I've learned that the hard way. So now you can see, we have this excess space, right, and if you really wanted to prepare a whole book this way, I would go through and take out the middle half of every single signature. At the end you'll be left with a very anemic floppy book. That's totally okay because you're gonna be pumping it up with blood or just something after the fact. The next technique I saw that I really liked was using tissue paper, and tissue paper is a great way to give some depth to a page and also color. So we did a lot of gessoing over a page where we covered it entirely and then did art on top of that. But this is a way where you can still see the original page underneath. I think it's a really great effect. So I'm going to, I'm going to tackle, well I know I'm gonna save this for another technique. So yeah I can do this page. And I've found this beautiful illustration in a book, How Does It Feel to be Old?, which you would assume the answer would be like not terrific, but it's actually very touching and sentimental. So I've gone out and cut around the image as much as possible, and I'm just going to glue up the back. - [Ally] Before you do that, can I, we've got comments rolling in, I gotta jump in and tell you some of these awesome comments. - We are live, so don't hesitate to share comments if you've taken the class, never taken the class, or anything, go for it. - [Ally] Kim Daniels says, "It took me awhile "to be able to do it, but now I love altering." Nancy says, "It's deconstructivism, "you must destroy to create." Leslie says, "Hi guys, finally I catch a live, so excited. "I love love Creativebug." Christy says, "Hi everyone, I found this month's challenge "hard, fun, challenging, and rewarding." - I love all these comments. Thank you so much everybody for participating. It really has been nothing short of inspirational. I don't know what I'm gonna do after this week. Good thing I'm training for a long swim. That's what I'll do instead. I'll just be underwater so that no one can see my tears. (laughing) So I have pasted down what I've cut out, and then we used a hole punch to punch out some little pink dots, and then I've created allegedly this is an apple. I'm acting like I'm not the one who cut this out, but I decided this was an apple. It's fallen from the tree. The cat is very concerned about it, and we're going to apply glue to the back. Always apply glue to the smaller piece. Instead of putting glue on the book, we're putting glue on the smaller piece. And I'm putting it right over this York so that we can still see the words. Right, this is what makes this cooler than just plain old construction paper. And then I'm gonna give myself a little stem and a little leaf. And then we're also going to, let's add some of these dots to this lady's dress, see if that looks neat as well. Come on that's darling. - [Ally] Meg says, "Thank you so much "for this book challenge this month. "You've ignited a new interest for me "that I didn't know of before." - Meg says, "Thank you so much for igniting interest "in a new art form she didn't know about." Meg, thank you for your gracious words. Also, a warning to you, you're like a gremlin that's been fed after midnight, or after nine o'clock? When can you stop feeding gremlins? - [Ally] Midnight, I think it's midnight. - Okay good, it's midnight. Don't but like maybe not after 11 just to be sure. You're not gonna be able to stop now, and you'll see every book as potential for, in what ways can you creatively destroy it. It's eye opening. (laughing) I'm so thrilled that you've had a good time. Just gonna do a couple more polka dots. But you get the point, right, that you can see through it still, and that adds a splash of color. There's some really gorgeous examples of this online. And I'm going to put this, put some wax paper in between this and the cover so that it does not stick. I did, of course we prepared this class before the month of February, and I mainly spent the month enjoying other people's illustrations and pages but not working on anything myself. So when I was preparing for this, I got out the wax paper and was like, oh my old friend. (laughing) I got really excited to rejoin my book materials. So we've taken out

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signatures to make room. We've added some tissue paper. And here is one that someone asked me how to do based on an example I had shown in the class. This is the Manual of Marvels, The Facsimile, by Joseph Cornell. He's an incredible artist, and this book I bring out every time I have a book art class. And this is a page he had made where the cutout mimics the person behind them. And someone had asked, how would I do that? Great question. Here is how. Now I found in this Vogue, which I hope Collector's Edition does not mean don't cut me up because otherwise I have blown it already. This is from a spread. I thought that this guy pretty much embodied saints and, oh my gosh have I been saying Saints and Sinners? Saints and Strangers, a little bit different. And I'm going to cut this page to fit behind it. And you know me, I don't like to be too precise. Precision is a twin enemy to perfection. I'm just creasing the edges where we need to cut it off. Mommy does not need her head today. And I'm gonna use these lines I just made to cut out a nice square. - [Ally] Sarah wants to know, "What can you use instead of wax paper between sheets?" - Sarah wants to know, what can you use instead of wax paper between sheets? You can use parchment paper. But I really like wax paper because it is, it really works, Sarah. I don't know if there's a substitute. It's my favorite, but if all you have on hand is parchment paper, you're welcome to do that too. Anything that is not nonstick will potentially release fibers into your page and can kind of mess you up. So I would suggest, I have a roll of wax paper on my crafting table, and sometimes I forget how valuable it is. I'll try to not wing it per se, but you know casually make it work with like newsprint, and it never is as effective. And this is just prepping the page for I'm going to glue this to the entire second page. See I totally did that thing that I wanted to prevent myself from doing. So I'm not going to glue this down. I'm just gonna tip it in so we get to preserve both pages. I'll cut off a little bit more of this inside. One thing that I love about altered books is there's happy accidents, but sometimes there are unhappy accidents, and you know what, it's life. So we're going to trace this little gentleman with our parchment paper. Course this is Creativebug, we have a million billion kinds of paper. And I'm going to, you can do the outline with pencil. I'm gonna do kind of a rough outline. You might have to lift it up for his other leg because it's not as bright and shiny. Also Cricut has something called a Glow Pad, which I would totally use on camera if I thought that the lights wouldn't blind our cameraman, Tim, because when you have to focus real close in on it, that could be dangerous. But that provides a backlight, and that really is handy for tracing. So we've traced around our figure that we're cutting out. Now, I'm going to, using this relatively soft pencil, flipping it over, and I'm going to color along the back softly along the lines. If I do this part too hard, the lines might offset on the front too much, and then I won't be able to see it all that well. I'm basically making myself transfer paper, graphite transfer paper you could call it. (pencil scratching) - [Ally] Katherine wants to know, well she says first, "I loved this series. "Any ideas on what to do for covers "that have faded or have other damage, paint, et cetera?" - Katherine says she loves the series, and do we have any ideas for things to do with covers that have damage? Katherine, watch the class today. We talk about covers. It's a really exciting day. We do a couple of techniques including I just collaged mine, and Courtney did some image transfers on here. So definitely watch today's class. You'll absolutely love it. The more faded, the more paint-covered, the better, because then you feel less weird about messing it all up and changing it around, and some might say mutilating it. Do anything to the cover that you would to the inside. That to me is like just the icing on the cake. Nope, that was a bow gesture. It is the bow on the package. The icing on the cake, you have to use both hands. That's how you get really straight lines. Now that we have our transfer, we're going to turn it back over, so see here's our, well it's very ghostly. So is that kid. So we're gonna flip it back over, and I did, I should've mentioned, I did cut this piece directly to the size of the page so that I

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can line up the corners and I don't have to worry about where it is on the page. So it's lined up to here. And this is cut exactly to size of the page. Now I'll go over it with my ballpoint pen. You can go over it with your pencil. But sometimes it's good to have multiple materials, and I'm lining it up with this page, and then I'm just going to retrace the lines I've already drawn. And if your ballpoint pen doesn't draw on the lines, that's totally fine. It doesn't have to. It just has to transfer the mark, which ta da. - [Tim] Whoah, oh. - [Faith] Right? It's very effective. Tim thinks this is so cool. It is my greatest joy in life impressing Tim. - [Ally] He's hard to impress. - [Faith] Tim is hard to impress. Okay, so make sure you hold it into place as you peek to check in case you've missed something substantial. It just looks spookier and spookier, this little guy. Okay, so we're good. Now I'm going to cut this out. So in the class, I had shown how to do it with a cutting mat, but the truth is, in my personal practice, I use a cutting mat less than I do just a piece of board. Now board if you don't have a lot of it around, it's kind of expensive. It's a little bit obnoxious to use it just as a cutting mat. But if you have, this is like my, this is my official scrap. And so you'll just go ahead and cut along the line you made. Make sure you have a fresh blade. It's kind of like sewing with a sharp needle. You should change your needle, I just learned, about every eight hours of sewing. So I bet, I bet blades are the same. Oh, and also we're going to leave this page loose. So something like this that's just really short and spiky, that's not gonna last very long. I think we can just cut it off and not feel too badly about it. We're already, we've already degraded this child. He'll be fine. And we're cutting just inside the line, but actually no that's a, strike that, that's irrelevant. Cut on the line, and then we'll do some erasing at the end just to be sure we don't have any more marks. Because then we preserve the illusion that this like is very tricky. I guess it's medium tricky. - [Ally] Oh, Phil wants to know, "So Faith, is there going "to be an altered book class part two?" - Oh my gosh, Phil wants to know, is there going to be an altered book class two? I've been meaning to tell you guys the secret of this class, which is that it's pretty much by popular demand. So we've done, we've looked at people who have taken a bunch of daily classes and asked them what they think and what they wanna see, and a lotta people said, let's alter some books. And also to have Courtney and I together, and one thing I think is really special about Creativebug is we really do listen, and we really do appreciate your contributions and the things you want to see. Because then you're gonna take the class, and then everyone wins. So this class was in big part thanks to you. Great idea, guys. It was so fun. It was just, we had the absolute best time filming it and teaching it. So yeah, keep asking questions like, when will there be a part two, and we'll probably be forced to answer you with, it's coming soon, don't worry. That currently is not the answer, but I don't see why there shouldn't be a second one. This first one has been really successful and just really pleasurable. And I hope if you had half as good of a time as I did, then you're taken care of. Thank you Phil for that really gracious question and for all the fabulous work you've done with this class so far. Now I'm gonna erase some lines now that you can all see me blushing tremendously. So I'm just gonna clean up these edges here. Don't you love it when we use really high tech equipment like cardboard and pencils and X-ACTO Knives? I guess X-ACTO Knives can be complex. Though in my first book binding class, we used surgeon's scalpels, which I don't need to tell you made me feel fancy. I just shoulda just been wearing a lab coat. I have not performed real surgery, so I will not assume that it felt similar, but like, maybe it felt similar cutting apart spines. Okay, we have our cutout, and now we can fit, ah (laughing) our little friend behind it. Okay so we can see he's off, oh. When this is put down flat, he's still off a little bit, so, this is our book, we can do whatever we want. I'm gonna cut about 1/8 of an inch off this side so we can really get him into place. That's more like 1/4 of an inch. Oh my gosh, you guys. (laughing) I think this is really spectacular. So, truth be told, if this was not behind it, I would glue up this whole thing

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and glue it down. But because this is behind it, I'm just gonna glue the spine edge. And let me show you, I, this looks like a movie poster. Just delighted with myself. So here's another example of this. This is our spread from, oh my gosh I'm blanking on the name, the Barnum & Bailey movie that I can't watch because it makes me cry far too much on airplanes. I have a thing with show tunes, but I had just put him on the bottom of the page without reading the text, and the text is The Postmaster at Scrooby, a mean Townlet. I mean if this does not look like a mean Townlet of a Scrooby postmaster, I don't know what does. This is what I mean by happy accidents versus tragic accidents. And before I say goodbye, I'm gonna just flip through, for those of you who have not been enjoying the daily book art challenge, perhaps this will encourage you to do so. Here are the two, here are Courtney and my books that we finished. So this is the last day if you haven't watched the class yet. Here's Courtney's cover and my cover and some of the spreads. This is my title page, which I really enjoyed using that cat book. I feel like this is pure memory lane. I remember when, I made this page with Eli, that's the parrot's name. Someone had asked if Eli was the parrot or the boy, and of course I double checked. Why wouldn't I? I take this very seriously. This, I'm not even gonna apologize for. Some people were really uncomfortable with this spread. I was too, you're not alone, but sometimes art makes us uncomfortable. And sometimes children without eyes make us uncomfortable. Here's, this is like our prep book, lots more cats. This is our rainbow bridge. And if you look in Instagram and search the tag Creativebug, you'll find a lot of my spreads, but a lot of other people's spreads. This was a goofy one that didn't get in there. Safety is needed. This guy, he is obviously very concerned, no he's not, he only has one eye glass, oh boy. (laughing) - [Ally] Hey, can I ask a question? - [Faith] Ally has a question. - [Ally] Did you, when deciding on what book to get, what images to put in, is it all random, or are you planning based on how you want this content that matches what you think this book is about? - Ally's question is, was the content planned or random? And I, Courtney and I both did it different ways. I think that's one reason why this class was so cool is I got to see how she did it, and she got to see how I do it. And Courtney's was a little bit more planned out. Her book, A Mercy, she changed to Mer, which is French for ocean, and hers was a lot more water themed. So she picked some of her imagery and her colors based off of that. I kind of go the opposite way where I just see what happens, and then we have things like that postmaster who's covered with tattoos. And for me, I kind of let the book show me what it wants to be. Sometimes it wants to be a hot mess, let's be honest. But sometimes the book has like, and also I realize how woo woo that sounds when I say it, what the books wants to be, but like, it kind of works exactly that way and something rises to the surface. And people did ask in the class, if I haven't seen a theme, am I doing it wrong? What do I do to bring a theme to the surface? Sometimes it doesn't work out that way, and then you just get to look at your book as like a scrapbook or a journey. You see things you like and things you don't like and things you wanna use in future projects and things you don't. So I think any altered book, whether planned or not, whether it's successful or not, really the important part of it is the process and getting your hand on the paper and on the scalpel and into those pages and ripping things up. Thank you so much for your participation in this daily challenge and for hanging out with us today. You're the highlight of my week, and I adore you all. See you next Thursday. (upbeat music)

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