Crafting Together: Easy Painted Rainbows with Courtney and Mike with CBTV

Chapter 1 - Crafting Together: Easy Painted Rainbows

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(bright music) - Hey everybody, welcome to Creativebug. We're coming live at you in our studios, and I'm here with Mike McConnell. - Hi, everyone. (Courtney chuckling) - He's a local artist here to San Francisco. And you're also a shop owner, a gallery owner, and you've been in the San Francisco community for many, many decades. How long? - I've lived in the Bay Area for, it's 25 years this year. - I can believe it. - Yeah. - And Fayes, your shop, is gonna be? - The shop is gonna be 25 years this year as well. I've worked there for 24 of the 25. - I cannot believe it. It's so nuts. And Mike and I've been friends for at least a decade. It might be more. (chuckling) (Mike chuckles) We may not wanna do the math on that number. But he's joining me today because it's June and it's Pride Month. And Mike's shop is right in the middle of San Francisco, and you're a really integral part of like the gay community and the art community there. - Yeah, Fayes is all queer owned and operated. So our entire staff and myself are all queer, which is cool. And we participate with the Dyke March from Dolores Park. So we have a big cheering section in front of the store for all that. - Oh, that's awesome. - So we always take part in gay pride. - I love it. - Yeah. - And we're also longtime art collaborators, and we often run a thing called Social Sketch, although it's been in a bit of a pause post-pandemic, where we do community drawing nights. And so I thought it'd be fun to invite Mike to come and do some collaborative art with me on how to sort of represent for Pride as both an ally and someone in the community. So we're gonna be doing this live, which means if you wanna write in and ask questions, Tiffany will be moderating, and she will let me know your questions. Yeah, so how do you normally represent for Pride? Is there something that you guys do as a family or as a shop owner in the city? - Well, I used to always sit on the bench and watch the Dyke March go by, and then we would go to the downtown and watch the parade at the beginning. I'm very crowd-phobic, so like, I can only handle it (Courtney laughs) for a certain amount of time. But we usually go every year. And, you know, I have a partner, and we have a child with a lesbian couple, so we're very Bay Area, typical gay modern family. - Fully immersed. - So yeah. So we take part in that that way. - Yeah. That's awesome. And show up. That's so cool. Yeah, and I think we've done some collaborative stuff like this before, where rainbows are one of the common themes to show your pride, all year long, but certainly during Pride Month. - Yeah, during Social Sketch during June one year, everyone did rainbows at Social Sketch. - And then we did collaboration. So I was gonna show you an easy way to do a painted rainbow, super foolproof for all ages, as well as how to adapt it to like a body paint if you wanted to represent on your skin for whatever Pride festivity you're going to. And then I thought maybe we give them like a little quick overview of the history. How good are you at your Pride history? (laughs) - You might be more brushed up on it than I am. - So for anyone who's curious, the reason we celebrate Pride during June, or the whole world celebrates Pride during June is because of what happened at the Stonewall bar and community in New York in 1969. So this was a very well known gay hangout spot, nightclub. It was sort of constantly raided by the police force then. And there was one instance that happened in June in 1969 where the police like sort of pushed their way in. It caused a huge riot to sort of ensue, 'cause it was like a physical altercation, and then it was followed by six days of protesting. And that all happened in June. And then the following June in 1970 was the first like official Pride celebration in June in New York. And that sort of like caught on and was the beginning of this particular

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recognition for using June as a whole month long of both education and acknowledgement and really allowing people to be exclamatory about like who they are and acceptance. And that has changed and shifted a ton, because now we do not just gay rights, but it's LGBTQIA+. And I'm sure that that acronym's changing or has already changed since I said it. - It's probably already. - But yeah, in San Francisco, it used to just be, you know, the main gay Pride was on Sunday morning, and then the Dyke March was on Saturday from Dolores Park. And now on Friday night there's the Trans March, which is also really cool to see- - That's awesome. - And support them. - And I think as a new parent, like my daughter is three, thinking about like how you can start talking about this in your family if you are not yourselves identifying as someone in the queer community and just like things that you can get excited about, inclusivity in general, and just to teach them as little people, like to be proud of who you are no matter what. So I know that like even in my own neighborhood, I see a lot of just signs in the window and art around inclusivity and certainly with gay rights and trans rights and Black Lives Matter and so forth. So I feel like these kinds of art sort of posters, if you will, have become like a new way to sort of sort of show your beliefs but also your solidarity as an ally. - Yeah. And it's also I think a lot of... You know, currently like people... It's not just in June. If you wanna be an ally, you can show things- - Totally. - Like all year round, and like, you know, put a flag in your window if you're a business, or... - Yeah, or like a queer safe space. - I think- - Correct. - That's another thing, especially for youth, finding safe spaces. It's kinda hard to remember, 'cause like in the Bay Area, I feel like, "Oh, every place is safe." But even here it's not necessarily true. And certainly if you're not in a big city, it can be a little bit different sort of an environment. - Yeah, the shop, it's funny, over the years now, it seems like as time has gone by, like as the kids come in, the high school's right up there, it's like almost all high schools now associated with being non-binary. Like they're not picking, which is really cool to see. So it's definitely progress- - Yeah, it's probably changing. - In the Bay area. - Yeah. It's good to know about and to remember and try to like learn as you go, learn as you go for the allies. Okay, so we're gonna start by doing some easy-paint rainbows, and then I'll pass off to Mike. Mike, you're an amazing painter in general, but you're also really super good at your animals. So this is how we normally- - We'll see. (laughs) - Collaborate. And also you incorporate a lot of like community text or like found quotes into your work when we do these kinds of things. So if people wanna like put a phrase in, like some kind of phrase to put into the painting, you can put that in the chat, and Mike might include it. But we also have some phrases that are used for Pride in general. Okay, so I'll start with my easy-paint rainbow. I don't know. I've got some already ready for you if you wanna start on one of your animals. - [Mike] Okay, I'll start on an animal while you- - Yeah. And we're doing lions 'cause the plural collective noun for lions is a pride of lions. (chuckles) - [Mike] And there's also a really famous gay lion pair. - [Courtney] Oh, that's right. Yeah. Oh, perfect. Okay, so for this technique, you can do it with tube watercolor, is easiest, or tube craft paint. I actually have acrylic wash, which is like a hybrid between gouache and acrylic paint. And I've got those tubes here just in a variety of colors. I'm not gonna do the traditional rainbow colors. I'm gonna sort of make up my own rainbow. And I'm working just on a little plate. I've got watercolor paper and then a variety of flat brushes. I've got a one-inch brush. I've got foam brushes that are two inches as well. So we'll do like a little mini rainbow here. And I'm just putting dots of the paint onto my plate. Remember, we are live, so if you have any questions, feel free to shout them out in the chat bar, and Tiffany will let me know. I think I'm gonna start with just four colors. - [Mike] And so do you just... - [Courtney] So just line them up. I line them up. Oh, little dots. - [Mike] So this is learning for me. (Courtney chuckles) - [Courtney] And I've got my one-inch flat brush here. This is just a craft brush. It's not a fancy brush. A little tiny bit of water, not

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too much. And then you're gonna pull the paint out like in, as best you can, line like this. You don't wanna mix it too much. This blue is not working that well because it had a lot of like binder liquid, and so the pigment is not being caught here. That looks good. So I'm just putting my brush here and pulling it out in a straight line. And then once I have a good amount of paint on my brush, I can use this to just sort of seamlessly do a little rainbow. I mean, and this works for all of your paintings that you wanna have a rainbow in. When I have that little flip from the brush, I can then come the other way with the flat edge, make sure that my colors correspond to what's on the paper. You don't wanna have the backwards rainbow there because it'll mix everything into brown. And you can clean that up if you need to. If it's a little dry, you might want a little more water. So again, dip into your paint with a little bit of water. And then I'm missing some of my darkest blue, and that's okay. You can just do like a really clean sort of line. I'll also sometimes just flip my work over. Make sure if you flip your work over, you're also flipping your brush over so you don't mix your colors if you want something super clean. So you could do that. You can also do it a little bit more watered down if you want. So I'm just drawing that line out further. Again, I'm missing some of that blue because it had a lot of binder liquid there. Adding colors to the end are the easiest 'cause they're not gonna over-blend. You can also play with moving your brush. And this is fun too. Of course I'm out of pencils. Can I use one of your pencils? - [Mike] Yeah, of course. And I just used the wrong color. Whoops. - [Courtney] Oh, you've got your lines started already. Those are so cute. And you could also do like little posters and things. So this could be like a flag waving. You could do like little hands holding flags with only four fingers instead of five. (laughing) Here's the fifth one over there. (laughs) - [Mike] Yeah, well, and also, it's like not just Pride being a celebration, but like you were talking about, the original Pride thing. Like Pride started out as a protest. - [Courtney] Yes, exactly. So people marching for recognition, for rights, for awareness. You could totally just like color these in if you wanted to make this into a little poster to hang in your window. And we can change these colors up too. I could also, oops, add a new color. And then just by selecting which area I'm gonna use my brush in, I can just move down. I'm gonna rinse it 'cause it still has a little bit of the darkest blue. And again I'm using the acrylic wash, but you can do this with watercolor in a tube. You can do this with acrylic craft paint. And I'll show you how to do it also with a credit card. Just a minute. - [Mike] Oh, with just a regular credit card? - [Courtney] Yeah. So it's just like a fun way of making rainbows, but it works especially well for just making a really clean rainbow, because you're making the brush do most of the work by having that flat brush. I should look at some photos of perspective. And then you could paint this in. And then these paints that Mike's using and I'm gonna dip into here, these are just Prima watercolor paints. You can get these most places online. They're pretty affordable. - [Mike] I've never used these before, so I'm getting used to 'em. - [Courtney] Yeah, they're not too bad. They're just like a very affordable watercolor. - [Mike] They have good concentration, or saturation. That's the word. - [Courtney] Saturation. Yeah, pigment saturation. Mix up some more skin tone here. Oops, that's not dark enough. So I'm just- - If anyone has animal requests too, I- - [Courtney] Oh yeah, feel free to use the chat, because we are live. So if you wanna see Mike paint something specific for his Pride poster. - [Mike] Just getting used to these. Sorry. (Courtney chuckles) - [Courtney] Don't apologize, it looks amazing already. You can also of course use the internet for resources. I've seen a lot of like ideas for phrases for Pride if you're looking for poster ideas. So you could add language to your imagery if you want. Mike, what do you do at Fayes? You said you guys are on the parade route for the Dyke March. Do you do anything in the window? Like do you have any artwork up, or? - [Mike] Oh, well, we always have different flags, whatever, and often by more of the different subgroups of just not having the gay flags, like the

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trans flags or pansexuals or asexuals. And usually during the Dyke March, the street is just so overwhelming, the store kinda just closes down. It just becomes like a spectator section. But yeah. - [Courtney] That's awesome. - [Mike] Yeah, and then we always donate coffee. The last couple years we've donated to the Trans March for their setup group in the park on Fridays. So we give them ice coffee and all that. - That's so great. - So we participate that way. - [Courtney] Yeah, that's something I feel like you could also do, like as someone not identifying in the queer community but as an ally, is help donate a cause or support during a rally or, you know, make posters and hand them out, do some kind of like supportive activity. So for the pan watercolor, it's a little bit trickier to do this kind of technique because you have to dip a really big brush into all these little pans. But you can do something where you're just working on two colors at once. And you can change the size of your brush as well. Oops. Too much water. I'm mixing into some of yours. Sorry. - Oh, it's okay. I'm trying to figure out how the colors are really quick on the fly, so. - [Courtney] So you could kinda start with two colors and then rinse your brush and then move on to another two colors. - [Mike] Nice. - [Courtney] And again, I'm using just like general rainbow-y colors, but you can of course change this up to any color combo you like. Does anybody have any questions so far? - [Tiffany] Not yet. - [Courtney] No questions yet. But remember, we're live, so if you want to ask any questions in the chat, feel free to do so. And I think also, we were talking about giving away some of the artwork that Mike's making in the Live. So we'll figure out how to do that. We might do it on Instagram, maybe through one of our feeds. This one looks a little bit messy here. - [Mike] Have you taken your child to a pride march yet? - [Courtney] I haven't yet. No. I know, I was trying to think of like, Luca would love it. My daughter's three, and she would be super into it, but we haven't really taken her into any public anything. But since it's outside, I feel like we could. - [Mike] Yeah, one of my favorite memories is when Yona... I have an 18-year-old who just graduated high school. - [Courtney] Congratulations. (chuckling) That feels like a parent milestone for sure. - [Mike] Definitely. But when he was younger, before he had an actual phone-phone, which he's only had for the last couple years. he had a soap phone. So he would carry a bar of soap around with him and use it as like a phone. But one of my favorite things during the pride parade, he was taking pictures with it, and people would like duck and get outta the way. But they didn't realize that it wasn't actually really a phone. - [Courtney] That's so funny. - [Mike] They were just.. It was cute. So. - [Courtney] Yeah, Luca would love doing that, actually taking photos. - [Mike] Yeah. - [Courtney] I was just with our friend Alicia, and her son is like five, and he also was doing a lot of like this. Like how do you do it, that? - Oh, like- - And he was taking his pictures like this. Yeah. Yeah, I think it's good to kind of expose kids to these different ways that you can like show up in a group and celebrate or have your voice be heard. I think also like the libraries are really good about doing sort of kid-focused events and programming around Pride and different holidays and topics and things. So I'm gonna be looking at the library to see like what they've got planned for her age group. - [Mike] Yeah, I think it's also good just to be ready to answer questions, and not talk about it, that it's not taboo. - [Courtney] Yeah. I love that. I'm gonna just clean up my plate here and start with a new color. - [Tiffany] I have some interaction from the chat if you're ready. - Yeah. - [Tiffany] Annette would would like to see the phrase, "Yay gay." (Courtney laughs) And Annette also wants to know, Mike, how you get the impression of animals with such quick brushwork. Any tips? - Oh, these are great questions. I'm just gonna repeat them in case they didn't hear Tiffany. So Annette is asking if we could do "Yay gay," or if Mike could do "Yay gay" on the artwork. - And is there any animal that they want associated with it? - If you want an animal, Annette, let us know in the chat. And then Annette also asked, how does Mike do such incredibly realistic animals with just a few efficient

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brush strokes? Tell us your secret on that, Mike. I wanna know too. - Well, I think a lot of people think that painting is harder than it means to be. I think it's a skill like anything. It's really about just seeing. So when I first look at something, I kinda just generally just break down the shapes, and I kinda just start with one section and build off of it. So it's like either based on shape or a color pattern. So I don't know if that actually helped to answer the question. - No, I think that's good. So break what you're seeing into basic shapes. Start with those like as blocks, if you will. And then do you just refine from there? - Yeah. I mean, art, you can always make mistakes. And so it's like if you feel like it doesn't look right, you can correct it. And I think watercolor can be pretty forgiving, where if you start with like- - Start light. (chuckles) - Light, then you can always get darker as you go and sometimes let them do the magic. Like I picked some wrong colors for the lions at first. I was like, oh, purple. But it ended up- - It's perfect. - Being fine. But I haven't used these watercolors yet. - I love the purple. - But I'm not trying to be too precious about it 'cause we're just having fun I guess. - [Courtney] Are you gonna leave this as the peacocks' flare? - I think so. - You have to. That is so cool. I love your placement of that. That's amazing. - [Tiffany] And Annette's animal request is a koala. - Oh, okay. - Oh, Annette's asking for a koala. You've painted those before. - Yeah, I love koala bears. - Mike is so good at this. He has it down. We've been collaborating for a long time at various like art fundraisers and things. And we usually sit next to each other, and sometimes we'll work on the same piece of art. But he can just whip out these animals. (chuckling) It's amazing. - [Mike] And that's how we actually first met. - [Courtney] Yeah, that's right. - [Mike] Through Instagram. - [Courtney] Yeah, through Instagram. And we did... Yeah, the way we first met is we exchanged a portrait of one another, but we hadn't actually met in person yet. And then we met in person, and we exchanged the portraits. Mine had foxes. - [Mike] Yours had foxes, and mine had a rabbit. - [Courtney] Yeah. - [Mike] But I do remember the first time- - [Courtney] Mike is @poopingrabbit on Instagram. That's his handle. - [Mike] That one of the places we first met was at a live drawing event in Oakland. And you were there, and you took a photo from behind me, but I never said hi. - [Courtney] I never... I wouldn't know it was you. I don't think I knew it was you. You had a hat on. I think I realized later that it was you. Okay, so just more rainbows, playing with my color palette. I like how this neon coral, which is called luminous red, and the acrylic wash. And the blue which I'm using is sky blue. It's very dark. It looks like a Dayglo blue. I like how it's mixing to make a purple. If it's getting too muddy, it might be too wet. So you can either, just with a cleaner dryer brush, pull away some of that water and kinda start again. But pulling out your color like this is gonna give you a good indication of how your rainbow's gonna look on the paper. And we're just using Strathmore watercolor paper right now. Okay, and then cleaning up here. So what I like about the rainbows this way, as opposed to just using my hand with like a round brush and doing layer upon layer, I just think they look a lot cleaner and less wobbly. (chuckles) That could be my own personal problem, where like stacking the same shape on top of each other winds up looking wobbly. But I feel like this is also very satisfying for smaller kids who are learning how to paint or just do things that are more representational. Even though rainbow is not tricky to do and it can be interpreted in lots of ways, I feel like it's just so satisfying to use the one-inch brush to make your shapes. Okay, I'm gonna set that aside. And I was going to take another one of these watercolors that are already dry and work on one of them instead. Good questions, Annette, by the way. Thank you for asking them and contributing in the chat. We're sort of restarting our live programming in our studio. We do a lot of our Zoom Community Lives, which we've probably seen with like Faith or Twinkie Chan who's also on staff here. But if there's anything that you wanna see in the studio lives, let us know. Okay, now I'm gonna move to drawing some of my little people. So if I was gonna make

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like a cool Pride thing to put in the window. I'd probably blow this up though because it's kind of small. That's a good place to start. Do, do, do, do, do. I need more pigment. So Mike, you also have a gallery as part of Fayes. When did you add that? - [Mike] Oh, We probably added the gallery part of the store in 2012. - [Courtney] Cool. Oh my god. So already over 10 years. Yeah, already over 10 years. - [Mike] Yeah, Faye Moorhouse was the first- - [Courtney] Oh my god, I remember that show. I still have work from that show. That's awesome. Faye Moorhouse is a British artist. And for that time, she did like movie-related posters, right? - [Mike] Yeah, she made movie posters that were her interpretation of those movies and things. - [Courtney] Yeah. About the birds. - [Mike] Yeah. (Courtney chuckles) - [Mike] Oh, that's right, you did. - [Courtney] Yeah. I love that one. - [Mike] What was her thing? Yeah, what was the quote, the words for the galla? - [Courtney] Oh. Oh, did we have any word suggestions for- - No, what was it? - "Yay gay." - "Yay gay." - Oh yeah. "Yay gay." - [Tiffany] "Gay," exclamation points. "Gay," exclamation points. - Okay. - Great. Thank you for the clarification, Tiffany. So Mike's gonna work on that. I'm adding my little people to my rainbows here. And what do you like... I feel like you've done this a lot, right, where you've sort of like community-sourced part of the art where it might be the phrase or the suggestion for the animal. What do you like about doing that? - [Mike] I don't know, I just like the idea of collaboration or like feeling connected to people in a different way. I don't know, I like the sense of community about it, so. - [Courtney] Yeah, I love that in your work. 'Kay, I'm mad at this person. - [Mike] And sometimes it also helps my own like artist block. Like whatever, hearing how someone else is thinking. - [Courtney] That's such a good point. I feel that way too, that like anytime I'm feeling stuck, if you and I just sit down and paint, it like moves things forward even if we're not making something specific. But just like the aspect of doing it with somebody and having the conversation that goes with it is always so helpful. - [Mike] Yeah. It also just helps you see a different perspective of like what someone's seeing in something. Or, you know, a lot of times, like I ask people just for phrases, and I make work off the different phrases of what those words inspire me to do. And then sometimes it's the other way around, where I'm painting an image, and then I ask for titles or something like that. - [Courtney] Yeah. I love that. Are there any other questions so far, Tiffany? - [Tiffany] Not yet. - [Courtney] Not more questions yet. - [Mike] Oh, I'm sorry, I mixed up. - [Courtney] Oh, that's fine. Oh, I like your koala. I'm gonna just rotate this and work on a different part. For anybody who feels like they don't know who their collaborator person would be, or you don't feel like you're having community, you can also do these kinds of trades or collaborations through the mail, like using your extended network, could be through social media. Or you can start something in your own community. Like when Mike and I started Social Sketch, it was because the two of us were just getting together to paint, and then we'd post on social, and people were like, "We wanna join you." And then a lot of people kept saying it. So we decided to find a space. Was the first one at El Rio? I think it was. - Yeah. - Yeah. - I think so. - I love El Rio. - [Mike] We used to find a bar and meet at a bar. And so that was always sort of a challenge, to find a bar that was willing to let us take over. - [Courtney] Yeah. 'Cause you don't wanna show up with 30 people and your art supplies and no place to sit. (laughs) - Yeah, I think they- - They were great though. We did a lot of Social Sketches at El Rio. And then we started doing both San Francisco and East Bay 'cause we're both on both sides. - [Mike] Correct. And then we started realizing that we needed more regular places, started doing it at The Secret Alley. - The Secret Alley Yeah. Yeah. - [Mike] Which we hope to start up again. - Again. Yeah, so I highly recommend it. If you can't find your community, make your community and start doing something. And it's like that baseball movie with Kevin Costner, "If you build it, they will come." - [Mike] Exactly. Or find other ones. Like, I think another

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Creativebug artist, Risa- - Mm-hm, oh yeah. - [Mike] She's been doing it out in the sunset. - [Courtney] Oh yeah, that's right. Yeah, Risa is on our site. Risa Iwasaki Culbertson. - [Mike] She's awesome. - [Courtney] Yeah, I was trying to think of what her daily practice is. It's Push Your Creative Boundaries, maybe 31... - [Oliver] Procreate? - [Courtney] She also has a Procreate class as well, yep. So yes, check out your like local scene or make it. If it's not there, make it. And the thing that's been fun too is that like in Social Sketch, we would sort of always have a theme every time that we met. And like we said for June, we always did Pride-related art that we would sort of like collaborate on. And then anyone can take art when they're at the end of the night to share. But also people would come up with their own sort of like social causes that they wanted us to sort of like meditate on while working, which was really fun. So like I was saying earlier, I got these postcards that you can just, you know, order online. And you could paint or draw on one side and then send to another artist, but also like your local representatives if there are other issues that you wanna make art around. And we did that a few times. - [Mike] Yeah. - [Courtney] All right, I'm just painting my little people here. So at what point do you add lettering? Oh, you already did it. Do you have any rules for adding lettering to your... I feel like you have a lot of feelings about when lettering is on art. There's been a few times where Mike was like, "If they just didn't write on it, it would be perfect." So what do you do for yourself? For people who are not lettering artists, what do you recommend? - [Mike] Well, I hate to say... Like when writing is on stuff, I feel like the writing should have like some aesthetic quality. Like when people have bad handwriting, I think sometimes it can ruin something. It's not what they wrote, but it's- - Right. - And that's just me. - It like doesn't meld with a picture in a way that you find aesthetically pleasing. - Yeah. - Yeah. - I mean, sometimes placement- - So when you do them for your own work- - Well, sometimes I've messed things up with putting stuff on there too. Or like, you don't have control, or it's the wrong color or whatever. So yeah, no one's perfect. (chuckles) But I usually try to find a place where it fits in and then just kind of incorporate the colors or something like that. - Yeah, that's smart. I like it. I love, yeah, how in here, it's on top of the rainbow. - [Mike] Yeah. Like I wish this one, the peacock, I wish I would've used those colors. It would've been better. - Oh yeah. I like that. You need more hot pink in your life, is what you're saying. - There's not a hot pink out here. - I know, it's surprising. - I looked for one. I was actually shocked. - The closest is... I know. I actually had one in my hand, and I think I left in the other room. - [Mike] I should have brought my whole palette of hot pink. (chuckles) - [Courtney] Your hot pink palette. I love it. Do, do, do. I need these to dry before I can add little faces to them, so I'm gonna- - See, like right now, I want pink because of this. - [Courtney] Oh yeah, 'cause there's pink in there. - [Mike] I'm just gonna go with a marker instead. - [Courtney] So in addition, I mean, when you and I are working, we normally are working in watercolor, but for your fine art practice, you're mostly using acrylic, right, in your studio and your large-scale paintings? - [Mike] Yeah. - [Courtney] And then what do you do for your animal sources? I mean, you've been painting animals for so long, is it mostly out of memory, or do you use reference often, or? - No, I more often use a reference than out of... Like if someone told me to draw something, I could probably draw it. Like this quail, I just did out of my head. But I could pretty much draw any animal probably some... It would look like probably what it was. But no, I usually use references. I either use, you know, Bigstock, you have to pay, but like then you're allowed to use those images. Sometimes I google stuff. I'll find stuff on Instagram. I figure it's out in the public, if there's people taking, then I'll use it. And I'm just using- - Like a portion. - A portion of it. I'm not recreating their photograph. - Right. Cool. - But you just get scrappy. - That one's so cute. I love how he's interacting with the rainbow like that. These are so fun. - [Mike] For Annette. - [Courtney] For Annette. This one's for you. Oh, I did wanna remind people

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too that we have a new SMS program. So you can sign up for alerts on new classes via text. If you would like to join the SMS program, you can text "PRIDE," so capital P-R-I-D-E, to 98052, and you'll actually get a free class to download. And Tiffany's gonna put a link in the chat that has a bunch of classes we rounded up that talk about sort of putting your ideas or your messaging into your artwork. There's a new class with Maria Carluccio that's really cool about how to create an inspirational poster on a topic that you feel passionately about. You've got make-your-own-statement tote. We've got some fashion patches for anybody who wants to like add some flair to their clothes. You can make a cool rainbow patch or something to add. So those are just a place to start with your free download. But you of course could download anything on the site. There are over 2,000 classes on the site, so. (chuckles) - Lots of fun stuff. - Yeah. And you're in a couple of them. Are you in our Being Creative Every Day? You and I talk about... What have we talked about in that class? There's a lot of laughing in that class. (Courtney and Mike laugh) - We made animals. I know it was animals. - Oh, we made animals also. (chuckles) Probably very similar to what you're seeing here. - [Mike] I think that's lots of foxes and bears. - Foxes and bears. - I think so. - A common theme. So for the easy-paint rainbow, I was also gonna show you how to do it with body paint, because a lot of people like to paint on their skin for different festivals or celebrations. So I have some basic kid-friendly body paint that I ordered online. I feel like there's a lot of body paint you can find now. Excuse me while I just dump all this. It's gonna be loud. (paint containers clinking) - [Mike] Oh, that's all body paint? - [Courtney] Yeah. Or face paint. You can just look up face paint. Isn't it cool? This company is called Blue Squid. I just looked for something that was like safe. Sometimes online I'm always just like... It's like questionable if it feels- - [Mike] Like toxic? - [Courtney] Yeah. - [Mike] That's fair. - [Courtney] And with things in the pan pallets as opposed to a tube, it's a little bit different. I'm gonna use a little bit of a spray bottle to get these going, 'cause it's a brand new set. It's a little bit different in how you're gonna layer your rainbow because you don't have the opportunity to squeeze out little dabs or dobs of paint onto a pallet. So I find like what works best is just doing two colors at a time. So let's see. I could do that as a rainbow. Ooh, I like that as a rainbow too. That's kind of fun. This is not a traditional way. I'll start on paper, and then if it looks good, can I do one on your arm, Mike? (chuckles) - [Mike] Sure. - [Courtney] So just dipping one end in one color, one end in another one. I'm just gonna use these four colors just to see how it looks. And you can start by just doing your rainbow. These are thicker, so I need a little bit more water. And also you're meant to do this on skin. You can also just dip your brush in here if you want a little bit more water just to see how that's looking. Yeah, that's better. Okay. So I'm gonna do those two colors. I'm gonna do one more time. I'm just using these postcards as my testers here. That looks pretty good. Ooh, it looks like a watermelon. Also a great way to make a watermelon. (chuckling) And then I would do that and then wash my brush and do two more colors and layer it either on top or inside of the rainbow. So can I test this on your arm? - [Mike] Sure. (Courtney chuckles) - [Courtney] Can I do this side? Can you see that, Oliver, inside here? Can you see that? - I don't know... - [Oliver] Yep. - [Courtney] Okay, we'll try it here. I'm gonna do a wide... Oh my, green is not as prominent. There we go. It totally looks like a watermelon right now. Too much water and it's gonna run. So you have to play with the paint that you're working with. You can also use a smaller brush to come in. Like if I go into that interior part. This actually came with it, this flat brush. I'm gonna do an orange on one side. I'm gonna do maybe blue on the other. Just test it on my palette. And then I can come in and add a second or third layer. So you can actually build up your rainbow this way instead of trying to get all your colors onto one brush at one time. I feel like I need another color in there. Purple on one side. - [Mike] Or just like a strip. - [Courtney] In the middle,

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huh? - [Mike] Oh, under the green. It looks like it... - Yes. And I want red also, purple and red. - [Mike] Or in the center. - [Courtney] More analogous. But yeah, I can just add it in there. - [Mike] Perfect. (Courtney chuckles) - [Courtney] There we go. And give it a second to dry if you're using body paint. (Courtney chuckles) And then, oh my god, you know what else I got online? This thing called Unicorn Snot. It's Bioglitter. So if you wanna add some glam and glitz to your rainbow, feel free. I feel like I've noticed a lot more like focus on like the appearance. How do I say this? Like thinking about like your accessories and how you're gonna dress up for a lot of these sort of events and stuff, which is fun. I really like it. Then you can add like more art and color into like your garment choice or your hair accessories or your shoe choice. I mean, I think that's always been there, but I feel like I've been seeing a lot more of it. Like Creativebug was recently at a library conference, and because it was happening in June, I saw a lot of people wearing, like, very Pride-forward garments. Like my dress today. It's from the PRIDE collection at Target. The designer is Alice Butts, and it's so cool. And my three-year-old, this morning when I put it on, was like, "I want one"- - Wanted to wear it? - "Just like that." And, "Can you sew it while you're at work today?" Which is probably too big of a request for myself. - I think you could probably pull it off. (Courtney laughs) - So that'll be the next live shoot. I'll just sew a baby version of the dress for my daughter. Okay. So we are live, so if you have questions, feel free to write in the chat. All right. I'm gonna add some faces. I'm putting the body paint away just so I don't actually put that on my paper. I think I'm gonna, once I'm done with this painting, like just put it on the copy machine and make it bigger and put it in the window at least for the month. Until it fades, I can just leave it up. Do you have anything hanging in your window at home, or is it mostly just in the shop? - Just at the shop. - Just at the shop. - [Mike] I don't really have a... - [Courtney] Like a forward-facing window at home, yeah? - [Mike] Yeah. - Okay, so I'm gonna add my little people. And I was thinking... There was a phrase that I saw that just said, "Pride is for everyone." I was thinking especially for like the little kid audience, just as their understanding about inclusivity and feeling proud to be who you are. So that's what I'm gonna use for my message. - It dries really fast. - Oh, nice. Oh, perfect. I can recommend it then. I'm still adding my people though. - [Mike] The little kids? - [Courtney] Yeah. Maybe you can add the lettering so I don't mess it up. (laughs) - [Mike] You have good handwriting. - [Courtney] I know, sometimes a little bit illegible. Oh, I wanna do, but let's see how I want her hair to be. - [Mike] Any more animal requests? No? - [Courtney] Any more animal requests from the chat? - [Tiffany] Not yet. - [Courtney] No more animal requests. - Annette- - Mike, what's your favorite animal? Yeah, Annette, come back. (Mike laughs) What's your favorite animal to paint? Do you have a favorite animal to paint? - Well, I mean I paint a lot of rabbits. I mean, my handle is @poopingrabbit. And they're just such interesting creatures, which maybe I'll paint some rabbits right now. But yeah, I paint a lot of woodland animals probably. It's like the most, like whatever. And I mean, you know, with everyone in my family, a lot of the animals represent different people in my life. But for my own personal narrative of my artwork, it's not necessarily important for the viewer to get that when they're looking at it. - Right, right, right, right. But that's where you're coming from. - Yeah. - What is Mark? - A wolf. - Mark's a wolf. What's Yona? - He's often a bear. - A bear. What kind of bear? A black bear? - Yeah, little brown bear usually. - [Courtney] A little brown bear. - [Mike] But he is sometimes a fox too or a coyote. - [Courtney] Oh, a coyote. - Yeah. - Cool. Those are fun things. - [Mike] And my mom is usually an owl. - [Courtney] Oh. - [Mike] So yeah. - [Courtney] I feel like you could develop your own personal tarot based on this symbology. - [Mike] Amen. - A family tarot. That's like the next Christmas gift idea, a family tarot. - [Tiffany] So I have two requests. - Oh, okay. - [Tiffany] For a sloth. - Okay. - Two requests for a sloth. I feel like that's really- - And one for a fox. -

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And one for a fox. Okay, you wanna do sloth and a fox? - Yeah. - Thanks, Mike, for accommodating our viewers. - We need a rainbow that can- - [Tiffany] We have a question while you're painting. - Yes, question. - [Tiffany] "What suggestions do you have "for an intermediate watercolorist "to learn all the animals to paint?" (Courtney chuckles) - The question is, "What suggestion do you have "for an intermediate watercolorist "to learn all the animals to paint?" Well, I mean, Mike, you did kind of answer that a little bit in that you do sometimes use photo reference, right? - Yeah. And I feel like there's just... I mean, I used to use, like for California animals, I had just like the wildlife field guide. And so then you can just look through that and find all the animals, and then if you don't know what they are, you can look them up and find different things. I mean, you also gave me that book for Christmas that has like- - I know. I meant to bring it - That one collection of all the different animals of like just... I mean, it's not all the animals, but it's a collection of things. So I feel like there's a lot of books. And as a kid, there's a book by Graeme Base called "Animalia." - Oh yeah. - Which is the alphabet. These super intense, like- - Yeah, vibrant. - Illustrations, with everything on the page of A starts with A. So it's like- - Alligators. - All the animals. And I don't know, that would be a good resource. - I love that book actually. My brother used to have that border in his bedroom. - And you have to find the kid in every... It's like a "Where's Waldo?" There's like a little kid hidden in every thing. - So photos of course are good reference. And then books, if you have books. I also think like Dover Publications makes copyright-free books. They're usually made from 18th and 19th century engraving. So they're often black and white. There are a couple that are in color. But those can be a good reference. You can use Google Image if you're just starting it for a body shape. But if you're actually... You know, be wary that you're not actually copying someone's copyrighted photo, especially if they're a photographer. But there are lots of resources online for artists for reference. And then as far as Creativebug classes, we do have a couple of classes on painting animals, including like, August Wren has a class on painting animals. And Christine Aria, our friend, does one on pet portraits, but you can use the same techniques for any animal. Doesn't have to be a pet. So those are two good ones to check out on Creativebug. And if you're doing the SMS sign up and you can download a free class, you could look for an animal painting class on the site. Okay, my little people are almost dry here. Which one are you starting on? - [Mike] The sloth. - [Courtney] Oh yeah. Oh yeah. Do you get a lot of requests for sloths? - [Mike] Sloths were like the animal of- - [Courtney] Like three years ago, I feel like. - [Mike] Even longer. - [Courtney] It was a while ago? - [Mike] They've held on for a long time. I just feel like they've now just being replaced by, I don't know what the new "it" animal is. - [Courtney] Yeah, what is the new "it" animal? Let us know if you know in the chat. (chuckling) - [Tiffany] Well, we do have a request for a cuckoo bear. - A cuckoo bear? - Yeah. - A request for a cuckoo bear. I don't know what that looks like. - No, we'll have to google it. - That might have to happen after our Live. We have just a few minutes left. We have about 10 minutes, so. - That's it? - Yeah. - I better get this. - I think I need to... Do you ever pencil anything out first before you... - [Mike] I do. I actually often would maybe start that way. Especially if it was something that I didn't know. - [Courtney] Mm-hm. Both for drawing and for lettering, or just for drawing? - [Mike] Usually just for drawing. Spatially, sometimes I do the lettering, you know, just so I make sure I don't like- - [Courtney] If's it's on the face. (chuckling) - [Mike] Or so that it's centered, you know. - [Courtney] Oh, I know. Well, I'm asking you partially just for my own knowledge right now, because I'm just gonna add my little phrase here, "Pride is for everyone." I'm just gonna... "Pride." And then I can do "is." Oh, "is for," okay. - [Mike] Maybe you should put "Pride slide." - [Courtney] "Pride slide," oh my god, that's so cute! I want that, yes. "Pride slide." (Mike chuckles) Nice one. I'm doing "Pride slide." Okay, I also don't have hot pink now. Thank you for

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calling out that I messed that up. - [Mike] Yeah, it's really causing a lot of... - [Courtney] I know. (chuckling) Like pink is probably one of the colors I use the most often. So the fact that I don't have it on the tables. (chuckles) Oh, you can mix it. Look here, a little bit of this neon coral, just a little bit of this, one of these pinks in here. - Wow. - Pride slide. Well, it's like- - Where were you 20 minutes ago? (chuckles) - [Courtney] That's not quite neon enough, I don't think, but it's close. - [Mike] Oh, my sloth. - [Courtney] You can mix this acrylic wash with watercolor, but the thing with the acrylic wash is that it's basically acrylic paint, so it will dry like plastic-y and ruin your brushes if you're not paying attention. - [Mike] Oh, this is not my best sloth. For whoever asked, sorry. - [Tiffany] Courtney, can you repeat the book that you suggested? - [Courtney] Oh yeah. I had mentioned there are a couple of books that work well for animal or just art reference in general. And I would say it's not a specific book but a publisher. So Dover, publisher. They do these like Thrift Editions, is what they call them. And you've probably seen it in any used bookstore you've ever gone to. They make these like thin volumes of essentially clip art. They're usually based on 18th and 19th century engravings, up until like the '40s. They do clip art throughout. But they're really good references for animals and flowers and patterns. And I probably have 50 of those books, both in the Creativebug library (chuckling) and in my personal art library. They're super useful, and they're copyright free, so I would recommend them. Pride slide. Okay. Pride slide. I'm gonna do "S" here too. Wait, I know. Do a different color. And then Mike was also talking about a book that I got him for Christmas. And I can't think of the name of it, but it's like a woman who... Actually, I'm not even sure if it's a woman or man, not that it matters. But a grandparent of some identification (chuckling) who was doing these like scrapbook for their grandchild, and they did one for each of their four grandkids. And somebody, a friend of the family recognized it as like an art piece essentially. And they made like a facsimile copy of this scrapbook, if you will. So it's just this volume of all these animals collaged from different sources, like advertisement and food packaging and newspaper articles. And they're all like pasted into this book, and then this is a copy of it. And I keep thinking I'm gonna make my own, like my own reference book like that. - You should. - [Courtney] 'Cause it's so fun and visually addictive to look at. I love it. As far as I've gotten is the "P" for "pride" here. - [Mike] I'm sorry. (Courtney chuckles) - [Courtney] It's going a little slowly. Okay, what color do I wanna do next? Thanks for your questions and comments, you guys. We just have just a few minutes left. - [Mike] I'm gonna try to bust the fox out really fast. - [Courtney] Okay, you bust that fox out. - [Mike] So sorry about this sloth, got rushed. - [Courtney] Oh, he's so cute though. Can you guys see this sloth? Here, wait, I'm gonna move him here. "Hang in there. "Keep calm and gay on." I love it. That sloth is really cute. For whoever asked for the sloth, nice job. So yeah, don't forget about the SMS program if you haven't joined yet. It's a super great way to be reminded of what's new and releasing on Creativebug. And you can text the word "PRIDE" to 98052 and get a free class download, just as a reminder. Mike, what other kind of artwork are you working on? - [Mike] Right now? - [Courtney] Yeah, are you working on a series? - [Mike] No, but it's funny that you talked about the the tarot deck, 'cause I have a show coming up in September at Rare Device, and I have to do something. - You do? - [Mike] And that was one of the things, one of my ideas was to do a tarot deck. - A tarot deck. I love it. I think that would be really cool. I've been thinking a lot about like personal symbology recently and also like artistic interpretations of family trees. I don't know, these things have been bubbling in my head for a minute. - Yeah. - Let's see where they go. - [Mike] I feel like I'm in a little... Not sure what I'm doing with my art always. I feel like I'm always in a- - You're always in that, yeah. - Yeah. So just figuring it out. But my parents were just here for a long time, for over a week, and just recuperating from that a little. - [Courtney] Yeah, give yourself enough space to

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recuperate from a parent visit always. Okay, Pride slide. (scoffs) I don't love my lettering. Oh well. Thanks for the folks who wrote into the chat and requested some animals. You get to see like Mike's painting genius at work when you request it- - If it works. - [Courtney] I love that. "Pride slide." Don't shake the table. I'm doing my "S." - [Mike] I'm sorry. (Courtney chuckles) You always yelling at me about that. - [Courtney] Don't shake the table. Okay, Pride slide. Ah, I should've had you do the lettering. It would've looked better. You're like, "I wouldn't buy that now "with that weird lettering on it." (Mike chuckles) I'm just gonna hang it. I'm just gonna hang it in the window, so it's okay. I love Pride slide though. That's so cute. That's such a good idea. I feel like I want a park to have a rainbow slide in it. Okay, any final thoughts or comments in the chat that we have? - [Tiffany] We have a quite a few comments complimenting your art. Some Happy Prides and a lot of thanks. - Thanks, everyone, for joining us. - Thanks for joining. - Yeah, good questions and comments. Thanks for the kind words about the art. If you haven't done something like this, like a collaboration just to kind of jumpstart your creativity, I highly recommend it. Mike is like always one of my go-to if I'm feeling down about making something. It's like, "Mike, let's have a paint night." - And you never know about... People should not feel weird about reaching out to artists and asking them to do so. Like I love mail art projects, so if someone wanted to collaborate over the mail, like I would totally send postcards back and forth. - I love that. Yeah, a little encouragement to reach out to someone you've been following or someone in your community and you wanna do some kind of something collaborative or some kind of mail art. Yeah, I think that's good advice for sure. - Yeah, and like, people sometimes with the galleries at my shop, at the show, people are always like, "How'd you get that person to show?" And I'll be like, "Oh, I just asked them. - "I just asked them." Don't be afraid to ask. But also don't be heartbroken if they don't respond, 'cause not everyone sees everything too. - [Mike] Exactly. That's true. - [Courtney] Depending on like where you're reaching out. I know for myself, like I used to be very active on Instagram, and now I feel like I don't understand it, (chuckling) and I'm always missing messages. - [Mike] Yeah, and if you're not friends with someone, you don't always see it. - It can be very difficult to figure it out. But thank you so much, everyone, for joining us. Thanks, Mike, for joining me. Are you finishing the fox? - [Mike] I'm finishing the fox. (chuckling) Will you finish me? (Courtney laughs) Thanks for my new tattoo. - Your new tattoo. (laughing) Just to recap, we were sort of focusing on Pride for the month of June, so feel free to like share your support, be a good ally. If you're in the queer community, making art as a way to show your pride can always be a really fun and creative way to just like get the message and the word out there and educate the people around you. Thank you for joining us, and we'll be doing more Lives. We do one on Zoom every month and usually one a month in the studio as well. So thank you to our community for joining us. Thank you for being here. - Yeah, thanks for having me. It was fun. - So much fun to meet with you as always. I'm gonna add an E to this, I promise. And thanks for the animal suggestions. You can follow Mike on Instagram at @poopingrabbit, and we're on Instagram as @Creativebug. And we'll see you soon. (bright music)

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