
Painted Canvas Pillows with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Painted Canvas Pillows

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(quizzical music) - Hi, I'm Courtney from Creative Bug. And I'm gonna show you an easy way to refresh your pillows for any season. I'm really inspired by those vintage Hudson Bay blankets, but they're way too precious to cut up. So instead, I'm gonna show you a way that you can take canvas, and some paint, and bright, bold colors, and make really beautiful pillows for any room in your house. For this project you're going to need a pillow insert of some kind. This one happens to be 16 by 16 inches. Canvas, a yard and a half for my 16 by 16 inch pillow. A variety of paints, and a primary color palette. I'll probably use three of these, but the Hudson Bay blankets use green, navy, a true deep red, as well as a yellow. I'm using just regular acrylic craft paint here, but you could also use fabric paint if that's what you have on-hand. I like this to have a little more like, utility look, so it's gonna be a little stiffer. But if you want to do something soft, then you could absolutely use fabric paint. You'll need a palette or a plate for your paints, and I like to have three different brushes. That way I don't have to worry about washing brushes in between while I'm painting. Some kind of marking chalk, scissors, and sewing pins. Painter's tape, four lengths of ribbon. These are gonna be your ties, and they should be 12 inches each. A clear acrylic ruler, or any long ruler will work. Snips are nice to have on-hand. You'll need your sewing machine with matching thread to your canvas, as well as an iron and ironing surface. I've measured and cut my canvas to 18 inches wide by 34 1/2 inches long, and that's because the type of pillow case that we're doing is gonna be doubled over with the hem on one end, and we're gonna slip our pillow into it and have a really cute tie. I've also ironed this so it's ready for marking and painting. You can make your stripes in the Hudson Bay style in any kind of proportion that feels good for your decor. I like to have a nice fat, chunky stripe, so I'm gonna pick an area to start with my stripe. I'm gonna do a three-inch wide stripe, and you may want to start in the middle, or you can start at the top and go down. Each strips is gonna have four inches in between it. To find the center I'm gonna fold this in half, and just mark that lightly with a pencil. And I'm gonna do three-inch wide bands of color, so I move my ruler so that my 1 1/2-inch mark is on the center line that we just marked, and just slightly, lightly rule a line there. Flip this over. These clear acrylic rulers are really easy to use because they allow you to make sure that all of your lines are square by having both these vertical and horizontal lines. So that's one band that we're gonna paint in, and now I want to skip four inches on either side and continue marking my lines. So I'm gonna have three-inch bands of color with four-inch spaces in between. So color, empty, color, empty, color. We're gonna do another empty here. Now you're gonna just place tape right along that line. We're using painter's tape, and this is going to protect our negative space so that we can paint those bands of color. Because your bands of color and your bands of negative space are kind of similar in size, it only varies by an inch, you want to make sure that you're painting in the correct sections. So if it's helpful you could take like a Sharpie or something and put little arrows to make sure you're painting within that space and not within the negative space. So you want to make sure that your tape is protecting the negative space and just bordering the outside of what is going to be your painted lines. So that means I'm painting in that section. When you do that you'll see if you have any that are misaligned. So I had one that was in the positive space that I just needed to move to the other side of that pencil line. And I'm just gonna alternate. I'm gonna pick three colors. So maybe for this pillow I'll do blue, green, and red. You could do any combination. You could do all

four colors. I just want to keep it primary because it's inspired by the Hudson Bay blanket. But if there are some other colors that work better for your decor you can absolutely do those as well. I'm gonna start with green. And this top band part of this will get folded into our seam when we sew this together, but I want to fabric to feel like it's a continuous print, so I just want to print it even if it's a smaller band. I'm using these foam brushes because they're fairly stiff and they're gonna give me good paint coverage, and hopefully not have any of that paint seep underneath my painter's tape. You do want to make sure that your painter's tape is stuck down really well. That looks good. I'm using three different foam brushes because it's not a good idea to wash out your brushes in between painting. That way I can have one dedicated for each color. You can see that I'm starting on the tape and brushing in toward the center of the stripe. I don't want to push paint underneath the lip of that tape. So this is gonna help prevent that. Continue painting this way, alternating with your color. So I'm gonna do green, blue, and then red, and then start on green again. And you're gonna do that until all of our canvas is painted. You're gonna want to let this dry until it's completely dry to the touch, so that's usually about 15 minutes. And you'll see that you'll have some brush strokes that will develop, and I actually really like the look. It adds to that rustic, vintage feel. If you feel like you need a second coat you can go ahead and do that. Once it's dry, you can remove your painter's tape. So what you're left with is this really bright and bold striped pattern, which is perfect for your summer cabin. We're going to create a fold in the fabric so that we can hem this edge that will eventually be open and have ties. And I'm just gonna eyeball this. I'm gonna fold it in right along these perforations from the selvedge. If you don't have that, that's okay. You're just gonna eyeball about a half of an inch. Just maybe shy of a half of an inch. And then we're gonna fold it again, and iron it. I'm just doing this in sections. You can do whatever feels best for you. This is the first fold. I'm gonna fold it over a second time, iron it in place, and then you can add pins in all the negative stripes just to hold it so that we can go to the sewing machine. I'm just gonna line it up so that the left edge of my presser foot is against this left edge of the rolled hem we just created. We'll backstitch at the beginning and the end. And other than that, we're just using a straight stitch with our coordinating thread. Remove your pins as you go. Don't forget to backstitch. (machine sewing) You want to go slowly over those painted stripes. Just adjust as you go. A little backstitch. Now with the right sides together, which are our painted sides, we're just gonna fold this in half, and we're gonna sew our two remaining edges with a half-inch seam allowance. We're not gonna sew that border because that's where our pillow's gonna tuck in, and this edge is already folded. Easy-peasy. Put in a few pins to hold everything in place, and you can take it to the machine. Just line it up so you can get a half-inch seam allowance on your machine, wherever that might be for you. You can check your plate. And we're starting at the folded edge, and we're just gonna sew around our remaining two sides. Backstitch at the beginning and end. (machine sewing) When we get close to that end, put your needle down. Pick up your presser foot and just pivot. Just make sure you're at the half-inch, and continue on. (machine sewing) You're probably gonna have to go pretty slowly over these hems. Backstitch. (machine sewing) Done. We're almost there. You can remove your pins. But before we turn this right side out, we actually need to add our little ties that's gonna hold our pillow into the case. I already cut two 12-inches, and you'll need four of those. I'm gonna come in just a bit from the edge, maybe four or so inches. I could do it onto this stripe, but it's gonna be harder to pin through those layers of painted canvas, so maybe I'll just go above that, pin that in place. And then I need the matching one, 'cause these two are gonna be tied together. Looks like I might have to go into the painted canvas if I want them to be symmetrical, so you may have to muscle that pin a little. Do the other one on the opposite side so they match. You want to

make sure that you're opening your pillow case and just sliding the top layer on. You don't want to be closing your pillow opening by sewing both sides together. I can take this pin out now because I know exactly where this is going. And it helps me to lift the needle and just get the presser foot right on top of that ribbon to hold it in place, 'cause it's a narrow ribbon. It's only a half-inch wide or so. So that presser foot's holding the ribbon in place, and I can just stitch forward and backward just to tack this down. (machine sewing) Perfect. Pull that out. We're gonna do the same thing on our next ribbon, making sure I'm just sewing through that one layer. Can take my pin out. Make sure my needle is up. Place the presser foot down. Tack it into place. (machine sewing) And just do the same thing for the last two ribbons. Trim up your threads. Fun part starts now. We're gonna turn this right side out, and then put our pillow in it. Make sure you press with your finger into those little corners. And I don't like to clip my inner corners because I like the extra stability that seam allowance brings. We'll tie our ribbons. And there you have a sweet, little pillow that has these adorable little ties. I've made another one in the yellow, red, and blue color way, instead of the green. As well as one without ties that you could do an envelope back closure for if you prefer something without the decorative ribbon. These are a great way to do a seasonal change on your sofa cushions, on bed pillows. You could switch up the colors. You could even paint a different pattern. I really love those vintage pillows that you can get that have a sweet little pattern inside since you have a little hint of the pillow where the ties are. And it's a good way to cover up any stains or old linens that need a refresh.