Painting Shamrocks with Cecelia with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Shamrocks with Cecelia
Shamrocks with Cecelia
(upbeat music) - Hi everybody, welcome to creativebug LIVE. We're coming at you live, like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I'm Courtney, and I'm here with. - Cecelia Murphy. - And she's also known as. - Cecelia Claire. - On Instagram and on your website too, right? - That's right, yup. - And what kind of stuff do you do? - I do pattern design for fabric. I also do a lot of water color and just drying. - And painting and brush-lettering? - Yup. - She's the proud owner of a really cute dog named Bluebell. - Bluebee. - She's adorable. She's been with us, Cecilia's been with us all week filming some really exciting classes on how to transform your artwork into prints and into patterns for surface design. - Mm-hmm. - Something like this. Can you tell me a little bit about this guy? - Yeah, so that is an oleander. So I drew that sometime when I was in Santa Cruz. - [Courtney] Oh yeah? - Uh-huh, and like pink oleander is like all along the beach there. It's all along the highway, so it caught my attention and I wanted to turn it into a floral print. - Which I love that, this started as a drawing? - Uh-huh. - In her classes that'll be coming up this Spring, she'll show you how to draw something like this and, or, rather transform the drawing into a pattern. Now obviously the oleander doesn't have blue petals. - Right, or is green. - Or, leaves. But it sounds like you're inspired by the California flora, but then your color palates kind of come from all over? - Yeah sometimes, I just go into Photoshop or Illustrator and mess with the color ways just to make, kind of, unexpected color decisions. And, yeah. - I love it. There's so many fun things. I don't know if you guys can see on the set back here, but a lot of her original drawings and paintings we used on the set. And then some of her amazing prints, which have been turned into pillows, You can't see her really fabulous leggings that she's got on right now. I don't know if Erin can get a shot of them but they have some really cool kind of, beautiful motifs on them, so. - [Cecilia] Also oleander, but just a totally different color way and.. - I love it. - Thanks. - And people can see your stuff on Instagram under Cecelia Claire? - C-E-C-E-L-I-A, Claire, yeah. - And then of course on your website as well? - Mm-hmm. - Which is awesome. Well because this week is St. Patty's day is at the end of this week, we thought we would just draw with you guys, paints, and I picked some shamrocks. These are actually called Oxalis. That's their real name, - [Courtney] and they're false shamrock, and they're not like true four-leaf clover petals, but they're so fun and they're perfect for, I think this holiday and this week. - [Cecelia] Making a floral pattern. - Yeah, I love it. So we're just gonna draw and paint. And remember because we're live you can ask us questions. So feel free. How are you gonna start? - Gosh. With white flowers, it's always interesting 'cause I like to do, kind of, make the background a dark color, so that they pop out. - Cool. - But I guess I'll actually start by drawing the leaves a little bit. - Fun. - Get a little warmed up. - Do you have any warm up tips for people? - You can do blind-contour. - [Courtney] That's what I'm doing. - [Cecelia] Oh really? - [Courtney] That's my favorite thing to do. - [Cecelia] But yeah, definitely sketching with colored pencil is a good idea, rather than, you know, a graphite pencil, because then you don't have any pencil lines to erase, so they can just blend right in. - [Courtney] That's awesome. - [Cecelia] Even especially if you're gonna do water color, I like to do my sketch with water color pencil. - [Courtney] Oh that's a good idea. - [Cecelia] Yeah. - [Courtney] I love that. So you said that you, during the course of this week, been asking Cecelia lots of questions about her practice and so forth, and you were saying that you often sketch on site right? - [Cecelia] Yeah. At least once a week. - I love that. Do you have any favorite spots in the area

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that go to? You and Bluebee go to? - Yeah I like to go to the Berkeley Botanical Garden. I've been meaning to make it to the Conservatory of Flowers. And, like, actually just about anything around here can be.. Is gonna have something interesting, like, there's orange trees in peoples' yards, or really cool architecture. There's interesting-looking people, and their pets. - [Courtney] I love that. - [Cecelia] Yeah. So do the cafe. There's just so much. It's really inspiring, place to live and get your, sort of, visual sourcing from. - [Woman Off-Screen] We have our first question. - [Cecelia] Awesome. - [Woman Off-Screen] Nancy wants to know what brand of pencils do you use? - Hi Nancy. Yeah do you have a favorite? I know you just said you like water color pencils for some sketching. Do you have a brand preference for that? - Water color pencils, let's see, I don't. - Or just any pencils. Do you have any favorite pencils of any kind? I know, 'cause like I use a lot of stuff. - I actually like, just the mechanical, like is it BIC? I mean just the ones that are like, you know, they're black and they have the little colored pencil, like, pocket tab thing. - Yeah. - Those are great drawing pencils actually. - I love that. Yeah I like the Paper Mate ones. And they like are always like refilling themselves, you know? So you don't even have to click. It's very easy to use. - The little twisty ones? The orange ones? - Mm-hmm. - Cool. - I love those. - I'm gonna go in with a dark, kind of background and back out the negative spaces. - [Courtney] Ooh, I love that. - [Cecelia] Yeah. - [Courtney] Yeah. As far as what we've got in front of us today, is just kind of a random smothering of goodies. We've got some prisma color and even some Crayola colored pencils. Some Micron pens, which are waterproof. A variety of water color brushes. Cecelia's got a Windsor Newton paint palette, and I have a Sakura of America Koi 48-color set. Just like playing with everything today. - [Cecelia] This is a great travel palette. - [Courtney] This is a good one, yeah. - [Cecelia] It's big, but it's, love this. - [Courtney] Comprehensive. I really am liking this Sakura palette too. It's very portable. - [Cecelia] Waterbrush. - [Courtney] You hear that thing about the best camera you have is the one that's on you, right? That your best camera is the one that you have on you. I feel like it's the same thing, like, if you just whatever you have on you is worth it. Doesn't matter if it's a crayon. - [Cecelia] Totally. - [Courtney] Just like, use it. - [Cecelia] I was just playing with the gel pens you guys have in the office to fill in some sketches that I was doing of the office plants. - [Courtney] Oh fun. - [Cecelia] Yeah and I never use gel pens. And I also don't often use colored pencils but I was having a good time and I liked the results so, it's just like, use what's there and ... - [Courtney] Yeah, just go with it? - [Cecelia] Yeah. - [Courtney] Do you, ever feel like you're stuck? Like what happens, I mean I know we're in California so even the winter here you can find some really interesting plants but ... - [Cecelia] Oh gosh, but I don't know. It can get pretty dreary in the rain and I, like I definitely can get stuck. - [Courtney] Do you have advice for people when they're stuck? I know like half of you are knee-deep in snow at the moment. - [Cecelia] I don't know, I just started dancing this year. - [Courtney] Oh really? - [Cecelia] Yeah. I've been scared of it my whole life but I just started doing it and I feel like it frees you, and you just kind of, I don't know. It gets my, not to be too cliche or cheesy but it does get your creative like flow going again. - Oh nice. - Someone's laughing over here maybe at me? - Ryan might be laughing but it's probably because he was actually dancing right before the live shoot went on, to the pre-roll music. Ryan's always dancing at every opportunity. So he's laughing with you and not at you, don't worry. - [Ryan] Yes. - But yeah I mean also, I kind of always had this notion that you have to.. Don't paint from a photograph, don't draw from a photograph, or whatever. That was always sort of what they tell you starting out, from what I learned. But actually, I've sort of like given myself permission to do that lately and it's, it can be good so, if you don't know what to draw, like, I don't know, just think about places that you like to travel to and go with them - [Courtney] Fun. - [Cecilia] Yeah. - [Courtney] Do you have any trips

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coming up? Any fun trips planned where you're excited to go draw? - [Cecelia] Okay I'm always trying to get somebody to go with me to L.A. - If there are any takers. - Nobody wants to. Just kidding, no but, my close people, like are just too busy or whatever, but I don't know, I'm freelance and so I'm always like oh, I want to go somewhere. So I just need to.. - So that's one of the challenges of being freelance. - Yeah. - Having time to go, but no one to go with, - Yes, yes. - Because they're all stuck in jobs. - Totally. - Okay good to know. Other pros and cons of freelance? - [Cecelia] Well. - [Courtney] You said you liked to work at 5:30 in the morning. - I like to work at 5:30 in the morning, which is not necessarily something you can do if you work in an office, but, I don't know. Like you guys are such a cool team and I've had so much fun meeting you all, and it seems like you have just a great vibe, going here so, like, that's a con, is not having a team like that. - [Courtney] Community. - [Cecelia] Yeah. - [Courtney] But you can have office hours. You can't even say that Bluebell is here. I mean, she is your team. But, we have Charlie, so. - [Cecelia] But, pros would be like, I get to do something different all the time. If I want to do an illustration, I do an illustration. I mean, provided that I've been asked to, but you know. If I want to do a mural, I do a mural. - [Courtney] Fun. - [Cecelia] I have one of those coming up. - [Courtney] Yeah, you said that you were gonna be working on a mural. Can you tell us a little bit about that guy? - [Cecelia] Yeah, so, a local art store has asked me to do a window mural using, I'm actually going to be blowing up some of these same motifs. It's gonna be a little bit different but, I'm gonna blow them up seven feet on the window of a store-front, - Fun. - In Berkeley. - And you do, like bright vibrant colors? More traditional, like true? - It's gonna be kind of like the others. There's a blush, like the.. - Like this guy? - Yeah. Blush is so in right now. So I've got some blush, magenta, orange. - Fun. - Yeah. - So that's gonna be.. Can we say where that's gonna be? If you are in the Bay Area. - Yeah. So if you live in the Bay Area you can come during the month of April. It's gonna be at Artisan Craftsman Supply in Berkeley. - Fun. - They're so nice. They're a really nice team too. - It's a cooperative-owned art supply place, right? - Is it? - Yeah I think, I'm pretty sure. - Cool. - They have one in San Francisco too. - They're so nice. - [Courtney] That's awesome. - [Woman Off Screen] Have another question. - [Courtney] Get more questions, remember we're live. And if you guys are just coming at us, I'm here with Cecelia Murphy, also known as Cecelia Claire on Instagram, and she's a, an artist and service designer. She's been filming classes with us all week and we're just painting shamrocks. We started with blind contours, and are just kind of playing with the paint. - I love this palette. - [Cecelia] It's fun! What was your question? - [Woman Off Screen] Noreen wants to know- - Hi Noreen. - [Woman Off Screen] Why you start with the darker background. - Okay. - So Noreen's asking why did Cecelia start with the background and not her shamrocks? - [Woman Off Screen] Yes. - So, first I was thinking like, because these flowers are white, you can't paint white. So, I was first, actually, going through and, it's gonna get more defined as I finish up but I was doing little like, negative spaces where my flowers are gonna be. And this is a really loose style that I'm doing. And then for a while, actually, to be honest, I got a little carried away chatting, and I forgot to include the white flowers, but they're still there. And I've still got some room left to, to add some. - [Courtney] Fun. - [Cecelia] And also just 'cause I love blue. I just really do. - [Courtney] Yeah it's like a beautiful passion blue. That one's a good one. - [Cecelia] I'm gonna have to get this palette. - [Woman Off Screen] Breanne wants to know. - [Courtney] Hi Breanne! How are you? - [Woman Off Screen] Do you find it easier to use the water in a brush pen, or in a cup for beginners? - [Courtney] Oh, you know I'm using a water brush pen, but I've been dipping it in the water, only because I didn't have any paper towels for changing my, my colors. But normally I just use the water that's in the pen itself. And then that's great for travel, but if I'm at home and have my normal setup, I just use a little

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bowl for water. Have you ever used one of these water brush pens? - Mm-hmm. - [Courtney] Do you like them? - [Cecelia] Yeah, it's really handy because you're traveling with some water. - Yep. - Like you don't have to. - Great for an airplane. - Or go to like, go into Chipotle and like, get a cup of water when you didn't buy anything. - Totally, totally. It's a common problem, we artists have. Now I, I mean, I know that you went with your blue, but are your shamrocks going to be a traditional color? Or are they gonna be like bright magenta? - No. They weren't gonna be, maybe they will be now. But actually, no, I don't know. I feel like it would be.. Yeah, it could be. They may as well be green for this upcoming holiday, right? - [Courtney] Yeah. Do you ever do anything for St. Patty's Day? I mean you have an Irish last name. - I do. No, not really. - [Woman Off Screen] Shawn wants to know. - [Courtney] Hi Shawn. - [Woman Off Screen] Do you have time for another question? - [Courtney] Yeah. - [Woman Off Screen] Do you have any advice for beginning artists? - [Courtney] Advice for beginning artists. - Begin, I guess would be my advice. Start at all and things have a magical way of, sort of, unfolding. Actually.. Can I recommend a book? Is that allowed? - Yeah you can. And can I just mention, also, that Cecelia, although, having always been creative in her life, and in a creative household, actually part of her day job is as a translator. So I think that begin is like a really true thing for you, right? Because this is, it's not that it's new, but it's like, it's got a new wave, it's like. - It is new. I mean I've been working as a freelance translator for the past 10 years and doing this a lot more on the side than I do now, now I make, like, some money from it, and I want to take it a lot bigger but yeah this, it's really cool things happen to you when you start like putting yourself out there. - What was the book you were gonna recommend? - The Artist's Way by Julia Cameron and it's, it's like an eight, it's supposed to be like eight weeks or twelve weeks or something like that, but a lot of people that I talked to are like I did it and it took me two years and that's fine. You don't need to worry about hurrying through it but just, get started. Get yourself into some kind of like structured thing, if it's like, if you have a lot of self-discipline, you know, then, set some time aside on your calendar I guess, but also like it's even easier if you start taking a class. At like a community college or.. - So you get some structure. - Doesn't have to be expensive, yeah. - And that also creates that community you were talking about, like as a freelancer you don't have it, except for your pup. But in a class environment, you do kind of get the community. In fact, Faith, who's monitoring for us right now is taking a water color class. - Oh, are you? - Yeah. In her history it wasn't her specialty. She's another designer, book maker. So now she's embarking on water color. - [Cecelia] And it really-- - [Courtney] That's what Creative Bug does to you. - Yeah, and it really like, doing something that isn't your thing, is a great way to break out of perfectionism. - Mm-hmm. Do you struggle with that a lot? Perfectionsim? - Sure, I mean, you saw me clicking around trying to get that pattern right. You guys had to leave the room. But.. - There might be some truth in that. - But, like dancing.. My dancing class, like I don't.. It's a way that I can get creative, and it's definitely not.. Okay, only after taking the class do I really understand why it's art. - I see. - But, yeah it's cross-contaminate, cross-pollinate. Do something outside of your comfort zone and don't.. And then you're not worrying about, like I'm probably never gonna be a good dancer but it's good enough. - [Courtney] Yeah, I love that. I love-- - [Ryan] Could you show us? Could you show us a dance move? - [Cecelia] No, absolutely not. Absolutely not! - Ryan! - But I do go to, if you, I do good to Hipline sometimes, in Oakland, so if you want to catch me dancing, you'll have to catch me there. - At Hipline. That's an invitation to you Ryan. - [Ryan] Yeah. - I think that's an excellent, excellent advice for us to end on. I think that's good. Just begin and do something outside of your comfort zone. Yeah I love that. I love your shamrocks too, those are so pretty. - [Cecelia] Thanks. Yours are. - [Courtney] Is that something that maybe you could turn into a pattern perhaps? - [Cecelia] Yeah. -

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[Courtney] I love it. - Stay tuned for that because Cecelia is going to be showing you in her classes on how to take your original paintings, watercolors, and drawings, and turn them into surface design. We'll see you next week for our next live shoot. Thanks for tuning in. (upbeat music)

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