Cardboard Mobiles with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Mobile
(upbeat music) - Hey everyone, welcome to Creative Bug Live, we're coming live like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays, I'm Courtney, and because we're live that means you can write in and ask questions so feel free to do so, we love all your enthusiastic comments and your questions, so please feel free. Is it summer yet? I'm dying for it to be summer and I was thinking of the things that I liked to make as a kid during the summertime and kinda the things that are abundant, maybe even all year long, and for me that's cardboard. I feel like people are moving, maybe you're ordering a lot of things online and getting some nice boxes, and what do you do with all this cardboard other than just recycle it. When I was a kid, we used to flatten it and slide down the hill and that was super fun and we always got in trouble for it but I thought you could also use it for crafting. As an adult, I've made a lot of things out of cardboard, it's a great, really functional material because you can bend it, you can cut it, you can paint it, and it's really affordable, you can even just pick it up from your neighbor's recycling. So I have a little bit of cardboard here that I've cut down and I was gonna show you some really basic and simple ways to paint it, cut it up, and make a mobile or wall hanging out of it, so this would be great to do with kids, a group of kids, but you don't have to be a kid to do this, you could elevate this look by limiting your color palette, working in maybe just gold and white and that would be really pretty too so whatever's your thing, feel free to do that on the cardboard. I've got some craft paint laid out here in my tray and I'm just gonna do an all over color. Let's do pink. What's great about this is it's not precious, I can be as messy or precise as I like. This is also a craft that you can do in steps which means you could paint everything one night when you're feeling in the mood or maybe because you got an unexpected rainstorm in your summer and then you can go outside and cut it all up and make a mobile into it when it's not raining or when you're feeling in the mood to cut things up instead of paint things. Now I would just do a bunch of solid fields of color, you can use every part of your cardboard box, you can use the long sides, the short sides, whatever you have, any scraps. I did want to show you that if you have any places where there is tape, you do want to remove that and that doesn't matter that we have this texture here, you can paint right on top of it. And the reason we're removing it is because the acrylic craft paint, if you're kinda brushing it on on the thinner side, it's gonna peel away where there's any kind of packing tape so make sure you just remove that. Now you wanna set this aside before you do a pattern, you don't have to do a pattern on top, you could of course just do this entire mobile with solid colors. If you've watching any of our live shoots, you know what I have here, this is a dry one. And I'm just gonna do a fun little graphic pattern on this. Got a little bit of water and some acrylic paint, I'm going for a contrasting color here. Now other than cardboard, the materials I'm using are just a random smattering of brushes, you can use nice watercolor brushes as long as you wash them out and you can use hardware store bristle brushes. If you don't have any of these materials, guess what, and you're new to Creative Bug, you can actually sign up for Creative Bug, you get two months for free, one class to keep forever and a 30% off coupon to your local JoAnn's store, that's for your entire purchase so you can go pick up your favorite craft paints and a new set of brushes for the summer. And Allie will be posting that link in just a minute. I'm doing a very lose kind of scallop shape here. You can play with whatever your favorite motif is, if you don't think you're a painter, you could play with your Sharpie pens or your paint markers, get a little inspiration from

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Lisa Kongdon's or Pam Gearson's doodling classes. This is another one of those things that's very freeform, very meditative. You can paint to your heart's content. - [Woman] We have our first question. Kristi says the background paintings are amazing, did Courtney do them? Love her backgrounds. - Aww, thanks, we're actually on the set for Yao Chang's class so I did do the set design but the paintings are not mine, they're actually Yao's, if you're unfamiliar with Yao's classes, you're gonna love them, they're all water color classes, she's here this week filming a daily challenge so stay tuned, Allie can post the link, and again, if you are new to Creative Bug, Yao is one of the classes that you can watch in your two-month trial for free and even one of the classes you can keep forever so check out Yao Chang's work, her water colors are stunning, she does a beginner class for water color as well as some more advanced techniques. Same thing, I'm gonna let this dry. Now you can see, oh I was actually gonna show you on some black paper, why don't I do that too? This one I've painted black on the back but because we're working with craft paint, a lot of the craft paint has kind of like a white binder so you can even do light on top of dark. You also, like I said, you could do this in all solid but you could paint one side, cut your shapes, make your mobile, and then paint your second side. I like to have all of our cardboard shapes with something on the front and back because the pieces are gonna turn in the wind so it's nice to just be prepared for that. So that gives you a sense kind of of what you can do, this one's already double-sided, we'll just set those aside and let them dry. I've got some more here. Fun. Another one. You can see how loose this is. Alright, I'm gonna cut some of these up. Now if you're an adult working on this, you can use your Xacto knife or your utility blade and a mat, a cutting mat to cut out your shapes but I'm just rough cutting stuff, I'm just gonna cut mine with scissors and if you're doing this with kids, I would recommend doing scissors. Don't use your good fabric shears, just use a plain old pair of scissors. I'm gonna cut some smaller pieces. Can leave them in these little triangle shapes. Can make a little mountain shape out of it, which I really like. You could make these into little ghosts if you were doing this for Halloween, that would be super cute, I'm obsessed with Halloween so that's always my point of reference. I inherited that from my mother. So these are fun. If you wanna have a more high-brow reference for this, Alexander Calder was a mid-western artist in the 1900s in the United States and he made these fantastic mobiles that were very off-centered so you'd have these big arcs with like one object and a whole clustering of objects so if you need a little bit more elevated inspiration for this craft, feel free to look him up, his stuff's amazing. There are quite a few artists who have played with using basic shapes, so don't think about complex shapes, you can use basic shapes and then craft your mobile around that. Now this is more like a mobile wall hanging so we're not gonna worry too much about balance, it's gonna be more aesthetic balance as opposed to kind of a functional balance. And I'm just cutting some shapes here. Alright. Let's start with that. Now you could do this on a branch, I think this would be a really fun project if you went to the beach and got a piece of driftwood, you had kind of a nature walk, I left this branch with a little bit of these oak leaves which I think is really pretty. I feel like my motifs don't really go with the kind of wild natural branch, I'm actually gonna do this one on a dowel but you could do this on any kind of object that you want, some kind of architectural salvage, like I said, a nature walk branch would be really fun and you can lay out your pieces first. And let's see. That's too symmetrical, that's not really my thing. I think I like that, I want it to be a little bit asymmetrical. So that looks good. The next thing you wanna do is punch holes into any place where we're gonna need twine to connect our mobile pieces from the branch or the dowel to our pieces and then from each piece to the next. You don't have to poke holes in the bottom unless you want to add tassels, which would be really fun. Maybe this was a little bit more naturalistic in its approach and you could tie acorns or dried plants to the

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bottom and that would be really fun too. So I'm using an awl and I'm gonna carefully just poke a hole in the top and the bottom of each of these cardboard pieces. I'm not gonna do the bottom on this last row because I'm not gonna attach anything here. You wanna make sure that your fingertips are not behind where you're going to be pressing this sharp awl through. You can also use a little hammer and nail if you don't wanna have something where you're shoving a sharp object toward your hand, that's fine too, you just wanna make sure you're hammering onto a surface that's not your table. And then I have a bit of twine and a tapestry needle, this is blunt at the top and it's big enough to go through here with the twine. So this is a part that you can do just while watching TV or hanging out, it's pretty easy. Once all your painting is done and dry, this is pretty simple. I'm just gonna tie this on. The nice is these things are all movable, we're not gluing anything into place. Now you have two options here, I can tie this and cut it and then create a new piece, or you can re-thread my string. Now I don't want this to slip so I do need to tack it into place, which means I'm gonna bring my tapestry needle back through. The great thing about using a tapestry needle is because it's blunt, it's not gonna split your thread so that's great. Kinda figure out its final place and then I can actually go back into this hole, let's go back through. And then come back out on the back, so you'll see a string on the backside, so this is an aesthetic choice. You can do one continuous piece of string for each length or you can do little sections and tear them off, whatever you prefer. We'll do 'em through the front. Loop that to keep it in place. And then this one, if it's your final one and it's not going, you wanna tie a quick knot. Has anybody tried anything similar? I've done this with paper for feathers, you could create little paper feathers, you could use scrapbook paper if you didn't wanna paint your own cardboard but I love the look of the cardboard, it's really chunky and fun to play with. I'm gonna leave this hanging in case I wanna add anything to it, let me show you one more. This one we'll do in sections just so you can see the difference. You can even tie this on first if you prefer, whatever works better for your process. This is one of those crafts that, like I said, is really fun for me as an adult without children but it's totally something that would work well with kids. So this is a section as opposed to a long length, I do wanna wrap it again. Notice that I'm coming from the front and then I would tie it off. And you can just trim that. And I would continue on attaching all of these pieces in the same way. Now guess what? I have one that's finished of course so we'll move this aside. And this is a finished one. So you can see that it's double sided. I painted all of one side first, strung it, and then on the back side, which was all painted black, I added little tiny kinda graphic motifs. I made sure that my color palettes were kind of complementary, they're not painted in exactly the same color palette, the front and the back, but there are some colors that relate well to both. Here I added a little tassel. This is where I had two holes and I had it come down to a single hole for this little round medallion piece. Mandalas are really popular right now, you could play with doing a bunch of different mandalas. You could use card stock if this was gonna be inside instead of outside, I think this would be really cute in a little play tent or reading nook. The other thing you can do with your leftovers is stack them up and make these cool little structures, this would be fun as a little scene for little critters, you could make them more like trees as opposed to these abstract shapes, they'd be fun to create a little setting out of for cars, so something to think about and that's really easy to do. With your scissors, you just cut slits and you're not cutting all the way through, you're just cutting one-inch slits depending on the size. - [Woman] Courtney, can you explain to some of the folks at home what a mandala is? - Oh yeah, if you're asking what a mandala is, I mentioned that just a moment ago, a mandala is kind of like a circular shape, it's made up of little tiny components so right now nature mandalas are really pretty and popular where people are gathering things from their walk and then arranging them in a circular

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shape. I think it has kind of a sacred feel or meaning like a maze would. You see them in stained glass, they're in coloring book pages right now 'cause that's really popular, people have tattoos of mandalas, they're just supposed to be like an inspirational kind of motif and probably the practice of creating one allows you to sort of meditate on the shape as well. So good question. I'm just attaching these little extra cardboard pieces to make these fun little structures if you have them left over from your mobile. So you can do two like that, that's not gonna stand, you need something kind of at the bottom to create an X shape, so we'll add one more piece. This one already has a cut in it. Now that's really tall so it's not gonna stand, instead I can cut this and in this case, I am gonna use an Xacto knife but I'm just cutting vertically. Oops. That's definitely the adult activity. And to make this stand even further and be a little bit more stable, like this, I'm gonna increase that opening here so it's the exact length of the cardboard piece it's slipping onto. Like that. And then you can get these to stand. This is kind of like that house of cards style but I think doing it with the cardboard allows you for a lot of customization, you can make little cities or buildings. Again, this is just with your scraps from your mobile but don't throw away your cardboard next or recycle it, keep it, paint it, save it for a rainy day. We'll see you for the next live shoot which is gonna be on Thursday with Yao Chang. (upbeat music)

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