
Daily Creativity at Home with Creativebug

Chapter 1 - Daily Creativity at Home

Overview

(gentle music) - Tapping into creativity is a form of self-care. - Creating can soothe you and keep you in the moment. - Even though we may not be together as a group, it is so important that we stay creative and connected. (light music) - You don't need to go far, there's a whole of inspiration and art materials right inside the walls you live in. - Join us. - Join us. - Join us. - In our own homes as we share 31 fun and accessible projects for all ages that your whole family can enjoy together. - From watercolor to cardboard, to even a slice of bread. - We'll help you discover the magic that you can create with what you already have. (gentle music)

Day 1 - Rainbow Window

- Hi, I'm Faith from Creativebug. Welcome to the very first day of this month's daily practice. It's going to be a little different than usual. We're filming from our homes, and there will be roommates, there will be neighbors, there will be babies, probably even cats walking around as we speak. The important thing is that we're all together, and that we're making an exercise in our creativity. One thing I really loved about taking walks around my neighborhood is looking up into windows and seeing rainbows, a sign that there are better days ahead. And we're going to make a full window rainbow today. Now of course, you can sketch a rainbow, but it's really exciting to make a full scale rainbow. So we're covering my entire front window with tissue paper. You'll need some tissue paper, probably a sheet of each color. I would also recommend an orange, but I used all my orange up. And a pair of scissors, and of course, a glue stick. Now you'll start by measuring your window, top to bottom, dividing it by the number of colors you have. My window is 40 inches tall and I'm using six colors, so I made my segments about six and a half inches. And I'm just using this wax marker to draw very lightly on the window where it will be. Then you'll take your tissue paper. And we're going to fold it accordion style, approximately three inches wide. And if you have any left over at the end, just snip that off. And then we're going to cut this into strips. So this will be about three inches tall. So you want them to be square-ish. And you repeat this process with every color you have. Now maybe you want a little variety to your hearts. You want some big, you want some small. You're welcome to do that. Then you'll just make these segments different sized. I made them all the same and it was a little bit boring, to be honest. Once we have our stacks, you will again fold that in half, and now we will make our heart. And then we'll just have a big bountiful stack. Now you probably only need... My window's about five feet wide, five feet tall, and I only needed one sheet per piece of tissue paper. And they come in big packs, so maybe decorate a lot of windows in your house. Now that, and I do recommend organizing them in some kind of tray, like so. So when it comes time to putting them up on your window, you have this handy. And also be careful if you are doing a window that you're not next to an adjacent window that is open, because this is very fluttery, and the wind will blow in, and blow it away, all around your house. My house is, there's a lot of hearts hiding in corners, which is absolutely delightful for me, but I don't want the baby to eat them. Once these are all cut out, you'll take them to your window, and use a glue stick. Squiggle a little bit on the glass, and stick it right on. Experiment with overlapping some tissue, seeing how that looks. The different colors can look really interesting overlapping together. Or, if this window's your only source of light in the daytime, maybe space it out a little bit so there's still plenty of room for natural

sunlight to come through.

Day 2 - Have Fun With Your Food

- Hi. It's Twinkie. I've been doing a lot of thinking about how when we're stuck at home for days or maybe even weeks, we're probably making and eating the same food over and over again, and it is getting boring. I'm gonna show you how to turn your simple, everyday sandwich into an ultra-cute teddy bear face. Pretty much if you stick a face on anything, it's 10 times cuter, and a million times better and tastier and more delicious. I am super inspired by Japanese bento box food art. The Japanese bento box is basically a lunchbox that's partitioned into sections. You have a larger section for your main course, like your sandwich, and smaller sections for fruits and vegetables and cheese or crackers, and it's taken on this entire art form where these lunchboxes are animal themed, cartoon themed, things are shaped to look like little characters. It's pretty amazing and really inspiring, and it can get really involved. Like you can buy all these punches to punch eyeballs and nose and mouths out of seaweed. You can have all sorts of cookie cutters and different molds to shape your rice and things like that, but we're gonna keep it simple and keep it basic. We're gonna start with this ultra-cute bear head sandwich. These are the tools and ingredients that I'll be using to make my sandwich. Please bear in mind that you can certainly use any number of substitutions here, just depending on what you happen to have in your own kitchen. I'm starting with two basic slices of bread. We have wheat, but you can certainly use white, rye, pumpernickel, whatever you've got. If you have a set of circular cookie cutters, go grab them. You're way ahead of the game. We don't have any here at the house, so I'm using a one-cup measuring cup as a circular template to cut circles out of my bread. This is the perfect size because it covers a lot of territory on the bread, but it also stays within the confines of the slice. You'll need something to cut a smaller circle, so make sure this circle is smaller than this one. I'm using a jelly jar. This is actually kind of a larger circle than ideal, but I'm working with what I got here, and at least it's smaller than this one. You'll need a slice of cheese. We have yellow American. You can definitely use white or something speckly like a pepper jack. That doesn't really matter. These two extra slices of cheese are just to go inside my sandwich. You'll need a couple blueberries. You can also use olives, red grapes. You could probably get away with two or three black beans. You just need something that's roundish, dark, and small to make the eyes and the nose. Over here I just have a couple slices of turkey to go inside my sandwich. I have two small, round crackers to make the ears. You could also cut two smaller circles of bread to make the ears. And just as little extra something something, I have two little hot dog slices. This is definitely just extra, but I love being extra, and this needs to be something that's red or pink in color, so if you had some ham or salami, you could also cut smaller circles out of those with like some kitchen scissors. I happen to have these extremely bright red hot dogs, so I cut slices of those. Those will be the cheeks of the bear face. And last but not least, I'm using a knife. It's like a serrated steak knife to help me get through the bread. The first step is to cut two circles of bread, so if you have a circular cookie cutter, go ahead and do that. I'll be using this measuring cup as a guide, and it won't cut through the bread, but you can use it to make an impression. Just give it a good press. You can see it leaves a circular shape, and I'm gonna use that as a guide to cut my circle. If you have some kitchen scissors, you can certainly use that as well. If you can trust your kiddo with a knife, this is something that they can help with too. I'm just using a motion that's kind of up and down as I go, just so I don't tear the bread. You can punch this out like this. And a circle. If you have some rough edges, you can clean up the rough spots. You can save this to eat. This is the mom snack. (laughs) The kiddo gets the cute sandwich, and then you can eat this weird piece of

bread with a hole in it. So I'm gonna cut a hole in my second slice, so I use the cookie cutter to create an impression. Give it a press. And then use your quick up and down motion to cut the circle out. My cup actually almost cut through the bread, but you definitely want to give it a pass with a knife, just to make sure you're getting a clean circle. Sorry about the camera jiggle. Then the next step is just putting whatever sandwich filling you want inside. Like if you have mayo, mustard, what have you. I'm gonna do... Maybe I'll fold this a little, a slice of cheese. If you want it to fit into the confines of the circle, you can just adjust it like this. You can cut this out with a circle too if you want. It's really up to you. This is a sandwich for me, so I'm not gonna get really picky about how the inside is arranged. And again, you can cut your lunch meat to fit the circle as well. I'm probably gonna do it really rough. Just to give my own self a break, just to make sure I get as much coverage as possible, but it doesn't need to be complete coverage. So assemble your sandwich. There's your basic circle. And to create the ears, we're going to use two crackers. I'm just gonna insert them right into the sandwich, like between the bottom layer and the bread. Like this, and the other ear. Like so. It's already looking bear-like. And for the, I guess the mouth or the muzzle area, gonna grab another piece of cheese. It's getting a little warm. This cheese is a little sloppy and squishy, so you probably want to do this with cheese right out of the fridge. I'm gonna get my jelly jar, and this can cut right through the cheese since it's so soft. And there's another snack for you. And then lift this circle off of my board. Put it in the lower area of the bread, so you have like the two ears, and then this little mouth area. Get a couple blueberries. I think they sit better if you cut them in half. I'm gonna cut this blueberry. Put one for the nose, and then this other bit for an eye, and I need to cut one more for his other eye. Like so. Look how cute he is. And then I'm going to grab my hot dog slices for his little cheeks. Adorable! I'm going to show you one of my bento boxes. I've actually been collecting them since I'm working on a crochet book of bento box lunch creatures. So it comes with a lid, and also there's a plastic partition inside that's removable, washable, so you can adjust it according to the size of the food you're organizing. It also helps to separate more wet items, like fruit slices, from more dry items like your sandwich. Also ideally you would line these with lettuce, because it helps all the food in place while it's traveling. But we don't have any lettuce today, so my food's going straight in the bento. I'm going to be putting raspberries on this side of my box. It's what we happen to have. You can also throw some chocolate chips in there. There are really cute food picks that you can buy that have little cute faces on them so you don't have to use your fingers to eat your berries. You can just use these little picks and put the picks in the box. Look how adorable that is! And the more you put in your bento box, the less things will shift around, so the art of the bento is also, you would fill this space in with lettuce, and you might have a little container with mustard or something. You try to fill in the space so things don't shift around. So then you would just put on a lid, and you'd be ready to go. In case you wanted to check out what some of my crocheted bento looks like, here is a sandwich that I crocheted that looks like a little puppy dog. So he has, similar to my real sandwich, with cheese and a meat, and he has like ham for cheeks and cut out bread crusts for ears and blueberries and a little veggie section here. For the crocheters who are curious. I hope you're able to take a few moments out of your day to make your next sandwich extra special. I know that whoever gets to eat it will also appreciate it and be delightfully surprised. Since the person who gets to eat it is me, I'm all alone today, that's double the fun for me.

Day 3 - Mini Rainbow Yarn Banner

- Right now is a great time to find a way to bring a little bit of sunshine into your house, but also to share that with others. And so a lot of people have been putting rainbows in various forms in their

windows. I'm gonna show you how to take the traditional yarn banner that we did many, many years ago, that you all love and have maybe made for your own homes, and how to do a miniature version that you can hang in the window or even wear outside. You can do this on a chopstick or skewer. I've got a skewer here, a takeout chopstick is perfect. A found twig from your yard or from one of your walks. This is a bamboo stir stick, like from a coffee shop, that I happen to have a few of, so that would also work really well. You're wanting to do something on a small scale, so pick something that fits the space that you want to hang it in, whether that be inside or in a window. I've got a bunch of these little bits of yarn. This is wool, but you can use anything. Just pick colors that you like, or what you happen to have lying around. You can really interpret the rainbow as literally or as imaginatively as you choose. And I'm gonna pull out probably about a yard or two of each of my colors. (scissors snip) And then I just kind of measure it by going around my elbow, back into my hand. So I'm gonna do that off-camera 'cause it's kind of hard to tell from here. It's only gonna wrap around a couple of times, because you're not using a ton, 'cause remember, these are mini yarn banners. I'm gonna snip that at the top with my scissors and at the bottom of my loop. So I should wind up with something that's about 12 inches long, and you can see I've got my other colors here. And I like to lay things out so that the assembly for this comes together really quickly. And you can rearrange your colors and it can be, like I said, as traditional or as imaginative a rainbow as you like. I think I want to go mini mini, so I like this tiny coffee stir stick, like I said, a take-out chopstick would be really nice, too. And there are a few different ways to do the yarn banner. I'm gonna do a no-glue way, so this is pretty easy. Take your yarn and loop it in half like that. You're gonna want to put your post or branch or chopstick just over that, and then you're gonna open up this loop. And with your two fingers, grab the two bits of yarn and just pull them through. And you can kind of adjust it and even it up. And you wind up with one side that has, like, this little V, and the other side, it also has a V, but it also has this little, it reminds me of like a purl bump, if you do knitting. That's sort of what it reminds me of. So they don't have to be consistent. I try to remember that I'm always bringing my yarn from the back over the stick and pulling through with my two fingers. And this wool yarn's a bit sticky, which is why it doesn't look as smooth. But it actually starts to go quickly if you're not filming. And don't worry about different lengths at the bottom. Because I like to give my banner a little trim when I'm all done. And if things rotate as you're working, don't worry about that either, 'cause you can always just pull and realign everything and get it to look nice, neat, and tidy. And you'll have an opportunity to do that at the very end, anyway. So you can kinda place it on the table if that helps. And you can play with different thicknesses of yarn, if you're working with like acrylics, synthetics, natural fibers like this wool. I like to have some traditional colors, like this red, but also some vibrant, sort of clashing colors, if you will, in neons, like a neon yellow. I've got kind of a chartreuse color that's gonna come up, of course I've got my neon pink, 'cause I love my neon pink. And it starts to go really fast, once you kind of get the hang of it. And I'm just gonna kind of continue placing my yarn onto the stick here and kind of adjusting as I go, and then when we've gotten all of our yarn on there, we'll give it a little trim. So we'll just move these out of the way, 'cause we've finished with those colors. And I'm on to my peachy coral, a little bit of chartreuse, and a little bit of mint. And it might be easier to see if you've forgotten, but I do a loop on the backside of whatever my chopstick or skewer is, pull those two ends through, and tighten down. If I had something that was really off, let's say I grabbed this and it was, like, nuts, and I pull it through, and I don't like it, 'cause this is really short and this is really long, I'm most likely gonna trim this anyway, but if you don't like it, what you can do is just loosen this loop and then pull on the short side until they're more even. And then you're good to go. So fill up your skewer, chopstick,

found stick or branch, whatever you're working on, until you've got your rainbow. Remember, your rainbow can be as imaginative in its color palette or as realistic as you like. If you're working on something that's really slippery, you can put knots here, washi tape, a little bit of glue, if you're afraid your yarn's gonna come off. We're gonna actually add a hanger. I think that will do the job of preventing this from coming off, so I just have one of my bits of yarn wool here, and we're just gonna do a double knot on each end to create a hanger. I don't need a really long hanger, 'cause it's just gonna go in the window. So two overhand knots, same thing on this end. And you can give that a little trim. (scissors snip) (scissors snip) So there is your mini rainbow yarn banner to hang in the window. Now you can leave it kind of wild, which I like, I think that's fun. But you can also give it a little bit of trim, if you want to have it be a little more graphic. And I just like to do that flat, or if I was doing this just for some wall decor, I would do it on the wall. So with a sharp pair of scissors come in, give this a trim. (scissors snip) You can save these little bits in a jar, 'cause who knows when you might need some rainbow confetti yarn. (scissors snip) It doesn't have to be super perfect or razor-sharp. That's, I like that, that's good enough. I think that's super cute. Now with your leftover bits that are maybe two inches, you can do a really tiny one on a safety pin, which is what I did here. My niece, who's almost nine, she's been making little handmade gifts and dropping them off in her friends' mailboxes when they go on walks. So that could be a nice little thing. If you're out on a walk, we can't see people's faces right now because we're wearing masks, and so this is nice. You can put it on your clothes and it's nice and cheery. These little rainbows are just a nice reminder that there are better days ahead.

Day 4 - Craft a Celebration Crown

- Everything's looking a little bit different now and that includes celebrating. We're not getting together and having parties anymore but we are driving by people's houses and honking a lot, or getting together on Zoom or FaceTime or some other video conferencing software. And just because we are not all together doesn't mean we can't wear festive attire, especially if you're on a video call. You only have to worry about the neck up. So today we're going to make a celebration crown using cardboard and paint. Now if you are looking for something to celebrate, go to nationaldaycalendar.com and that will show you what national day it is. So for example, the day we're filming is national Arbor Day, but it's also national Pigs in a Blanket Day. So why not whip up a crown and celebrate around the dinner table national Zucchini Fritter Day? I made that up, but that might be a day. We'll look into it. You'll need some acrylic paints, glue stick or tape. You'll need a length of fabric or ribbon that's at least 30 inches long. And of course you'll need some cardboard. I'm using a freezer box. Pro tip, if there's still food inside, cut out the part that has the directions and stick it on those waffles. One time we had a fundraiser in my elementary school where if you brought in the labels for the cans you would get some bonus points. So my sister took all the labels off of all the cans and then we didn't know what was inside. But it was a fun surprise when we did figure it out. So you'll take your box, and any lightweight cardboard box works great for this. I'm gonna cut off one of the tabs, but I'm not gonna cut off both. I'm going to keep this so that when I fold it over it's a nice soft edge. Sometimes this edge can feel a little sharp, especially if you're putting it on a little kid or a baby. We're gonna cut off the top, and I like to paint first and then cut. And we're just gonna do a hodge podge of colors. Of course you can take this as seriously as you'd like and use a paint brush. Who has time to clean brushes with all the dishes we're doing? Of course this is a great craft for kids, but I think adults will have a blast doing it as well. I think for this style crown scrappy is better. Think more *Where the Wild Things Are* and not so much *Queen Elizabeth*.

You're going to want to wait for this to dry before moving on to the next step. Also, clean off your hands or wipe them on your painting dropts, cause that's what I'm wearing. Once we have our finished cardboard, we're gonna fold under the edge. And we're gonna poke a hole about a half inch in and up, a half inch in and up. You might want to use a hole punch for this. You can punch through the first side and then the second side if it's not going easily. This is the stuff that will be good to have grown up assistance. My grown ups are all out of the house so I'm gonna have to do it on my own. Be careful with this tip. You're stabbing it through with very sharp scissors. Next we're gonna cut a length of ribbon that goes around our head. Let's see, with this is how much I have to tie it. It would be better if it was a little bit longer. But as long as you can get it tied, that's fine. And we're going to go out through these holes. And you might discover as you're trying to do it that your hole needs to be a little bit wider. Rolling it up. Roll up a corner to make it a little bit more pokey. That one's not big enough either. Just using the scissors to help push it through. And then we have an idea of where this will sit on the face. Then we need tall spikey points. Another good thing about having adjustable length instead of making a crown that goes all the way around your head is that this can be used for many different sized heads. So go ahead and just tie it on. I have no idea what this looks like. Yes I do, it looks fabulous. Honestly, where's my mirror? That's so festive. Now go ahead and make that video call, and celebrate!

Day 5 - Correspondence Kit

- We're all trying to find new ways to stay connected, for you that might be dropping off a care package to a friend, or an extra-long phone call in the evening. For me, I like to send mail through the USPS. Could be a quick postcard, or sometimes I'll put a drawing in a letter and send it off to somebody who might be just a few blocks away, or someone who's on the other side of the world. It's also good to keep the post office busy, because from time to time they're in trouble (laughs). And one of the good things that you can do is send letters and postcards. So I was gonna share with you some of my favorite little things that I keep in a box some cards, these have some really nice summery feels to them, since people can't be outside right now as much. Postcards, special paper, that I might wanna slip in. I love this, this is a John Derian postcard of a vintage image, and you can see his little pantaloons are a heart. Envelopes, you wanna make sure, certain envelopes are not gonna be mailable, this is an envelope for Japan, the size I think is okay to mail, you can't do anything smaller than three and a half by five inches in the mail. At a normal postcard rate. I love this illustrator, Aiko Fukawa, sometimes I'll write a little note and slip that in. I've got stickers in here, of course, washi tape, if you haven't used washi tape before, this is one of my most favorite things to use, it's a low-tack decorative tape, great for correspondence and mail art. I really like Strathmore writing paper but I tend to collect writing paper, stationary paper from any place I go, I like unusual colors. So I just have as much as I can possibly pack in here. Now, I have a desk of course that I can use as a writing surface, but you can also, this box can also be a writing surface, 'cause it's wooden. And you probably can't see just yet, but the top of this box, this is meant for correspondence, or to be sort of a tabletop desk, I have my favorite pens and pencils, and my stamps. So let me share some of my stamps with you. You can also use vintage stamps, as long as they haven't been canceled and they're U.S. stamps. So sometimes you can find those at Face Value online. These are all new stamps. I have a lot of friends that live abroad so this is a global stamp, they're forever stamps. If you're mailing a postcard, or a piece of mail it's the same stamp; you don't get a reduced postcard rate for global. If you're doing postcards in the U.S. you do get a reduced rate. They also have a size limitation, I believe five by seven is the largest at a postcard rate and you can see these

are postcard stamps, they say on them. I like to buy the forever stamps in different styles this is a really pretty one of florals that came out last year and of course Andrew Wyeth who's one of my favorite painters they had a whole set of his, and you can see they're my beloved stamps, I've used a lot of them. I like to just keep a few tucked here. I also, when we're not in sheltering times, keep bunch of stamps in my wallet so I can send a little note or postcard whenever I'm out and about. So why don't we just write a little postcard to a friend? This is a Japanese artist you can also alter postcards if you wanted to add something in here. What else do I have? Got some fun international envelopes tucked in here. You can use an old cigar box, a shoe box, Tupperware, whatever you have that works for keeping all your little treasure stuff together. So it looks like I had started writing this postcard, it says I was in Atlanta for work. That would have been with Creativebug also obviously. And that would have been probably last year or the year before. So maybe I'll just write this one, a new one. I'm gonna cross this out, and write, "No longer in Atlanta, saying hello from home," you can see my handwriting is a little bit illegible but hopefully my friends can decipher it. "Missing you and wishing you were here as you would have been!" This is going to go to my friend Alicia who lives in Paris, she would have been here for a trip, but now we have to reschedule. Because it's international, I need to leave a pretty large place for the address, and a lot of postcards, especially international ones, this bottom, like, three-quarters of an inch also gets covered by postal notifications, sometimes there's a sticker, sometimes a cancellation happens here as well as on the stamp, so you may not want to write all the way to the bottom. Let's see what else I wanna write. So, I wrote, "No longer in Atlanta," she was actually just there for work too. "Saying hello from home, missing you and wishing you were here as you would have been, loving your Spring posts on Insta." A lot of us are staying connected via Instagram. "Love, C" I do a lot of C, just C. So I know this is going to Alicia in France, you do the last name in all caps, followed by the first name, and then I'll add her address. And I don't want to forget to do a stamp. So like I mentioned, this requires a global stamp a postcard and just a regular letter require just the same amount of postage if you're gonna do something globally. So that's super easy, I can do that in 30 seconds and just reach out to a friend and try to connect via the USPS, which is how we're all trying to stay connected right now, in any little way that we can. Writing mail and having some correspondence to sit down at the end of the day actually really calms me, I get to use some of my fun little stickers and paper ephemera, I can put a bit of washi tape on this, like I mentioned it might get covered up, but if you wanna add something pretty, you can. Maybe we'll tear that down and put it just in this little space here. Yep. Gather all your favorite little bits of ephemera, tape, if you have mark-making papers that you wanna cut it into postcards, you can do that, be sure to check online for postcard and letter sizes anything under 13 ounces can go straight into the mailbox as long as it is a kinda traditional letter or postcard form. Anything that's an unusual shape will need to be taken to the post office if it needs to be hand-canceled. And they require extra postage. One also thing to note, is if you're mailing something square, it also requires extra postage, even if it's just a card or a postcard, because square has no orientation, they can't just run it through a sorting machine so that will require extra postage as well. Stay connected by writing letters and notes to your friends and keep the USPS open! Take care.

Day 6 - Crocheted Garland

- If you've been looking for fun ways to bring the outdoors indoors, I have a quick and easy crochet tutorial for you. It's this ultra-cute mini leaf garland. You might be wondering, what the heck am I gonna do with this mini leaf garland, but it's actually quite versatile. You can decorate your home

with it, you can decorate yourself with it. I think it's super cute as a flower crown if you have some flower hair clips or even real flowers out in your garden. I've been using them to decorate greeting cards to send just thinking of you notes to friends. So you can think of a lot of ways to use your garland and once you get the pattern down for a single leaf you can just sit in front of the TV, watch your favorite movie and make as short or as long of a garland as you wish. I originally developed this pattern to be very small because I'm working on a crocheted cake and I wanted a pattern to mimic sort of piped frosting that looks like little leaves. So I find that's actually a really good size for my greeting card embellishments as well. So I will be using a light worsted weight yarn, this is Cascade 220, and I'm going to also be using, what is this? A G hook. (chuckling) You can use whatever hook and yarn you have as long as they're the right size for each other. And if you're very new to crocheting and you're not sure what size hook to get, the piece of paper or ball band around your ball of yarn will indicate a suggested size for a crochet hook. Then you just need a pair of scissors and you're ready to go. Start by putting a slipknot on your crochet hook. If you're a super beginner and very new to crochet, I would suggest taking one of our beginning crochet classes here on Creativebug. This pattern is pretty easy and quick if you're familiar with crochet but if you're a newbie, holding the yarn and holding the hook might be a little tricky for this pattern so if you're new, be patient with yourself. If you're old hat then this is just going to be a really fun, quick, easy project. So after you put your slipknot on you're gonna give yourself a couple chains, this number of chains doesn't really matter but to keep the pattern regular and uniform I will start with chaining six. So to chain you yarn over and pull through one loop. And that is one chain. There's two, three, four, five and six. You're going to begin your leaf by skipping the first chain from your hook, inserting your hook into the second chain and also, normally, when I work in my foundation chain I only pick up one loop, but your leaf will turn out a little more neat if you work in two loops of the foundation chain. And I know that's normal for some people, it's just a little irregular for me and took me a little bit of getting used to. You can see that I have three loops total on my hook. So to create the first single crochet, you wanna yarn over and pull through your foundation chain. Yarn over and pull through two loops, that's one single crochet stitch and that is one side of our leaf. You're going to chain two, one, two, you're now creating a picot stitch, P I C O T, and that's going to create a nice, pointy tip for our leaf. So you skip the first chain from your hook and you're going to work a slip stitch into the second chain from your hook. So insert your hook into that chain, yarn over and pull through all these loops. And you can pull that pretty tightly because you won't be working in that stitch again. And to finish the second side of your leaf, you're going to work back into the original foundation chain that you worked your first single crochet stitch in. And so you're going to work a double crochet stitch into that same stitch. So a double crochet is yarn over, insert your hook into the stitch, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, pull through two, yarn over and pull through two again. And that is a double crochet stitch. And you will also be working a slip stitch all into the same stitch to complete your leaf. Look how cute and adorable it is! I'm gonna show you a couple more at a slightly faster pace. So how many chains you make between each leaf is up to you, I've been doing six, I like the look of it. So you can either do that or experiment. One, two, three, four, five, six. Skip the first chain, insert my hook into the second chain, picking up two loops of the chain, work my single crochet, and then I'm gonna chain two. One, two. Skip the first chain, slip stitch into the second to create my picot. Then double crochet back into that same foundation chain. Double crochet and then slip stitch back into that same foundation chain. And there's my second leaf. I'll do one more. One, two, three, four, five, six chains. Skip the first chain, insert your hook into the second chain, two loops. There's your single crochet. Then my picot, chain two, skip the first chain, slip

stitch into the second one and pull tight. And then double crochet back into that same stitch as your first single crochet. That's a double crochet and then a slip stitch in the same stitch as well to close up your leaf. And to finish off you would probably just, you know, chain five more or chain however much you think looks good. Then you would just break it off. And to finish your project you would yarn over, oops, yarn over and pull the tail all the way through. So you can see what's cool about this project is you don't have to chain a certain length first and then work on your leaves, you don't have to guess how much chaining you need to do, you can just dig right in there and go for as long or as short as you want. Here's the little greeting card I was telling you about earlier, it's the same weight of yarn that I was crocheting with just now. I used two short lengths of garland that were five leaves long each. You can use a leaf as a unit of measurement. I attached it to the card simply with a little dot of hot glue, there was a small dot up here and a small dot down here and I just trimmed the yarn tail off because the glue will hold our knots together also. And then there's one tiny dot of glue under the center leaf. I had these really cute paper flowers just laying around the house so I hot glued those too. This does kind of have a retro, vintage, granny vibe to it which I am totally down for, but if you want to switch up the aesthetic you can experiment with maybe gold yarn or a neutral-toned yarn for your garland and like a neutral greeting card. So you have some options. Just for size reference you can also see the difference in size between using a more bulky weight yarn, which for some reason is getting a little unruly. And then this is the little garland that we just crocheted together today. Slightly different looks. Here's the original garland that I crocheted for my giant crocheted cake, just so you can get an idea of where this project came from. Who wants to have a flower crown Zoom meeting right now? Can we Zoom?

Day 7 - Sew a Beanbag

- We'll be using a scrap of fabric and a pantry staple to make a beanbag. You'll need two pieces of fabric that are five inches square, a length of embroidery floss about 30 inches long, a piece of paper and some tape to make yourself a little funnel, and of course, about a third of a cup of rice or beans, some kind of legume. And don't use something that you're currently cooking with. Maybe someone has a recipe planned and you don't want to rob them of their rice. But this is for, you know, that bag of beans in the back of the pantry that everyone has forgotten about. You also need a ruler and a butter knife if you want to make yourself a nice, crisp sewing line. So we're gonna be sewing a half an inch from the edge. And when you rub it with the butter knife, it'll burnish, and you do it pretty firmly, and it'll make a crease. And that'll help us have a really crisp line for sewing. Gonna repeat this all the way around my squares. And we're going to start at one edge, about an inch and a half in. We're going to sew all the way around and leave an opening and then finish sewing, and you don't want that opening to be on the corner. It just ends up making it look a little less crisp. And we want the crispest of beanbags. Tie a double knot. And then we'll come up about an inch and a half from the edge. And we're going to be working a backstitch, down and up. And we're going to go back down, connecting these two stitches, and go up next to the stitch. So we're just looping backwards. This creates a really nice seam. And this is a good opportunity to practice your sewing. You can also make this with a scrap of embroidery. Or you can, instead of using rice and beans and throwing the bag around, you can put dried herbs in it. Like lavender would be really lovely and then, it makes a really nice gift. A tiny little lavender pillow. We're going to continue working all the way around, keeping our stitches nice and tiny. If you are using something like rice, you'll want extra tiny stitches, but if you're using beans, your stitches don't need to be as small. And when you've gone all the way around, leaving a inch and a half opening, it should look like this. Take

off your needle for safety purposes. And you'll make yourself a little cone with the opening about the size of a nickel. You're gonna tape that. And we'll use this as funnel to fill our rice. Now you might think you don't need a funnel, and that's when you pour rice all over the whole floor that you've stolen from a recipe that someone else was trying to make later. And so really, you're just not making any friends in your house that day. Use the funnel, save your marriage. And we don't want the rice to go all the way to the top. We want it to fill up about just over halfway so that it creates a satisfying slap when it lands on a surface. We're gonna thread our needle back. And this part is not as tricky as it might seem. As long as your rice is resting down and you're holding this at a bit of an angle, you should have no problems closing that up. And we only have one stitch left. We go in. And we're closing up our line. So you'll just go in through one of the layers. And then we'll knot around our previous stitch. Move your needle around. And loop through two times to make a double knot. And then you'll trim that. And this is where the real fun begins. We make a whole bunch of beanbags. What do you do with the beanbags? You could make a cardboard corn hole set. Throw them around the backyard. Play a little game of catch. Set up some pots and throw them into the pots. I would suggest trying to teach yourself how to juggle. Haven't done this in a long time. Oh, oh! Not bad.

Day 8 - Create a Matchbox Collection

- I love tiny treasure, and even more I love boxes that contain collections of treasures. I'm gonna show you how to take a simple matchbox, and add a few little items from your walks outdoors or reminders of places that you love to visit. One of the things that I like to make from time to time is a little matchbox alter or collection keepsake. These are just regular matchboxes I have at the house. You can do a big matchbox like this. Or you can do a smaller one like this which is what I'm gonna do. So you'll need at least one matchbox. You can remove the matches and save those. And this is actually a really cute graphic. You could already had a treasure in here, but we're gonna actually change it up a little bit. So you'll also need either collaging materials, so paper and a glue stick, or I just like to use washi tape because it's so easy. I don't even have to cut it. I can just tear it. I'm not gonna cover the inside. I'm just gonna cover the outside. And if you make any mistakes, you can trim away or replace. You can peel it up and replace it, just because washi tape allows you to do that. The back of this is nice too. You could write something here. I'm just gonna cover this whole thing. And I don't have to be precise. I could also go like this. Tuck those under. Trim this a little bit. So if I wanna cover that, I can peel this up again, and sort of reposition it. That's the nice thing about washi tape. It's very very forgiving. Use this little piece. You can see that it's slightly transparent so you may have to layer a bit on here. I like building up the layers like this. I also like torn bits with cut bits. This is something that's really easy for kids to do too. Although kids love tape so you might wanna ration your precious washi tape. Okay, I'm liking that sort of loose patchwork. Now the inside I can leave as is. I could paint it with acrylic paint, I could draw on it with markers. You can also take like a magazine page or a photograph and just place it on the inside. So I might do that. I'm thinking about what I wanna put in this little treasure box. And I want things that remind me of the outside, of places that I can't visit right now, but I probably will visit soon. So I have this photo of these blooming flowers. And what I'm gonna do is just trace using a pencil all the way around. This is just gonna be loose because I want this actually to be cut slightly smaller so it fits inside. You can see I went off a little bit there. That's fine. We are not going for perfection. And I can see if that's gonna fit, oh. Yeah, it's a little snug which is nice. The tension's gonna keep it in place. I don't even have to use any adhesive. And just with my finger, I'm kinda creasing against that last little bit. So you can

already see. You could leave it like that. You could add a little word or a picture. I'm gonna actually fill this tiny tray with things from outside that I love. So I love it when hydrangeas turn and become spotty. I think that's so pretty. These are obviously things that I've had and pressed. But you can also collect things if you're out in nature and you're on a walk that you wanna put in here. I have some shells from previous beach visits. I'm not going to the beach right now. But I miss it. I also have these really bizarre looking seeds that I love. They're sort of a coraly pink with black on the inside. I have no idea what kind of, it was definitely like a tree or something. I remember walking and they were just kind of hanging off these little blooms. If anybody knows what they are, let me know. I've got a straw flower, an acorn button, a pressed pansy. I love pansies. You can put little cutout things. This is a sticker of an eye. I got some faux flowers that match my color scheme, but I think I wanna put a shell in here and maybe a couple of these really cool seeds. And then these is just a little thing I could just have it on a shelf, take a look at it when I'm feeling like, oh, I wanna be outside in some of my favorite places that I can't visit right now. This is a nice little reminder. But you can fill your matchbook or matchbox little alter with anything that you like that helps you feel calm and inspired. I wanna share with you some really special matchbook art and another one of these little alters I made. This also is washi tape, using a similar size matchbox. And you can see this says, outside. I wanna go outside. It has some pine needles in there, these beautiful little seeds that look like little fairies. This little seed. So you can really fill, oh, and I put reflective origami paper in there 'cause I like that. You can fill your little matchbox alter with anything. I did a show with a friend, Alisha, we curated a show and hundreds of artists submitted work made out of matchboxes and matchbooks so I wanted to show some of those. This is by Ally May Kiphuth. And this is the most magical. She painted this beautiful forest, and there are these tiny little strung lights inside of that, just spectacular. This is Sarah Gwendin's work. I think she's based in Colorado. And this is day and night. Cute little cutout houses. So if you wanna use your matchbox like a little diorama, you could do that too and create a little paper cut scene inside. This is using a matchbook. And I forget this artist's name. She's in Spain, but she actually whittled down every single matchstick to make it look like a colored pencil. She hand painted these. And this is like a composition kind of set. So here is the drawing. It says (speaking in foreign language) which means matches in French. And this goes inside. And I taped these together so they wouldn't come apart, but they were individual before. Such a beautiful piece. So collect things that remind you of your favorite times, your favorite places to visit. Maybe some inspiring words or images, and transform a tiny little matchbox into an alter or little treasure keeper for all of these tiny precious things.

Day 9 - Eyeball Bombing

- Our project for today couldn't be any more simple or any more silly. We're going to be making googly eyes. You'll need paper and a Sharpie marker and double-sided artist tape or who knows, permanent glue, if you want something to have goggly eyes forever, for the rest of its lifetime. Let's get started. You can use a coin to trace around, though, when you cut it out, it's gonna end up being a little wonky anyway. I have a nickel here. Gonna trace around our nickel. And then we're gonna color in the pupil after we've cut it out, because like I said, gets a little wonky when you cut it. And googly eyes are instant mood enhancers. The wildest bachelorette party I ever went to, there was a huge pack of googly eyes, and when we woke up in the morning, there were googly eyes all over the whole house. They were in the butter. They were on the orange soda. So the reason why we're making googly eyes is to put on things, anything you can physically get your hands on. Could try it on cats even. Maybe not sleeping babies, unless you want them to be awake babies who are mad at

you. Once we have cut out our googly eyes, we're gonna draw on some pupils. We can draw big pupils, we can draw little pupils, we can draw them in the center, we can draw them on the sides. Really, this is quite the open-ended prompt. And once you've filled in your pupils, you're going to want to take some tape, unless you wanna permanently glue your googly eyes to something. I have no objections to that either. And if you're going to be taking these out into the world, maybe attaching some giant googly eyes to a telephone pole, a wall with a crack and you can use the crack as a smile, then you're gonna want bigger pieces of tape, maybe duct tape instead of artist's tape. Make sure you put the tape on the side that doesn't have the pupil on it, my mistake. And then you can go to town sticking them to whatever you want. It'll make you smile and it will almost definitely make the people you live with smile.

Day 10 - Confetti Bowl

- There are a million and one ways to get creative with just paper and glue. I also really like projects that not only look great sitting on the shelf, but they're also doing some work while they're there. Let's make a DIY confetti bowl. You can use a range of materials from that sparkly, shiny Mylar confetti to just round paper, construction paper confetti. I'll be using tissue paper and a pair of scissors to cut the tissue paper into small irregular shapes. You could also try this with fabric scraps, pieces of magazine or newspaper. I've even tried this with yarn. I made yarn-fetti and I did make a yarn-fetti bowl, which I'll show you later. You'll also need Mod Podge. I happen to have outdoor Mod Podge, but you can use whatever you've got. I would caution against using sparkle Mod Podge. With a couple of layers, it ends up being super sparkly and might detract from your confetti. You'll also need a balloon that provides the shape and structure for your confetti bowl, again, a pair of scissors, a paint brush or a foam brush. You can optionally use glitter or sequins at the end for a little bit of sparkle, and finally, some duct tape. Grab a couple sheets of tissue paper. Take your scissors and cut a strip of tissue paper. Grab your bowl and just start chopping away in different angles to create tiny little bits. If you want a more regular look to your confetti, you could certainly also cut small rectangles. There are a lot of different options. After slicing up a couple different colors, I also like to go back in the bowl with my scissor and chop everything up a little bit more. It just makes it easier for me to sprinkle. But if you like the look of larger pieces of paper, then stick with that. It's messy. This is a messy project. You're gonna get messy. It's probably a good idea to cover your work surface with some sort of paper. Mod Podge and confetti is going to get everywhere. That's a guarantee. Grab your balloon. And I actually hate blowing up balloons. It makes my mouth feel weird, so if you have a helper who loves blowing up balloons, that's great. If you don't have a helper and you have a pump, get one. It's life changing. The size of your ball is going to be whatever size the top of your balloon is. I'm not gonna go too large today just for the sake of this class, but you can feel free to blow this up to its maximum size. Make a knot. This is where your duct tape trick comes in. You can use your duct tape roll to stabilize your project while you're working on it so your hands don't get as gluey. Plus, this is something you can't do if you're just using a bowl or a glass. You don't need that much, just a little bit. Place your balloon onto it. And at the bottom, tug on the tail and duct tape the tail to the side of your duct tape roll. Now your balloon is secure. It is at a slight angle, but I think for this fun bowl, that slight angle is okay. Grab your Mod Podge and your foam brush or your paintbrush. Give this a pretty thick coat. If you don't have Mod Podge, you can also use white glue, and paint to maybe a third of the way down the balloon, however deep you want your bowl. And it doesn't matter how clean or messy your edge is here because you can trim it after it's dry. Just gonna make sure that I don't have any spots that I

missed. That looks pretty good. Get your confetti. Some people like the dip method. I'd be careful with that because if your Mod Podge starts getting into your pile of confetti, your confetti is going to get clumpy. I prefer the sprinkle or just the smush method. I'm sure those are exactly the technical terms for it. Just sprinkle some of your confetti on. This is the part that's ultra messy, but it's also fun and it feels like a party. Get good coverage. You can also press it on as you go to make sure that your confetti is making good contact with the balloon and the icky stuff, but I'd tap it gently. Wanna be gentle, you don't wanna wipe your glue right off the balloon. Okay. It's looking a little crazy right now, but that's okay. This is just the first layer. So you wanna gently shake off any excess. That's good, but don't shake too hard because you do want these pieces of tissue paper to stay put and stick on here. Confession, you probably can't complete this project in a 15 to 30-minute setting. You do need some dry time, and you do need several layers, but that's okay. Each time you come back to add another layer, it's really just two or three minutes of your time. I've waited about 30 minutes for this to get a little bit dry. There are some spots that are still white, but I'm getting a little impatient and I want to throw on my second layer. Grab your Mod Podge again. I wanna try to reduce as much confetti as possible, pulling up on my brush and making the whole thing really clumpy, but it looks like there's some pretty good grab here. Not a lot is coming off, so we'll see what happens. This is the part where you might want to start experimenting with different brushes. This is kind of pulling up a lot of confetti, so I might switch to a brush and use more of a patting and packing down motion. This is much more smooth. You can go up to four layers, six layers of paper. It's just how thick you want your bowl to be, but after you do your couple layers of confetti, I would give it two or three more top coats of just Mod Podge for extra durability. So while you can have a confetti bowl party, if you want a really good solid bowl, this may take a couple of days. But again, it's really low commitment for each day. We're ready for more confetti. If I see any open and wet spots of Mod Podge, I'm being very particular about making sure I pat some confetti there. You really wanna make sure at this point that you're getting full coverage on your balloon. Shake it gently. We can reshake it after this layer is dry. I just wanna try to make less of a mess on my table if possible, gentle shaking. And we'll let this dry for another 30 minutes. Now I'm ready for layer three. Give this another 30 minutes to dry. After this third layer dries, I'm gonna go ahead and apply another fourth layer of Mod Podge and then paper confetti, and then we'll talk about our final protective coats. My fourth layer of confetti and Mod Podge is now dry, and I feel like I have a good amount of paper on my bowl, so I'm going to be done with the confetti for now and proceed to put a couple of protective layers of just Mod Podge. How many layers you end up doing is kind of up to you. I think you should at least put one to smooth down this crazy paper texture, but I feel more confident giving two or three protective coats of Mod Podge. So I'm gonna leave that in your hands, depending on what patience you're having with this project, how much spare time you have, but definitely give it one go. So you can see this project can really go on for as long or as short as you want, just depending on how much decoration you wanna get on here, how thick you want your bowl. The more layers you add, just the thicker your bowl gets and the less sort of bendy, thin, and flexible it will be. So it's all up to you. Since this was just a Mod Podge layer, I'm gonna give it maybe 20 minutes instead of a full 30 minutes to dry. We'll just wait for it to get a little bit tacky, and then I'll put on my second coat of protective sealer and then sprinkle on some glitter. My second layer of Mod Podge is still wet. Now it's glitter time. I don't want this to come out too clumpy, so I should have grabbed a bowl, but I'm gonna use my hand and lightly sprinkle some glitter. I don't wanna go overboard. That's just not the look I'm going for. I just wanna add a little bit of something. Kind of looks like a globe. Let this layer dry for about 20 minutes, 30 minutes, and then put one more layer

of protective Mod Podge. I'm not actually quite sure what the finish is on outdoor-- (doorbell rings) While this was drying, it looked a little bit like a satin finish. If you want something more glossy and you happen to have the gloss Mod Podge, I think I have a little bit left over, so I'll probably make my final layer a glossy one just so I'm not dulling the glitter that's underneath it. Let all of your layers dry overnight. If you have the patience, give it two nights, especially if you live in an environment like mine, which is cold and humid right now. Not ideal drying conditions. Mine is still feeling a little flexible, like it's still squeezable, but it does have sort of a hard shell if you tap on it. I don't know if you can hear that. (scissors tapping) It still sounds like it could be dry inside. I'm going to release my balloon from its duct tape holder. Just like that. And if you have kids, it could be really exciting to pop the balloon with a pin, or that could be exciting for grown-ups too. I am going to carefully release the air, especially since it might not be super 100% dry. So we'll slowly release, slowly release the air with snipping the tip. See, mine's not quite dry. It's still a little bit sticking. It's not quite pulling away from the edges. I'm not super concerned, though. I still have a lot of bowl surface here. So I'm just going to continue cutting the balloon free from the bowl, and hopefully we can get it to peel away from the bowl's surface. You can see the balloon peeling itself away from the inside. I don't know if you can see that on camera. (balloon pops) Ooh. If your bowl is perfectly dry, all of that will happen a little more quickly. So mine's surprisingly sticking to the bowl quite a bit, which is a bit odd and hasn't happened to my past bowls. I'm just going to keep trimming away at my balloon. Oops. It might have also been because the edge of my bowl had come up quite high on my balloon, so it's a little bit harder for the balloon to snap away. It's just stuck inside. There we go. You can see, it's the inner edge of the balloon that's acting like a rubber band and kind of holding the top of my bowl together. It's pinching my bowl together. I'm just gonna start trimming the top of my bowl, which we would do anyway to give it a smoother finish. You can see the bowl shape coming through here. I can feel that my bowl is a little bit more tacky to the touch. If this happens to you, it's not a big deal, but what I would do is, after trimming up the edge, or you don't even have to trim up the edge now, if your bowl still feels like it's a little soft, it's a little too squishy for your liking, I would let it keep drying. However, I would put it over a bowl or let it dry like this so that the weight of its own self doesn't flatten out the bottom too much. You don't wanna warp the shape. But ultimately you can see that we made a super cute confetti bowl. I wanted to show you guys this other balloon bowl that I have in progress. I just started it last night, so I'm really not ready to pop it just yet, but I used circle-shaped confetti. And this was an interesting process because you want to make sure all the shapes lay flat. So I had to lay each of these down one by one while I Mod Poded them. So it was definitely more labor intensive. This is six layers of confetti and then three layers of Mod Podge over that, and I'm gonna let this chill out for maybe another day or two just to make sure it gets super dry inside. Apparently, it's quite humid here right now, so all my projects are a little squishier than I would like, but you work with what you got. So I'm excited to cut this one also because the big confetti shapes are creating a really cool line here, and instead of cutting my bowl straight across, when I trim it, I'm gonna follow along the shapes here. So if your confetti has larger shapes or you're using bigger strips of confetti than I made with my first bowl, you can also follow along that irregular edge, and it gives the edge of your bowl a little bit more fun. Here's the yarn-fetti bowl I mentioned earlier. I also used the sparkle Mod Podge, which was really a lot of sparkle, which I thought kind of took away from the look of the yarn, but it does add kind of a nice twinkle to the whole bowl. This eats up a lot of Mod Podge. This took up like a whole bottle of it just because the yarn is really thirsty. The cool thing about using yarn, though, is it's a thick layer so you don't need that many. This is just two yarn layers and then one extra protective coat of Mod Podge.

You can see it flattened out by itself because, again, my dry time here right now is unpredictable. So it was still a little wet, a little mushy after I took it off the balloon and then I laid it down like this to dry, so you can see if you don't want it to get this flat on the bottom, dry your almost-dried confetti bowls upside down so the weight of itself doesn't squish against the table, but if you like the flat bottom, that's handy too. Thought I would let you check that out. It has kind of a funky, lumpy texture. It's a fun project if you're a yarn person and you don't know what to do with your yarn scraps. But if you're not a yarn person, I don't know that I would suggest you run to the yarn store right now and grab yarn for this particular project. It was interesting. It's a little funky.

Day 11 - Geometric Stamping

- Sometimes the simplest shapes make really interesting patterns and images. We're gonna take whatever you have lying around the house as long as you're willing to put it into a stamp pad and see what kind of mark it makes. So I'm gonna be using the sides of erasers, some very simple geometric stamps I already have and even a cork or two. Play with ink colors as they layer on top of one another, and just use it as an excuse to play with geometrics. I love rubber stamps. I have hundreds of them, but sometimes the most simple shapes can create the most interesting patterns. So I've gathered up the most basic shape stamps I have. A regular circle, an irregular circle, a triangle. Some corks for some more circles, I've gotten a button here, maybe this can create some kind of interesting impression. And then I have just the erasers around my house that I could find. With this I can create interesting lines, so a few different sizes and if you have a larger eraser you can actually use like a paring knife or something to cut it into a different shape. Just taking off the edges here. Now the stamping is great for all ages, kids included but if you are going to use a knife to cut anything away that's definitely the adult's job. I'm working on a big stack of watercolor paper that has no texture because it's a hot press, you can also use cardboard, card stock, whatever you want. I've got some stamp pads here, just what I had lying around. A couple from Yellow Owl Workshop and a couple of these Color Block ones. I'm not sure if they still make these, I've had these forever. I also have water-based marker pens, these are brush marker pens by Koi from Sakura. But almost any marker pen that's not permanent will work, so if it's permanent, the ink will stick to your stamp and you won't be able to get it onto the paper but if it's water-based then you can actually use that to ink up your stamp. And we're just gonna start by playing, I'm gonna start with the pink. And I have baby wipes and paper towels here so that I can clean my stamps in between. You can see some of these stamp pads are not super clean and that's because the stamps did not get cleaned in between. So, I have lots of baby wipes 'cause I just had a baby. But if you don't have baby wipes you can use a wet towel. And I'm not making a pattern, like one pattern or one big abstract piece, I'm just playing and I might cut this up and turn it into postcards because this paper's pretty thick. I like things to overlap because then I can see what kind of colors I can make. Maybe this has two. So that darker blue by these two blues that kind of, that blue's really saturated so it's almost overtaking all of that pink. Don't really see a purple made there. Wipe that off. This little eraser I've been playing with and I'm just gonna use it to make lines, so we'll use this red. I like these ink pads because they're chalky. And they dry quickly. Ooh, I love that. I love that purple-y tone that comes from overlapping red and blue. I love, love, love that. And like I said if you have erasers that are used that you don't mind kinda sacrificing by getting ink on them, those soft organic shapes that happen just from using an eraser would be so cool. Let's try a cork. Now the cork's are gonna be harder to clean off, I used red with this earlier. So my green is not a true green and it's kind of a brownish color. We can try giving that a little baby wipe. There we go, a little bit

better. These are kinda fun, like this mossy lichen-y texture. Let me try this other cork. Oh yeah, I get a really different impression just by the natural way that the cork is shaped. Let's try this kinda gem shape that I cut. That happens, don't worry. You can just use your baby wipe. You probably will wind up with colored fingertips. A lot of rubber stamping ink is dye-based and so it will stain your hands a little bit but you're staying home, it's okay. Not gonna hurt you. Get a little bit of an interesting texture from the eraser. Erasers usually have kind of like a chalky dustiness to them so you may wanna wipe off your eraser before you use it for the first time. Ooh, I love that. It's really interesting. Kinda see that green showing through there. Let's do another one down here. And then let's use our markers. So again, water-based markers, this is a Koi coloring brush pen, get a little bit more texture. Because the ink from the marker kinda beads in unusual ways. That's fun, that plummy tone. And come back to our triangle here. Make sure he is really well wiped off. And so he's not still wet, the stamp's not still wet so I'll just kinda stamp it on this towel. (marker squeaks) Ooh, that's cool. Just even using primaries like, get a little red and blue, you can get some really interesting combos. All your kinda color theory still applies even with stamping because as things are transparent and overlap, you kinda get new mixes of colors. Hm, maybe there. So there's our primary. Yellow, yellow plus blue makes green, blue, blue plus red makes violet and then red. Let's try our button and see if we can get anything with that. You're not looking for a pretty button, you're looking for a button that has texture. This may or may not work. You can also glue buttons like onto a cork like this using hot glue or even double-sided tape to make it easier to stamp, but I'm just gonna try it as is. It looks like there'd be a lot of surface but actually when I'm running my marker over this there's just very, very, very little bit that's catching it which means we may not get very much. (laughs) I don't even know if you can see that. I basically got a tiny dot all the way around the outside plus one tiny dot in the middle. So not super effective, but that's fine. You can try other buttons if you have more in your collection. Let's go back to this red. I wanna see what this red does on top of that deep chalky blue. Oh, I love that. This might lead you just to find new color combinations that are interesting to you. Just trying another marker. (marker squeaks) So I'm using, I don't think I've used this one yet, this is a kind of perfect circle that came from a stamp set. I'm getting a lot of beading where the ink is kinda making unusual... Ooh, I love that. Unusual texture, so I'm gonna use some of that. That's really cool, I like how it looks over this green. (marker squeaks) Let me put that in a few places. It looks like a little earth! That's so cool. So this is just telling me kind of what color combinations I am interested in, just kinda playing. You could turn these into little people, little houses, animals. It can become something or they can be just abstract. So you can see how just really simple shapes, a rectangle, a circle, a triangle and a sort of gem shape can be transformed. So, so fun! All right, I have to stop somewhere. Let you get to it. Make sure to clean up all your stamps. Think about things in your house that you can use to create basic stamp shapes. I have another one here that I did earlier using all of the same colors and techniques, just kind of in a different random pattern. So I got different effects with the cork and the stamps, the big gem tone stamp which had some little markings in it which was really cool. Experiment with what you have in your house to make the most simple shapes for your stamps, play with overlapping color using markers and stamp pads and see what you come up with.

Day 12 - Plant Faces

- Today's activity, today's activity is so simple, even a baby could do it, or maybe one that can hold a pen. She can't yet. We're going to make plant people. I don't know about you, but I have plants all over my house and I have even more plants than ever before because I have kitchen scraps on the

windowsill. We have here some celery leaves. We're going to use a piece of card stock and a Sharpie marker to give it a little face. You'll need a piece of paper that is tall enough to go around your jar. I'm using card stock, you're gonna want something a little bit firmer, and artist's tape to tape around the back of that. Isn't that right? We're going to doodle a little face. Here, the face is a little bit more, you know, emo, to match the hair. But this guy is totally shocked, so we're gonna give him a very shocked face. What do you think of that, Micah? He's gonna be so spooked. He doesn't know what's going on. Neither do you. Look at the little man. He's saying, "Uh oh." All right, now we have to tape. Actually. Maybe my helper is not as helpful as I previously thought. Okay, Micah, all you need to do is not, is (laughing), is not grab the celery. Can you do that? Here we go. Oh. We're almost there, we're almost, oh. (laughing) What do you think, boo boo? (laughing) Hey. I won, I won. Look at that spooked little man. Do this to all of your plants in your own house. It's so much fun.

Day 13 - Geometric Yarn Art

- It's pretty clear that I am a huge fan of yarn. I fancy myself a collector, some might use the h-word, hoarder, but an artist requires materials to work with. I'm a crochet designer at heart, but I do like to try to think of my favorite material in different ways. I'm also a huge admirer of beautiful tapestries created with techniques like weaving, tufting, and punch needle. But, in this moment, I probably don't have any of those materials, so I know that I can recreate a fun faux tapestry with just yarn, glue, and canvas. This might seem like a familiar project, it's maybe something you did when you were in kindergarten or preschool, but that's also what I really love about this type of project. It's something that your whole household can enjoy, and I'm going to try to elevate it a little bit, just a little, by using geometric shapes. I think that'll give it more of a modern feel. But if you wanna stick with fun landscapes or maybe even try out portrait, you can pretty much create whatever layout you want. The other thing that I really like about this project is if you're a yarn lover, you might be keeping some really special yarns, because you're just not sure about the perfect project to use it for, and since these little tapestries only take a couple yards of yarn, you can break out all your favorites to create something really special. To get started, grab some of your favorite yarn. If you can, I suggest using a bulky or chunky weight yarn, it'll just help you cover more territory more quickly. You'll also need a small canvas. If you don't have canvas, you can use a piece of cardboard, or a shoebox, or basically whatever you have around that you want to cover in beautiful yarn. You'll need some tacky glue. I'm sure you can use other forms of white glue, I happen to have tacky glue, so I'll be using that. A paintbrush to apply the glue. A pencil to draw out your design on the canvas first. You could use a ruler, or a straight edge, if you wanted to get really precise with your lines. But I feel like yarn in itself, glued to a canvas, is not that precise, so I'm not going to stress too much about the straightness of my lines. You'll also need a pair of scissors to cut your yarn. And then a small dish for your glue. And decide which way you want to orient your canvas. I think I like the look of doing this vertically just for when I end up hanging this on a wall, because it's going to be so gorgeous, and I'm not gonna stress too much about sketching this out. I'm just gonna kinda go with the flow, keep the shapes pretty big. You can get as intricate as you want, but I'm gonna stay pretty big and bold, and I really have no idea how this is gonna turn out. But that's the exciting part of it, so who knows. So, I'm just gonna start making some bold lines here. It's also very freeing because I tend to be a perfectionist, and typically I would probably lay all of this out in Photoshop first, but I'm just gonna try to be free with it, and let it surprise me, see what happens. Gosh, I don't know what will happen. Let's see, maybe I'll mix it up with more of a vertical line here. The other decision you can make is whether or not you want to glue yarn to the edge. You can also leave this blank and

paint it later in a nice contrasting color. I think that for today, I will leave this just blank and maybe I'll paint it later, or maybe I'll throw it all in a frame. But if you want to extend your yarn and your design to the edges, I would make a mark for that, too. So I'm gonna mark the edge, but I probably won't be adding any glue to it at this moment. So you wanna take this line, and I'll take this vertically here. And then this line, and do this here. And then here. So I'll just give you a guide, so like if I fill this in with blue yarn, I know to extend my blue yarn all the way here, and also here. Next, you're just going to grab your container for your glue. I had no idea how old this was, (chuckles) or if it would be all clumpy and dried up, but good old tacky glue, lasting for, just kidding, is it gonna come out? (chuckles) It's coming, it's really thick. That's okay, it's still usable. Okay, I'm gonna start with that, can always add more later. And then you can just pick a section to start with. I don't think there's really a difference in whether you start outside in, or from the center out. Just go with the flow. And the flow is telling me to start in this corner here. So just lay down some glue, wow, this is really thick, within the shape that you sketched. As far as thin coats versus thick coats, I would let it be pretty thick, pretty gooey, so that the yarn has something to grab onto. I don't wanna put in all the work of laying out my yarn, and then having it not stick ultimately. I would not cut the yarn at this point, yet, because I don't exactly know how much I wanna use. Find the tail of it, and what I'm going to do is I'm gonna go from the outside in, it doesn't really matter what you feel like doing. But to me, it's easier to deal with this end because I'm just gonna leave the end kinda dangling off the edge. And then after everything is dry, I can trim all the ends. So I'm just gonna leave this dangling off the edge of the canvas, and then just gently laying this on top, creating an outline here. I'm just going to lay down the yarn, following the outer edge of my triangle, like so. And once you create an outline, or you don't have to create an outline, I just do, it's easier for me to visualize what's happening. You can either keep spiraling in, in a triangle shape, or you can also zigzag, or squiggle your way in. I'm feeling like doing a spiral. (chuckles) I feel like spiraling right now, so I'm gonna do that. Another fun option is to paint the canvas before you put down your sketch and your glue, so if any of the canvas pokes out, you get a fun, contrasting color. I don't mind the white of my canvas showing through a little bit, but if you did something bold like black, or like a really dark blue, I think that could be really beautiful also. When it looks like you're getting toward the center, you can trim the yarn. And then kind of pat everything down, so that it really makes contact with the glue and the canvas. And since your glue is gonna be wet for awhile, you can still rearrange, or just sort of readjust some of your yarn to make sure it's going in the shape that you want. And mine started kind of bowing in a little bit as I approached the center, but that's no big deal. I kind of like the organic nature of what the yarn wants to do, as well. I can see how there's a little area here that I kind of missed, so I'm gonna switch up my strategy and trim that. Get some glue in that bald spot, and then smush my yarn tail into it. You pretty much just keep repeating that all the way around. (gentle upbeat music)

Day 14 - Cut Paper Critters

- Cut paper collage is a really exciting form of illustration and recently I saw my friend on Instagram, EastBayKate, made some adorable birds, I had to try it. And then I ended up using a lot of different scraps from projects I've been working on earlier this month. And making the scraps is actually kind of my favorite part, super simple. If you don't have scraps already lying on your floor or in your trash can, you're going to want to make yourself a palette of colors and if you have taken a class with me before you know I love this technique of scraping paint onto a surface. We can even just unscrew the top and dab, dab, dab. We're definitely not going to be precious about anything. And I think it's

best not to have like preconceived notions about what you're going to do. And then you'll take a card, an old hotel key, a bone folder, even, and just scrape the paint. So we're giving it a surface that has a lot of color and texture. Gonna set this aside to dry, and it actually dries fairly quickly. You can also do this on a brown paper bag. (tapping) This I might just leave kind of stripey. Also there are a bunch of surface design classes or even doodling classes on Creativebug that will give you a great jumping off point for different kinds of surfaces you can do. Let's just do a little bit more wiping. Yeah. And then, once you've set these aside to dry and washed off your bone folder, you can add a second layer of detail by going on top and doodling on top. So, for example, we'll see how this white Crayon shows up. Oh, that looks fantastic. And we're just going to make some patterns. I think repeating patterns look really nice. Oh, also there's a great pattern class from Courtney and Lisa Congdon. But patterns, once you get started, oh boy, that's, to me, the most exciting part. Here's some doodles. Here's some marks made with a paint pen. This is just some watercolor. This was, I had made an ink wash, this, and I was disappointed because it's actually a blue shade and I thought that the blue would come through more and it didn't but now I get to... Go on top of it. Ooh, I might actually end up using this. Then we have these, ooh, this was made much as the same way as our green, just adding a second color. This is Crayons and watercolor. This is kind of a palette, a makeshift palette. When I painted this I just scratched into the surface. And now we're going to make a bird shape. You can also doodle it out or draw it out ahead of time on the back of your paper or you can just free bird it! Is that a phrase? You could free hand it. How 'bout that? This is the belly of the bird. Some blue wings, how 'bout? Here's one wing. This orangy head? Oh my gosh, yes. I'm gonna leave a little overlap so I have something to glue. I think maybe I'll make this more of an arc. Now of course I need an eyeball. Maybe you have some eyeballs left over from a previous day challenge. Or maybe they're all glued to milk cartons in your house, I don't know. I know some birds have like very human-looking eyes. Ooh, that's gonna be cool! Okay. Ooh, that's and intense-looking bird. I'm into it. We'll give him, her? Some plumage. I'm gonna do three greens. In these teardrop shapes. Oh my gosh, she's so fun! Let's do a little yellow beak. Also, this might technically be cheating but if you don't have the color you want, you can just whip it up. Maybe make a line. Oh, you know what? The other side would've worked well too. And then we're gonna do a tail feather. Ooh, yeah, do we bring it all together and use this? I think so. Here's our tail feather and now we'll get gluing. It also is helpful if you are gluing it down to something. So this is curling up a little bit but I think once the glue dries it'll relax just a tad. That's my hope. Beak underneath. Or over top? I think underneath. And we can't forget the bird's plume. Oh my gosh, look at that bird! I love him. I think it's a him. We have some friends of the bird. This guy... Was made using a lot of similar patterns and here is another friend for our bird, this elephant. For more inspiration, check out the artwork of Charley Harper who is a mid-century graphic designer, also, the work of Claire Young's, my friend EastBayKate on Instagram and Jane Ormes, O R M E S, they do some really beautiful cut paper designs. Have fun and get scrappy.

Day 15 - Mixed Media Mandalas

- I've never made a mandala before, but I know that people really enjoy coloring them in, drawing them, or even arranging flower petals and other natural objects into a mandala shape. I'm gonna take all of that inspiration and kind of give it my own twist. We'll use collage, some stickers, and even some doodling to create our own mandalas. And I think a mandala should start with a central, kind of focal piece. And, of course, I'm gonna use my baby Charlie. Not my baby, Luka, but my baby dog, Charlie. And I was looking for an image of him that was kind of just like, his face. Wonder if

that's gonna be too big. This one might be the better one. This was his first official portrait. My friend Brian took this photo of Charlie when I first got him. He was only a few days old to me. I think he was three months old when I adopted him. So, for this project you'll need, I'm using stickers that I had around in the house, little bits of colored paper cut out from a magazine in various shapes, a good pair of scissors, and a glue stick. And just like all of the things I'm doing this one, I'm doing this on a hot press watercolor paper, studio grade. You can use card stock, poster board, you can do this in a sketchbook, whatever you have. The point of this is just to keep your hands and mind focused and busy while making art. So there's Charlie. He's gonna be the center of my mandala. And I'm gonna try to center him. I'm using my favorite glue stick, which is the Scotch Create stick. It used to be a pink and purple kind of packaging, and they changed it. You can use whatever glue stick you have. Or you can use liquid glue. I like a glue stick because it's quick and pretty mess-free. If you're working with little ones, you may want to keep a wet paper towel or a baby wipe handy because glue stick can get on your fingers. Any glue will probably get on your fingertips while you're doing this project. The idea is we start with our central image, then we build, you can build concentric, kind of patterns and layers around your central motif. You can do an outer ring, and just fill in the space in between the outer ring and the center. I think I'm just gonna start with him and go out and see where we go. I got some interesting little shapes cut from magazine pages. And I've organized them in these little dishes sort of by color and by shape. So I have triangles that are in black, these strips of three colors, and these weird little teal, kind of, I don't know what these are. They look like earrings, or something, little caterpillar shapes. I also have this Yves Klein blue, is what I would call this, like a very true cobalt blue. And triangles, diamonds and teardrops. I also have hearts, or petal shapes cut out, and some stars. So you can see those. Oh, Charlie. Ooh, I love all those. I'm just gonna dump those right on. I definitely want to use all this. More kinda triangles in this teal color, and triangles and diamonds in this red color. I also might fill in some blanks with marker pen. I'm using brush marker pen so I can get little raindrop shapes, and then like I said, a bunch of stickers. I love stickers, stickers and labels. All right, because Charlie is my first baby, and one of my true loves, let's do some of these hearts. Because I precut these out, it gives me an opportunity to arrange them and then stick them down. If I was cutting as I went, then I would probably just have to, like, cut and stick, cut and stick. And you can do either. I precut these while I was watching television, The Great British Bake Off. I could just watch that on repeat all day long. Your mandala can be symmetrical, but it doesn't have to be. So, I'm gonna try for sort of this radiating circles thing, and we'll see how it goes. But I don't need it to be perfectly symmetrical. I'm okay with it not being symmetrical. But I do wanna get close to him so that I have room to add other elements in here. Maybe like that, and I'll save those stars for a little bit later. All right, I like that arrangement, so I'm gonna go ahead and start gluing down. And this is easy, I'm just gonna pick up whatever my element is, give it a little swipe over the top of the glue stick. Part of the reason I love this glue stick is because it has such a large surface for glue, and it also does not bead up or anything. To pick these up, sometimes I'll just like wet my finger with the tip of my lip, or a little bit of glue might get on your finger and that helps you pick these up. And it's okay if things are not going perfectly back into the place where I had arranged them. Just kind of generally this is the area. And with a glue stick, you have a few seconds to kind of rearrange if you need to. So I'm just gonna continue gluing down this first ring around Charlie, to create the first part of my mandala. This is the part that becomes meditative because kinda you have this quiet assembly time. I guess it's sort of like coloring things in. I loved coloring books when I was a kid, but I haven't really done coloring in as an adult that much. But this has a similar feel where you kind of have your plan laid out in front of you,

and now you're just filling it in by gluing things into place. Guess the reason I don't really use adult coloring books is because coloring in takes a really long time, and I feel like I don't have the patience for it. Which I think is the point of coloring books, right? Is that your spending this meditative time doing something, a single focus. So, this mandala is kinda my attempt to do something similar. All right, first layer down. And if you have little bits that didn't quite get enough glue, I really wouldn't worry about it. But if you feel like you need to get in there, you can, just with your glue stick. It's already so cute. And I like this little bit that's coming off. I kind of like things asymmetrical. All right, let's do a sticker layer. I don't think I'm gonna do hearts right away. The other thing that I love that are stickers are labels. Labels are some of my most favorite things. Maybe let's do some little label stickers. And I'm gonna start by just placing a silver dot after each heart. And this is not gonna create a really perfect circle. In fact, because my first ring around Charlie was so irregular, it's going to intensify, the irregularity will intensify as I build this out, which, again, I don't mind. This is not about perfection, this is about meditation, keeping my hands and mind busy but at peace with the process. K, I'm liking that. Do some in between here. Now I could embellish this further with stickers and things, but I think I might come in with a brush pen, maybe in this blue color. And you can see that if you just tap these, you get these cool sort of raindrop shapes. So I thought I would use these to add little embellishments like that. In fact, you could even make yourself a little color guide like this, so that you know what marker you want to use. This one's been used a lot, so the tip is relaxed a little bit and you get an even thicker raindrop or petal shape. Whoa, I just love all these colors. This is really similar to this, but I want to add a new color. So, I think maybe that teal and this color, I like these two. And it looks a little different in color on this paper as opposed to my scratch paper. I've been spending a lot of time on my phone when I feed Luka, my daughter, who's three months old. And we all might be spending a lot of time on our phone just because of what's happening. And I've been looking up toys from my childhood. And one of the things that I really want to get, and I don't really know what they're called exactly, but they're these little coin purses that have beads that look just like this on them. If anybody knows, let me know. I kind of like found one image, and it said just coin purse with rainbow beads. You can see I'm holding the marker pen differently than I was previously, and that's because I need the tip to go toward the circle so that I get the thin part here and the thick part here. Hmm, let's see. Do I want to move my arm, or do I want to turn my paper around? I don't wanna turn my paper around. My table's too messy. Ooh, this would be so fun to do with Frida Kahlo in the middle. Oh, I love Frida, and she's somebody who needs to be adorned with beautiful things at all times. Okay, that's looking cool. I like that. I really love this neon orange. And I don't have to use the labels as is, I can cut them in half and get half circles. Or cut them in half and cut them in half again and get quarters. Let's see, I think quarters could be fun. I'll cut two strips just so I have them ready. And what's nice about the labels is that I don't have to use glue stick. Stickers and labels are already sticky. But it is fun to have control over the shapes that you get. So cutting things out of a magazine allows you to create interesting shapes like those irregular hearts that I have. Now I'll add these guys. I'm putting this on every, skipping two of these floral motifs, and then putting it down. I might go back in and fill that in later, but this is how I'm starting. Of course, this leaves me with three, so. I like how that looks. Put these blue teardrops. I've got teardrops in two different sizes. I've got little ones and bigger ones. I also have some triangles mixed in here. I just want the teardrops for now. And like I said, you can pre-cut these things, like I've done, or you can cut as you go. The one thing I like about pre-cutting is that I can just really focus on assembling my mandala instead of cutting at the same time. It's funny, when I was cutting these, the scrap pile of what I wasn't keeping and the pile of what I was keeping was almost indiscernible. They looked

identical (laughs). So the question is, do I want to continue keeping this side out? And actually, I think I'm gonna take this off, and bring that in. And now I'm getting a little bit more of a wooly circle here, and I like how that's looking. Definitely going to use those little ones. Gonna keep those on my board here. And now I'll glue these blue guys down. I like how that looks. One extra to put there, crying Charlie. (laughs) I don't know if I'll leave that there. But, I think it's kind of funny. Okay, so now I'm gonna glue down all my little teardrops. And with that tear on Charlie, it reminds of that John Waters movie, Cry Baby. Any of you have seen that with Johnny Depp? The soundtrack for that movie's amazing. I used to have it on cassette tape and drive around in my convertible. I had a Volkswagen Cavalier convertible when I was a senior in high school, as did Leanna, and listened to that tape. It's really good. Okay, now what should we do next? Oh yeah, I think I said I liked yellow. So let's add some yellow. Where do I want to add my yellow? Now, do I want to build on these again? Or put some yellow on either side of these, maybe? Yeah, I like that. I tend to be a quick decision maker with most things. Like my gut instinct, you just gotta go with it. Sometimes, you know, it's a mistake and you wish you had done something else. But most art allows for the opportunity to change, alter, or cover up. And again, this is not a precious exercise. This is just fun and meditative. So, don't overthink things, if you can. Just kinda go with your first thought. And that will also help you build your creative intuition. If you trust it, it will help build it. You'll be more confident with your decisions. All right, I'm liking that. I feel like I have to use these rainbows, somehow. I have like a whole pack of them. Where should they go? In between? Not all of them are like that, though. Let's see. Oh maybe on top of the blue things, I like that. I mean, if you have foil rainbow stickers, I feel like they need to be used. Of course, your sticker collection is gonna real different than this. You may not have any stickers, totally fine. Use magazine or colored paper pages, and cut out shapes that you like. I need a few more of the small rainbows. I think I want to, let's see, do I want to add this shape next? I like that shape, I think. And then I want to go back in and add some markers, too. So I have these. They're not all exactly the same because they're freehand cut. I just kind of roughly tried to do like three sort of ballish shapes. I'm gonna use the thicker ones in the areas where the spaces are wider, if I am gonna use them at all. And maybe balance out these kind of larger ones. I do have enough, so that's good. These two are exactly the same. That means I cut them at the same time, so I'm actually going to alternate those a little. That might be overthinking it, but. The question is, do I like that? No. They look like little guitars or little cacti or something. I wonder if I take them where they're cut in half, fold them back on that line, and make them a little more lacy by coming in and cutting out on the fold. I think I could probably do two at once. Instead of trying to make round shapes, 'cause that's harder to cut, I'm just gonna come in and cut triangles. Now, these are gonna be a little bit harder to glue down because when you run this across the glue stick, glue is gonna build up in these negative spaces. But you're not really gonna see it. So, I'm not too concerned. It's just gonna make my fingers stickier. So I'm gonna cut all those out and then glue them down. All right. I think I'm getting close. I definitely want to use the neon orange again. Just commit. Oh, but I'm gonna run out of space there. Mm, not thinking through. All right, let's actually pick that up, just because I would like to have something there. So maybe that tells me that this is kind of the final outer ring, unless I can sneak in one tiny little dot at the top of each of those. Okay, but I still wanna use these, somehow. Couple 'a rainbows maybe? Let's see what that looks like. Yeah, I'm likin' that. I cannot tell you how much fun this is (laughs). I'm thoroughly enjoying my first mandala. I mean, for some people, this is a very sacred practice. It may or may not have more rules than this. But we are doing just a fun and loose interpretation to keep us happy and sane. I'm gonna put those on top of there. Do I have enough of them? Oh my gosh, I

have just enough. Is that a sign that I should do that? I love really wonky cut stars. I don't know what it is about them, but, they're so charming. I kinda wanna mix up the larger and the smaller ones. I like those there. I'm just gonna kinda leave them to hang out for a minute. I wanna come in with more of these pen marks. Let's see. (laughs) Wonky again. I can also just kinda draw that shape. I'm not as precise when I'm working sideways or upside-down. I like this magenta color, too. I think it would make sense for me to rotate this canvass, but I am being kinda lazy, so I'm not doing that. But feel free to make it easier for yourself if you're working with these brush markers. You could also use colored pencils, crayons, regular markers. I'd like to bring the silver back in. Those. Could those go somewhere? I just like that silver. Maybe if I cut them in half. I actually like that silver. Oh, maybe in here. It kinda creates, like it mimics this negative space in these ones I've cut. So I like that, I think that looks cool. And it also mimics the arch in the rainbow above it. I don't remember the artist, but there is an artist that makes wallpaper entirely out of, like, Mrs. Grossman's stickers, which are those traditional sheet stickers. Okay, I like that. No stars for now. Huh, I was so bent on those stars. I really thought I was definitely going to use those. Let's see if I can just do small dots, or some little marker pen moves around here. Runnin' outta room. You can see how squishy some things are. I feel like I could do something right in here, and then I think it's done for now. You know, never say never, but I think it might be done for now. Maybe something in the teal? I guess that's the color I used there. That's pretty similar. Oh, maybe have the blue color that we can bring in. In here. But then I think I would not do the teardrop if I did that. Maybe I'll do some blue in this outside part, and then see if I wanna bring it in at all. So I'm just doing randomly around this kinda edge here. I like that. And then actually maybe yellow in here to capture those yellow parts. These are just more like lines, like little sprinkle lines. Ah, okay, I like it! I think it looks cool. Maybe a little yellow here (laughs). You see the dilemma, it's never done. All right, I think that's it. My mixed media mandala featuring pup Charlie, my fur baby, and I just started with a central image and built out my patterning around it using both cut paper collage from a magazine, my brush tip marker pens, some sticky labels cut into quarters and also just used as is, and then some stickers I had lying around. That was super fun. Definitely gonna make another one.

Day 16 - Pompom Flowers

- If you love flowers and you love pom-poms, I think you might know where I'm going with this. Let's make some ultra-cute pom-pom flowers. They only take a couple moments to make and just a few materials, and they'll surely brighten your day. We'll be making our pom-poms by hand. So you'll need some yarn. Just one color for one flower will do. I have two colors and two weights of yarn out, just to show you the difference. This white yarn is a worsted weight or medium weight, and this yellow yarn is a chunky or bulky weight. If you have something heavier than the bulky or lighter than the worsted, that'll still work. Basically, you can use any kind of yarn or string that you have around the house. Probably embroidery thread and sewing thread are too thin, so stick to the yarn and string family. I'll be making one of each, just so you can see the difference. You also need some sticks or small dowels for the stems of your flowers. If you feel like it, you can paint these green or gold or pink or purple, whatever you feel like. I'm leaving mine natural. If you don't have any sticks or dowels, you can also go outside for a walk or in the yard and grab some sticks or branches. Basically, anything will work. It's just long and skinny. You'll need a pair of scissors to cut your pom-poms. Ideally, if you're a pom-pom perfectionist, you're going to want very sharp scissors. However, I'm really not a pom-pom perfectionist. So whatever scissors you have that will cut through your yarn should work. Lastly, you'll need a hot glue gun. You can certainly use a craft glue

or tacky glue. It'll just take longer for your stem to glue on to your pom-pom. I'm gonna plug in my hot glue gun. To make your pom-pom, we're just gonna be using our hands. If you have a pom-pom maker, please go ahead and do that. There are also tons of free tutorials for making your own pom-pom maker out of cardboard. But I'm just gonna be using my hands for this. So don't cut off any particular length of yarn yet. Just get your yarn pulled out and ready to go. And to make the pom-pom is really easy. If you're doing this with kids, this'll just be super-fun and really accessible for them. So really, all you're doing is wrapping the yarn around one hand. So I would use your dominant hand, I'm right-handed, to wrap yarn around your other hand. And for me, that's my left hand. So I'm not even counting wraps. I'm just wrapping and wrapping and wrapping and wrapping and wrapping. Wrap a lot. Just keep wrapping (laughs). It's easy. It's a little monotonous. But anyone can do it, so that's why it's really great. If I had to venture a number of wraps, I would say it's at least a hundred. And that sounds like a lot, but 50 wraps goes by pretty quickly. You want a good handful of yarn. My yarn ball is unwinding very (chuckles) strangely, but that's okay. If you run out of yarn, that's okay. You'll still be able to make a fine pom-pom, it just won't be quite as bushy. You can also experiment with different amounts of yarn. You might like a looser pom-pom look. One time I made a super-tight pom-pom with really chunky yarn, and I actually didn't prefer it. I kind of like a little bit more air in my pom-pom. But you can play it by ear. But just make sure you have enough. Maybe like give yourself at least a foot to work with before fully giving up. And then just trim your yarn here. So you have this big loop of yarn. Now get that extra foot of yarn that I was talking about. You're gonna put it underneath your wad of yarn. You're gonna tie it off in the middle, just a regular square knot. Sometimes, for extra security, I'll loop this tail through one more time, and that helps it to not slip out of itself. So you want to pull this pretty tightly, but you don't want to pull too tightly, especially with acrylic yarn. I find that if I pull too tightly, it snaps, and then I get really upset (laughs). So give it a good tug, but don't like Hulk out on it because you might have regrets later. I'm gonna tie this again one more time, like this. If you feel like it's more secure, you can flip over this whole thing and tie two more knots. I don't know that that actually makes it super-secure, but it can't hurt. okay, you can see mine's not quite in the middle anymore. Don't worry about it. This thing is gonna get trimmed. You won't even see any of that. Okay, your pom-pom is still loopy at the ends, and we're going to trim those loops. You're basically cutting them all in half. Just gonna stick my scissor right in here and start cutting. Watch your fingers. Make sure you cut all the loops, like that. Turn it around, and cut off the other side, close to the center as possible. You miss a couple, it's no big deal. You can always find them and snip them again later. But I'm finding them now, so I'm gonna snip them, okay. It's looking pom-pomish, right? It's kind of this big, crazy monster thing. If you like big, crazy monsters, (lips smacking) you're done, but I'm gonna trim this up. The art of pom-pom making is actually all about the trimming. It's all about giving your pom-pom the perfect haircut. And again, for me, perfection in pom-poms is not really a thing. I don't have the patience for it. It's not that important to me. I think just sort of any pom-pom is super-cute.. So I kind of give it a rough trim. The more you trim it, it'll also look more tight. Like if you leave all these tails long, your pom-pom will look less dense. So giving it a good trim will also make it look a little more full. It'll be smaller but look fuller as you get closer to the center of it. And there's no real rhyme or reason or technique to what I'm doing here, just trimming, just kind of going with my gut (chuckles) on this one. Kinda step back and look. And turn it around, and clip off the parts that look extra super-long. You can also think about what container you want to put your pom-pom flowers in and how big ultimately you want each of those flowers to be. So you can trim these to be all different sizes if you want, or you can be really particular, try to get them all the

exact size. You kinda like floof it. Trim it if you see some things that are sticking up. This does feel like trimming your own bangs though. Sometimes you're just like, nope. And this part doesn't look even, and then this part doesn't look even. And then all of a sudden, your bangs are one inch long. So (chuckles) it's not quite as extreme with the pom-pom, but it's okay to know when to stop too. I think this is looking pretty cute. But notice how I just can't seem to stop (laughs). It's also a really fun process, so, just warning you, you might get really obsessed with trimming your pom-pom's bangs. Okay, I'm gonna call it. I swear I'm gonna call it. We're gonna call this one done. Save these. Save these for making, I'm super into making confetti with yarn. I keep talking about it. You're gonna be so sick of it. But save this. Don't throw it away. Just put it in a zip-lock bag or a jar or something. We'll find uses for that later. You're really almost done with your pom-pom flower. It's pretty exciting. So grab your dowel or your stick or your branch. We're pretty much just gonna glue this right on with some hot glue. My hot glue gun is finally nice and warmed up, and we're ready to glue our pom-pom flower together. All you need to do is take your dowel and give it a good dollop of hot glue around the top. We kind of swirl it around a little, kind of accumulate as much of a blob as you can without getting too much drippage, and then just find an opening on your pom-pom anywhere. Push this in firmly. You don't need to stab through it. I just like to try to get into the center. And then while the hot glue is still hot, I kinda squish the yarn around the base of my dowel, just to make sure there's lots of yarn grabbing on to it. And you've just made a super-cute pom-pom flower. You can either keep making more of these little white dandelion-like beauties, or you can also mix up some other colors and yarn weights. I'm going to make one with my chunky yellow yarn, just so you can compare the two. So here you can see what it looks like when you work the pom-pom flower with a chunkier yarn versus a thinner yarn, and ultimately they look pretty much the same, especially if you cut them down to the same size. So you can fill your jar up with a bunch of different colors, or stick with one color scheme. No matter what you choose, your pom-pom flower bouquet is going to be beautiful.

Day 17 - Box Building

- Well, there are a billion things that can be made with cardboard boxes. One thing that makes a huge impact is building a whole village or a city. (engine pattering) We're gonna start with one building. And, actually, while I did raid the recycling bin for some of these materials, I got over excited and we're starting to lose boxes in this house. So there's just some empty freezer waffles by themselves in the freezer without their box. And we're gonna use this mac n' cheese box. Just put the mac n' cheese in a jar and make sure you write the directions on the powdered cheese packet. Perfect solution. Now we have our building material. We're going to start by gently undoing the overlapped portions. (cardboard rustling) We're not going to cut it, 'cause we'll need these overlaps. And we're turning our box inside out, so that we have a better painting surface. These boxes are coated so they're nice and shiny, but it makes it a little harder for the paint to adhere. So we're going to be painting on the inside of the box. And if it gets a little raggedy when you tear it, that's okay, this is supposed to be scrappy. And you're going to want a satin paint or matte, but truly, whatever you have on-hand is just fine. You're gonna want to cover your surface with paint, including the flaps. Store this upside down. And you might need to do more than one coat to get a really vibrant shade. That's fine. We've got time. Of course, you can squirt your paint out onto a palette, but I have made enough messes for one day. Then we'll set it aside and let it dry. And once it has dried, we're going to paint on windows. Going to use white to paint for this and you could sketch them out ahead of time, but I've found freehanding it is pretty reliable and kinda cute. We'll

do two-by-two. We're gonna let our windows dry. And once we have done that, I've got tons of these boxes. I meant it when I said every single box in my recycling bin has been utilized. We're going to trace the outlines of the window for a little bit of a graphic pop. I'm just using a sharpie. And now, we'll need a hot glue gun. You can use Elmer's glue, but a hot glue gun is gonna work a lot better, especially if you have a satin finish paint or a glossy paint, just going to help it stick. See, this is why I painted on the cardboard side, because this showed through way too much. We're going to turn my favorite cereal, I really do love Flax Plus Pumpkin Raisin Crunch. We're gonna turn this box inside out, so make your creases reversed. It's easier to crease them now before you actually get to gluing. (cardboard rustling) And we're just gonna glue up the whole box. (cardboard rustling) And there's a chance you might get to this gluing phase and realize that you forgot to paint the bottom. You can go ahead and glue it up and paint the bottom after the fact, or you can just tuck in your tab and call it done.

Day 18 - Embossed Tin Foil Art

- Have you ever used aluminum foil in your art? Aluminum foil is kind of an amazing and maybe overlooked and underused art material. It creates a really special and unique sheen and it reminds me of tin Christmas ornaments. Kind of adds a little sparkle, a little something, something. It's a little bit extra to your painting. We'll be using permanent marker right on the tinfoil. I'll also show you a really neat trick for embossing your tinfoil to give it a little texture. But whether you choose to emboss it or leave it smooth, I know you're going to have a lot of fun with your tinfoil art. You'll need aluminum foil, a small piece of cardboard to act as your canvas. This can be a square, a rectangle, an oval or circle, a heart. Big, small, whatever you want. I also have another piece of cardboard that's a little bit bigger than this canvas to protect my surface from glue which we'll be using. You need a paint brush for that glue. And then that glue. I'm using Tacky glue. You can use any white glue. You can also water it down a little bit to help you paint it on the foil. You'll need a hot glue gun if you're going to try the embossing technique. You'll need a pencil. Well the pencil's optional. You can just freehand your embossing, but the pencil is to help you decide where your texture's gonna go. If you choose to go that route. And finally you'll need an array of permanent markers. These can be Sharpies. I've borrowed a ton of permanent art markers from my roommate who went to art school. But if you have Sharpies that works great as well. They have to be permanent, though. If you use a regular colored pen it might not stick on the tinfoil permanently. I'm starting with the embossing technique. If you don't want texture on your artwork, you can skip to the part where we're wrapping the tinfoil around the cardboard. Also if you're interested in adding texture but you don't want to use a hot glue gun, or you have smaller children who shouldn't be touching hot objects, you can also recreate this texture using regular white glue and yarn. I prefer the hot glue gun simply because it cools down and hardens more quickly, and then I can move forward with my project. You can either freehand with the hot glue, or you can use a pencil first. If there's some other artwork that you want to trace on your cardboard, you can certainly print that out, cut it out, and use it as a template as well. I'm going to do sort of a wavy line grid. So I'll start sketching that out. No one's going to see this part so it can be as loose and crazy as you want. You can erase lines if you don't like them. So this can look a mess. No one's gonna see. What you wanna do is try to get some intersecting lines, because it'll create little windows for you to paint in to later. I don't know if you can see that. Kind of get the gist of this wavy-ish grid I'm creating. This segment looks pretty big so I'm going to cut it in half with another line. This area looks a little big too. So I will draw one more wavy line like this. You don't want your segments to be too small, because your

tinfoil will have a hard time wrapping around all your hot glue edges, so you want enough segments to play around with, but this technique isn't really meant for you to get super detailed. Kind of liking the look of that. So I'm gonna go ahead and use my hot glue. It's really easy. You just trace your pencil line with your hot glue. I'm sketching an abstract wavy line grid. But you can certainly draw something more realistic like a sun or a tree or the mountains. It's whatever you feel like drawing today. If there are spots that are looking a little thin, your tinfoil might not pick them up as well. You can always go over them one more time with the hot glue. Let this cool completely. I've given this about five minutes to cool down. And none of the lines are sticky so now we can prep our tinfoil. You'll need a piece of tinfoil that's slightly bigger than your canvas. Give yourself about an inch or an inch and a half of a border all the way around. Grab your scissors. I kinda forgot to tell you about that in the materials, but I'm pretty sure you have a pair of regular old scissors laying around. That's a pretty good border here. I'm going to echo that on this side. If you have heavy duty tinfoil, that probably works best. We just sort of have regular generic brand grocery store tinfoil, so it's a little bit delicate, so you wanna be a little bit careful about tearing it on accident. Before gluing this on to the cardboard, you wanna gently crinkle it up and then spread it back out again. The crinkles help the tin foil shape more closely around your embossed edges. If you didn't emboss your cardboard with the hot glue or yarn, and you're gluing this straight on the cardboard, you can probably skip the crinkling part, but I find that if I don't crinkle this, and try to wrap it around the glue, there isn't as much give, and the tinfoil is more likely to tear. So really carefully, because you can rip a hole into your tinfoil, which is something you probably want to avoid. You don't need to squeeze too hard. Just wanna get a couple wrinkles in there. Then very carefully pull it apart. I usually do get a tear or two on my border; that's okay. There's a shiny side and a more matte side to your piece of tinfoil, and you need to decide which one you want showing upward on your artwork. So since we're working with tinfoil and I like the shine, I want be sure that I'm painting on the shiny side. So I'm going to flip this over with the wrong side facing up. Grab whatever surface you're using to protect your table from glue. And glue a thin layer on to the cardboard, not the foil. It's easier to glue the cardboard. So you're using your white glue or your Tacky glue for this part. You can also water it down to make it a little more thin and easy to spread, but I find that right out of the jar works fine for me. After you're finished gluing, pick up your canvas, get your tinfoil, which is right or shiny side down. And then flip over your cardboard. And stick it right in the center. Give it a little press. Flip this back over to the front. And make sure you don't have any glue on your fingers. You're going to carefully rub the tinfoil around your embossed design to make the texture pop. Remember to be careful to not tear your tinfoil while you're doing this. But because you pre-crinkled it, it should be easier to avoid tearing. I'm pretty happy with how this is wrapping around the tinfoil. It's kind of a soothing process. Rubbing this into all the ridges, it's very tactile. Feel free to do it as long as you want to. Flip this over. You can miter these edges if you want. I'm not gonna get that fancy. No one's gonna see anything back here, but I am going to trim out the corners. Careful not to chop too closely to your cardboard. You can either use glue or tape to secure these in the back. I'm just gonna give it a quick border of glue. Fold these over. Here comes the fun part. You get to color all these little sections in. Since we're using permanent marker, ultimately this ink will stick to the foil. However I do find there is a certain amount of drying time, so once you color in a section, be careful not to stick your finger in it, and give it at least 20 minutes to settle down. I'm only coloring in the flat sections, and avoiding coloring the embossed areas, so that the texture acts as a really cool outline for my design. But you can feel free to experiment with whatever technique you want. You could also only color in the embossed lines, and leave the sunken areas tinfoily. That could be really

cool too. I have not pre-designed my color arranging. I'm just doing it really randomly. Whatever I feel like. Be careful that you don't poke the tip of your pen through any tinfoil, because I just poked a tiny hole in mine, that it's really small and I don't think anyone will notice. Just a word for you to be careful with your pen tip. The sun is starting to come out so I think you'll be able to see the really cool ridges and valleys of this piece of art. Check out how cool, and shiny, and texturey that is. It's pretty wild. It's a really fun technique. I also wanted to show you a sun that I made earlier. Super happy sun. I can't wait to see all the very cool tinfoil art you're all about to make.

Day 19 - Easy Painted Rainbows

- Rainbows make everyone happy, I'm gonna show you a really simple way that you can paint a rainbow using just a few colors and a single brush. It's fun to have really easy go-to things to paint. I've got a huge block of watercolor paper here. If you don't have watercolor paper, use Bristol or drawing paper, card stock, whatever you have lying around, this is not precious. I have a few different color combinations to make my rainbows. This happens to be a combination of gouache and acrylic gouache. I often do this with watercolor, you can also use acrylic paint. I've got magenta, blue, and ochre, purple, burnt Sienna, and a dark blue, and then mint green, neon yellow, and neon pink. This is just what I happen to have on hand and close by. Don't worry about what your, what types of paints you're using, like I said watercolor gouache, acrylic anything will work. This technique works with a flat brush. I've got a few different kinds of flat brushes, foam, really smooth bristled one, a coarser bristled one. If you use something like a hardware store brush you can still do this technique, but you're gonna get a striped rainbow because these bristles are so coarse and they'll kind of create like a striping effect. You'll need some kind of palette, I'm just using a plate, water, and then paper towel or your rag for wiping off your brush. Before I start getting anything wet, I'm gonna lay out three colors of paint. If you're working with a preexisting palette, you can't control how they sit next to each other, so I like to start fresh. That's why I'm working with tube paint or in a bottle, not dry little cakes of paint. So I'm placing my colors how I want them to appear on my rainbow right next to each other. And I'm just doing like a pea-size dab of paint. You're gonna get your brush wet, and you're just gonna kinda wiggle and pull. You got too much water. You need some water to start, but if you have too much water, it's gonna blend and just be muddy. So I am kind of pulling out color I thought this brown was gonna be more ochre-y in tone and it's pretty dark, so let's see what that looks like. Hmm, that's cool. I think I want more of that pink color, so what I'm actually gonna do is just clean my brush off and squish my pink in more, and then rinse my brush again. If things start to get too muddy here, you can just take a piece of paper towel or your rag and just kinda wipe this up or blot it, if it's too runny. You'll see there's a balance, because you want to draw out the color, but you kinda wanna get them in three even strokes, that's how I like it. So you can play with your rainbows, and you can see I'm not getting more paint or adding more water just yet. You can make some fun, swirly and loopy things. I can use a little bit more water on that side, so I'll just dip the corner of the blue part of my brush into the water. Make some little arcs. It's really how you move the brush at this point, and I'm sort of losing the brown in the middle, but I don't mind it actually, I think it's pretty. Let's see if we can just draw out a little bit more of that brown. There we go, that looks pretty good. You can also try just making a circle. And right now, because I'm holding this with the pink on the left and the blue on the right, I can also just flip my brush over and try it in the other direction. All right, let's try a new color combo. I'm just gonna rinse that brush out really well. Kinda set it down, let's do something with the neon. Now acrylic gouache if you've never used it is a lot like acrylic paint, you cannot reactivate it like you

would a regular gouache or a watercolor, but it does come in fun neon colors, that's why I like it. So there's my mint color. Let's do this one not in perfect order. I'm gonna do pink on one side of the mint, and when that mixes, that should create kind of a lavender color, which is cool, and then I'm gonna do yellow on the other side of the mint. I could also do the pink in the middle if I wanted. Can play with your color combos and how they affect one another. Oh, we can use a new brush too if we want to try that, so this is a stiffer bristled brush, I may not get as smooth a gradation in my colors, let's just see. I'm gonna need a little bit more water because of the way this brush is. All right, what does this look like? Fun, you can see how where that mint and the pink is kinda mixing like I predicted, it's gonna create sort of a lavender-y color. You can play with your saturation by picking up more paint or less paint, more water or less water. And this one I'm just kinda keeping this part with the yellow down in one place and then just kinda rotating the outer part of my brush. So you can really play with what effects you can get depending on how you move your brush around. This is a good way to see what kind of shapes you can make with a flat brush anyway. Ooh, I think these are gonna overlap a little. Ooh, that's fun. I could do a whole page of just those. Oh, I love it. All right, let's try one more color combo, just for fun. This is a magenta, the label looks pretty traditionally red but I think it's gonna be more of a pink-y red. A lot of paints have kind of like a goopy, gum arabic bit, I got some blue on there so let's just move down. Oh, don't worry about that. Remember, this is, nothing about this is precious. I'll just kinda move that over so it's a little blob, perfect. Wash this brush off. We're just doing the best we can with what we have on hand. And we are not worried about things being perfect. This is just about playing. Here's an ochre-y color. Does not wanna lay down on the palette. Close. Now remember, you don't want things to spread out too wide unless your brush is wide enough. So maybe I'll use my foam brush for this, because this is kind of wide. This is a blue like we were using earlier but much lighter, so here's a foam brush. Just pulling, pulling, pulling, and pulling down. That blue one needs a little bit more 'cause it's kinda dried out, it's like thick. There we go. 'Kay, foam brush, nice and wide. I'm getting some gaps because I don't have enough water and I haven't pulled out enough pigment. The foam brush really absorbs, and so you might have to kinda work your paint on the palette a little bit more to get started. Ooh, that's cool. I like that. So this is a lot of water here, and very little pigment, and then my blue and my yellow are really blending to make a green color, and my pink and my yellow are giving me kind of an orange color where they overlap too, which is fun, you can play with just mark making. Get a little bit more water. Oh, so fun. Make fan shapes. The foam brush allows you to make kinda different marks, because of its foaminess. That would be pretty to make a flower all around with these as sort of petals. Ah, I love it. I could just make rainbows all day. So we just did three colors but you can see that as they blend, you can get five or six colors even. Play with your color combinations, find flat brushes around your house, you can also try this with credit cards or library cards and acrylic paint, and do more swipes with them, but the same technique applies. You would lay three or four colors in a row onto your palette, draw down with water or a little bit of paint and then start making. You 'll see if things kind of have a dry quality, then add more pigment, add more water, and you can just play, play, play, and you can make rainbows for your window, do this in your sketchbook, use it as a base for postcards, it's just a super cheerful, fun way to play with paint.

Day 20 - Paint a Quilt Card

- Today's prompt, is to make a quilt card. We're going to paint one but you can interpret this however loosely as you'd like. You can draw one, or collage one. I absolutely love quilts. The last time I went to a museum was actually to a quilt exhibit, and I've nailed up, a quilt I made for my

baby, on the wall behind me. Pro tip, hammering something into the wall is a great way to make friends with, your neighbors and the people you live with. But I was so excited about it, I wanted to share it with you. So we're going to start by using, a ruler and we have a piece of thicker cardstock paper. I'm gonna make this a fairly precise, card. I think it's fun to be, really precise about, illustrating quilts because that's how they come out, right? Fairly precise, if you're lucky. I have to say as much as I love, quilting, and patchwork, patchwork is my favorite part. I'm not super great at the precision aspect of it, 'cause I'm not always paying as much attention, as I should. I love to, patchwork with a movie playing in the background, the quilts I'm, sketching out now as a, kind of a companion piece to this quilt. It's a quilt, I'd like to make as a fantasy quilt. But I think it's really, really fun to copy a quilt. I'll show you an example of that later. So I want this to be a little bit off center. I'm going to do, like a half moon, whoa. Whoa, this is giving me some ideas. Yeah, that's pretty neat. There's a great feature in, Country Living Magazine, where every month they show a new, patchwork block. And they've, sketched it out in watercolor, and it's so pretty. It makes me really happy, to see it every month. First, I thought I was gonna do a really angular quilt, kind of, like the one I already made. So I'm using this square brush. But if you're doing curves, it's probably easier to have a round brush. All my round brushes are, physically out of my reach right now. Also I have the name of, the quiltex that we went to, and then it probably left my brain but it was such a beautiful date. It was like the last week before I went back to work, and they brought in Micah, and it was such a good, exhibit. I was at BAMPFA, Berkeley Art Museum Pacific Film Archives. And she was so well behaved, and she was so excited. And she just kept cooing and you know, the other people who are, in the museum would be like, what is that noise? And then they would see her and they'd be like, ah, a brand new baby, art appreciator. Usually even planning out a quilt, I like to sketch it out, with colored pencils. And one time I did it, for a different quilt I had made, and, Kat saw it and she said, Oh my God, I love that. Can I have that? I was supposed to give it to her, and it just made me so happy that something that was utilitarian as planning out a quilt, could make someone so happy, that's from an aesthetic perspective. I always have a new relationship to quilts. Now that I've you know, I make them a lot for gifts, for celebrations, for special occasions. But until I had a baby of my own, I didn't realize, how not precious, the final object can actually be. I mean of course she, appreciates it. And she also, throws up on it sometimes. But it's okay it's what quilt was made for, loving and living, and is gonna turn out kind of, groovy, kinda weird. We'll let this dry, before I put my quilting lines in it, but I'm gonna go ahead and, do some stitching, on this quilt. Good thing I have a guide right here. Yep. Mark our stitching lines. This is actually how I did it when I, quilted it. And then I'll go in and finish the rest of the prior shapes. And I'll stitch these, I'll draw stitches going straight down. And here is a version I did, without drawing in the stitches. This is one of my favorite quilting books. And I tried to replicate it here. If you're working in watercolor make sure, to let each block of the section dry before you move on to the one adjacent to it so it doesn't leak. And I think I'm going to take this quilt off the wall and, find a patch of grass, snuggle with my baby.

Day 21 - Toilet Paper Tube Characters

- I know toilet paper is a precious commodity right now, but if you have some in your house, that means you also have the tube inside of the toilet paper roll. You can also use a paper towel roll for this. And I'm gonna use a children's book as my inspiration and then turn my little paper towel or toilet paper tube into a tiny little character from a book and then use that as a hand puppet. It's great for kids and telling stories, but you can also just do it because it's fun to make. I don't know why, but I love making crafts out of toilet paper tubes. It's one of my most favorite (laughs) things.

And it's something that you can do with someone any age. They're really fun and easy to work with. You can use markers, paint, whatever you have, crayons. Remember, this is not precious. Whatever you have lying around works. If you don't have a toilet paper tube, you have a paper towel tube, you can cut that into half or into thirds like I've done here. And if you're not sure what you wanna draw on this, you can also use some inspiration from a book that you have in your house or an image online. This is Brian Wildsmith. He's one of my most favorite children's book illustrators, and I have many of his books. This one's called "Opposites." I like these bears. This one is called "The Island." And I love that leopard. And this one is "The Rabbit and the Hare," or "The Hare and the Tortoise," rather. (laughs) Not "The Rabbit and the Hare" because those are the same things. So this one's called "The Tortoise and the Hare," and I love all of the animals in there. So I thought I'd do maybe an animal or two, and then I just had a baby and we read to her a lot, so I thought these could be sort of like finger puppets once they're done. Because this is kraft paper, it's gonna be sort of dark. You can use markers on it. You can use watercolor. You can definitely use acrylic paint. Whatever you have is fine. I happen to have gouache readily accessible, which is an opaque watercolor. It'll show up a little bit brighter than watercolor would on this. But I could also use markers if that's easier. And I just have a variety of brushes, nothing special here. I've got water and a paper towel and my painting rag and my inspiration imagery. Think I wanna do the tiger face for sure. Dirty brush. Keeping it real. That's okay. Let's get some yellow paint. That's pretty watery, so as that absorbs, that's gonna become much darker and not as vibrant. If you wanna make something a little bit brighter and cover better, add a bit of white to it. And you can do this if you have watercolor or acrylic paints even. You can add a little bit of white, and that's gonna give you better coverage on something dark like this. The nice thing about these is you can just put your fingers inside to kinda hold things in place. I'm gonna work on these one side at a time because if I painted the whole thing front and back, I would probably get paint all over my hands and smear whatever was on the back side. So just one side at a time. But once I've got my base layer, I'm just gonna actually put him aside, standing upright so you can't really see him, and paint another one while I'm waiting for that to dry, so the bear maybe. And I could just leave it kinda this color, but I want a warmer color for the bear. To mix my brown, I'll probably do a little bit of blue, a little bit of red, and a little bit of ochre. And it can be scruffy. That's okay, bears have scruffy fur. You might want a pair of scissors too because we could cut out a little bit so he has some ear definition when we're all done. That could be fun. Mixing a little bit more brown. It's a slightly different brown, which I actually like that variation. It's gonna make him look more wild. Being very scribbly. So you can see that this is a very forgiving craft here. Right, we'll set that one aside. And what should our last one be? Maybe a rabbit, like the hare in this book. He's also brown. Use this guy. Maybe he'll be more of a gray-brown. So add a little bit more blue. Kinda take away some of that warmth and a little bit of white. Ooh, that's too much white. Gotta add more color. So back to our blue. Little bit of red, more blue, even more blue, (laughs) little bit of ochre. More blue. Okay, better. For a sorta gray rabbit. And, again, we can put fingers inside of the tube to hold it in place. All right, let's go back to our yellow toilet paper tube because that's the one that's gonna be our leopard. You can use marker on this. I've got some brush pens. And if you have a little bit of scratch paper somewhere, you can just kinda test. Here's some scratch paper. Okay, do I? I'm gonna draw this fun little guy. Right now that looks like an owl. That's not quite what this leopard looks like, but it's close enough. But you can also paint. You could also use your paintbrush and paint. But sometimes people like to do the drawing with pen 'cause it might be easier, feel like you have more control. You can kinda place this on the table, or you can put your hands to kinda keep it stable. So I like that he has a big, wide face. Like that.

You can use a pencil too and then go back in and paint this if you want. Here's his nose. Here's this sorta white muzzle. Think he looks a bit like a bear right now. Eyes. You can give him eyebrows or eyelashes or whatever you like. It's got whiskers. I mean, he's got lots of dots too. We haven't even put the dots on. 'Cause he's a leopard. We definitely wanna do that. But I might wanna paint this little part of his fur kind of a different color. And then I really like his arms, paws kinda look here. And I like that we're using a kids' book illustration because it's not super perfect or precious. It's how a kid might see a leopard or what have you. Okay, and I can still do my dots with my pen, but I think I wanna paint them 'cause it's been even more irregular, which is fun. Let's pick up some ochre for this part. And actually painting these animals, you can have brushes that are kind of destroyed because that irregularity in the bristles will give you more of a fur quality, which is cool. Same thing with a dry brush. Now, gouache will cover any marker pen or most of the marker pen I put down, so I'm just actually going around where I had marker pen 'cause I wanna keep it. It's okay if it's scruffy. And then let's do some... He has brown splotches on his legs and more black splotches on his face. Let's do some brown splotches. Insides of his ears. And then he's got little hairs. So what I'll actually do is on my paper towel or towel, not add water, but just kinda fluff my brush around so it's really dry, and then come in and get some kinda furry texture here just with (laughs) these little lines just for some variation. Come in with white. I'm not even cleaning my brush. And we'll do some white in his muzzle here. Doesn't have to be perfect. I'm just kinda doing it sorta spotty. And then his little claws done here. I forgot to put them in with the marker. We'll just do the white, and then I can go back with the marker. And his eyes in the book are kinda red, but like an ambery color, but maybe I wanna add a little white in the eyes. And then I'll come back in with my marker pen once that's dry. And then let's use our marker to add some more of these little spots. Brush marker's perfect for this. Just kinda dancing it around, giving it a little wiggle. And some here. Come back in and make these eyes bigger. I had a daughter in January. Her name is Luca. And it's kind of amazing. Anything with just abstract black dots in a white circle, she'll look at like it's an actual eye. We have a lot of kids' books that have really stylized images of animals, and I'm kinda surprised that she recognizes them as something worth looking at. And you can really tell a difference. It's strange 'cause things that are very abstract, she won't necessarily look at, but she's curious about the things that have sort of faces. It's crazy. She's only three months old. Okay, there's my little leopard inspired by Brian Wildsmith's book. And I'm gonna take my scissors and just cut the space out. Ooh, you need a really short pair of scissors. This is sort of working. There we go. So kinda use the base, but then you're gonna have to use the edge of your scissors for this part. Not perfect, but that's okay, close. This is thicker because there are two layers here where the toilet paper roll comes together. Sort of bend that back maybe. Just wanted his ears to pop out a little bit. Here we go. There's your little puppet that goes with your story. And if you wanted to be really creative, you could actually do a different animals on the back side. I could do this monkey or something so then I have lots of characters (laughs) with just one or two toilet paper tubes. Why don't we do our bear also? This was the one I had for the bear. I love this bear, he's so cute! This is a reddish warmer tone in his face. Little ochre. Might be a little wet. If it's too wet, it'll just kind of absorb into the toilet paper tube, and the paint will just absorb. You won't really be able to tell what you laid down. So I'm gonna make this paint a little bit thicker. When you're mixing these neutrals, like a brown or a gray, you usually can just mix opposites on the color wheel, so complementary colors. If you watched any of Erika Lee Sears' oil painting classes, she says that her favorite black to mix is Christmas black, which is red and green. All right. That is a very similar color (laughs) to what's already on there. That's fine. He's got little ears too. It's gonna be hard to see. Let's add a little bit more blue. Just wanna make it a little darker.

Okay, you can see that a little better. Remember, this is scruffy. That's fine. Scruffy bear. I'm gonna add just a bit of water here 'cause my paint is quite thick. Maybe a little bit of yellow. Right now he kinda looks like an owl. It's kinda even hard to see because everything's so neutral. But we'll come back in with, why don't we use that black brush pen again? I really liked using that. And why don't we make these little spots where his eyes are gonna go a little bit lighter like it is in the book? I like that. So my paint's really thick. Just gonna smooth it up a little bit by adding a bit of water. So cute. His illustrations are so amazing. He wrote a lot of kids' books. Gonna add some white where his paws are too just 'cause it's kinda disappearing. Blend that in with some yellow. Okay, that needs to dry a little bit before we go in with our marker pen. And do we wanna do a hare also? Let's see. That's the back of the hare. But there's an image in here of the front of the hare we could use. Oh, I bought this in New Orleans. (laughs) That's really cool. A bookstore called The Rubber Library and Flower Bodega for \$3, and brought it home with me. There's the hare. Let's do that. We can attempt these long ears and cutting it out, even though we might have some difficult where (laughs) there's this double thickness, but I'm willing to give it a go. Let's see. I think I'm actually gonna use the marker because this gray color is already kind of what we've got. So these long ears. And then sorta wide face. So whereas these guys are more full bodies, this is just the head. The head of the hare.,(laughs) which is fine, we have to accommodate those long ears. So our bunny nose. Bunny teeth which we'll paint in white. It's got this muzzle here. Lots of whiskers because bunnies and hares have really pronounced whiskers. And then I love these goldeny amber lamplight eyes. They're just giant triangles. Got some marks here. I mean, this is so scruffy, but that's great. Feels like these illustrations. Let's mix up a little bit of orange for those eyes. Don't want him to look too sinister. We might go back in (laughs) and make those black pupils a little bit more round instead of this oblong. Just a little bit of yellow on the outside of that. Some white here in his muzzle and also his teeth. I'm gonna have to go back in here with my black marker, which is totally fine. And let's add some warmer tones in there, but keeping it scruffy. I really like the scruffiness. (laughs) Scruffy, scruffy. We'll go back in and add the whiskers back on top. Scruffy, scruffy, scruffy. Scruffy on the ears. And I actually wanna add some pink in the center of his ears. That's not in the storybook, but I like that. Think it'll make him look a little more friendly. Come back in here with some brown. Some brown in here. Brown in here. Okay, that looks a little messy at the moment, but I'm gonna come back in with my black pen and just clean some of it up once it dries. So we'll put that aside, and we'll go back to our bear 'cause that's dry now. Let's just use our black brush pen. Again, you can just use a regular marker. I happen to just have the brush pen. So here's his little nose, the bear nose. I still think he looks like an owl a lot, but he's so cute. The little bear eyes. He doesn't really have a mouth. And instead of maybe drawing all his fur texture, I might just do the kinda outside lines of his fur texture. There's definitely some darker fur underneath his chin. Bears have really long claws. If you had a brown marker, you could go in here and do all his chest fur. I don't wanna make it all black, so I'm just gonna do a little bits of it. You can rotate the tube as you're working on different parts. Definitely wanna have some fur texture in here. These sort of eyebrows. Let's make his eyes just a little bit bigger. Oh, he's so cute. Little bear ears. Okay, so there's our little bear. He could actually be a little bit thicker. I think he would be cuter thicker, but it's nice that a lot of him fits on just this side that you can see. So if you are telling a little story with this puppet, you can see most of the bear, which is nice. All right, I think that looks pretty good. And then let's go back to our hare and just do these last little bits. I think... Wanna make these look more like eyelashes. And this bunny needs to be smiling. Here are his teeth. Add those whiskers back in. Not as perfect as Brian Wildsmith, but he does look like a bunny, which is good. I think maybe just adding a little bit of highlight to his eye will

make him a little bit friendlier looking. It's just a little bit of white, just a little highlight. Yeah, I think that's good. Maybe a little bit on his nose. Of course, once you start, you can't stop. You start adding highlights everywhere and little textures. All right, I think that's pretty good. So now I have three little storybook puppets (laughs) made out of toilet paper tubes. How easy is that? Oh, we wanted to cut away the inside here so he looked even more like a rabbit, so let's do that. Perfect. All right, and you can even. You can cut away more even. Maybe I could then go back here and cut some length. You wanna make sure you leave enough for your hand to kinda be, oh, I cut off his ear! (laughs) Oh, no. That is not a problem, we'll just tape it back on. That's an easy fix. (laughs) Poor little bunny only has one ear. I'll tape that from the back. Let me grab some tape. All right, just regular Scotch tape. You can use washi tape. You can use any kind (laughs) of tape you want. I'm gonna trim it so that you can't see it hanging off the side there. Now, they say, "Silly rabbit, Trix are for kids." IN this case, it's silly Courtney because she's the one that cut off the bunny's ear. Okay, easy fix. (laughs) So now we have three little storybook characters that we can use when we are telling our stories. You can make a suite of characters for one single story. You can just pick and choose your favorites. I love that they're so easy and quick to make. Of course, the materials are very inexpensive and something you definitely have on hand. You can use paint like I did, plus a marker pen. You could use all marker. It's really open to interpretation. You can even use crayon. These guys are just so fun, and they make storytelling so much more effective.

Day 22 - Cardboard Cactus

- I have a small confession. I have a really brown thumb. While I'd love to surround myself with beautiful plants and flowers, it just wasn't meant to be. I'd like to blame the house. I think maybe there's some weird plant juju in here. And everyone tells me, get a succulent, get a cactus, but still, they don't make it. So let's make a cardboard cactus. Even the simplest of shapes can make the cutest of cacti. I have two pieces of cardboard out, one piece of cardboard is to make my cactus and the second piece is to protect my work surface. You can also use newspaper or a garbage bag, just anything to protect your surface from paint. The paint I'm using is acrylic craft paint. I have out white, yellow, and a couple green shades just to get the perfect shade of green that I'm looking for. But you can use green straight out of the bottle, you could even get really crazy and use pink, purple, orange, even black. Whatever suits you and your style. You also need a container for that paint, a mug or a can or a plant pot if you have one. I really love the aesthetic of little plants in tiny mugs, so I'm using this really cute kitty cat mug for my cactus. But you use whatever you have around the house. You need something to fill that mug. This is quinoa, because I happened to have an old bag of quinoa in the kitchen. It was opened and I'm not really sure how to tell if quinoa has gone bad. But anyway, I'm probably not gonna eat it, so I'm happy it will go into my cactus project. You could also use rice or beans. But normally I would suggest you do not use something perishable, just so it doesn't draw any pests. So if you have beads, gravel, sand, anything small and tiny to fill your cup, that's great. I am using these really cute paper flowers that I purchased on Etsy. You don't have to use a literal flower, you could also create a tiny flower with a piece of colorful tissue paper, you could also use pompoms, or make small tassels with yarn. You only need a couple. I might be just using like three flowers, so just a little touch of color for your cactus. You'll need a paintbrush, this one's medium sized and it's just to get color onto the cardboard. If you want to paint details later grab a smaller brush as well. I'll be using a Sharpie to add my details, just a regular black Sharpie. You also need a pencil, a pair of scissors, and a ruler. Don't forget some glue. That can be Tacky Glue or a hot glue gun to attach your flowers. To get started grab your cardboard,

your pencil, your scissors, and your container. I'm keeping the container here to make sure that the cardboard pieces I'm cutting will fit into it. Sometimes you start off too wide and then there's a problem, so you can just use this as a reference. I'll start by cutting this weird big shaped cardboard piece into smaller pieces. It'll just make cutting my shapes and handling the cardboard a bit easier. So you'll need two pieces of cardboard that are the same size. They don't need to be the same size right now, but I'm just letting you know that eventually your two cardboard shapes will need to be somewhat similar. And start with your first piece of cardboard and roughly sketch out the shape of your first paddle is maybe if they call them if it's a cactus. There's something to keep in mind here. You're trying to make sure that this piece will glide right into your cup. So if you wanted to measure that you could. Like I wanna make sure that the base of mine is no more than two inches. This is 2 1/2, but for easy in and out I would make it two inches. So I can mark that off on the bottom of my piece of cardboard just as a reference, doesn't have to be precise at all. And you can cut this down later. So using my marks here at the bottom I'm just gonna start drawing a shape. Like a rounded rectangle almost. You can see that. Super easy. Cut it right out. If cutting the curve is getting difficult right when you're feeling resistance you can just keep cutting straight and it gives you more room for your scissors to work with. And to double-check that this will go in. Okay, see how there's some resistance here at the cat ears. So I'm going to trim the sides a little bit. So that's really, this is perfect. There's no resistance, it hits the bottom of the mug perfectly. I kind of like him, I think I'm gonna keep him. You'll need to cut out another shape exactly like the first one. So use your first piece of cardboard as a template for your second one and just trace around with your pencil. The next step is to create one notch in each of these pieces, so that they'll fit together like a puzzle. One is going to need a slot in the top half and one is going to need a slot in the bottom half. Measure how tall your piece of cactus is. Mine is like 9 1/4. 4 1/2 plus 1/8, which is right about here. Mark the same center point on your other piece of cardboard. Actually you can go ahead and draw a line down the entire center. I'll do that for this one also. So for one piece of cardboard you need to cut a slit through the top. I'm gonna just mark that a little bit more darkly to remind myself. And this one's gonna get a slot on the bottom. I'm not too worried about my marks, because I'm going to paint on these later. If you're worrying about it showing through the paint then you can use less heavy marks than I did. But I wanted you to be able to see what I'm doing on camera. Cut out a notch here. And technically this notch needs to be as wide as your cardboard is thick. If I were using a thicker material, like foam core, like a 1/4 inch foam core, I would make sure that my notch is a 1/4 inches. Since this is cardboard and it's such a small measurement I'm just going to move my scissor it looks like almost 1/8 of an inch away from my initial cut just to cut out a little bit more room for the other piece of cardboard to slide in. And you can adjust this also once you get slots in both of your pieces cut out. If it's too wide your cactus will be really wiggly, if it's too thin they won't go together. So I would rather start too thin before cutting a slot that's so wide that it's not really holding together very well. Let's start here. This is how the pieces fit together. There's a little bit of resistance, which means I need to cut my slot a bit wider toward the center. That's lining up really well. You can see what it's suppose to look like. And ideally if the bottoms were completely flat this could stand up on its own. And it kind of does, it's a little bit wobbly, but that's why we have the quinoa or the sand in our cup as well. I think this is looking pretty good, so the next step is painting. I'm grabbing my other piece of cardboard as my painting surface. I also like using cardboard, because it's portable and I can paint my pieces and then just take them away to dry some place else and work on a different project. So that's a good tip for you too. If you wanna create yourself just a little project tray, so you don't have to hog up a whole table waiting for cardboard to dry. Get your dish. I'm

going to mix up a pastel, pastelish spring green is what I'm going for here. I'm just eyeballing right now. I'm liking that quite a bit. It turned out okay. All righty. And just paint away. If you want to paint the edge you can leave one side of this unpainted, so there's room for your hands. Some people leave the edge unpainted. You can do whatever you wanna do. It's not exactly a flat surface, so it's not picking up a ton of paint, but it would just bother me knowing I didn't try painting. So I'll give it a go. Let this side dry. It actually doesn't take as long as you think, but if you're impatient you can hit it with a hairdryer and it'll probably dry in like five, 10 minutes. The paint on the cardboard no longer looks shiny, so I'm going to flip it over and paint the other side. You might wanna give your paint a little longer to dry than I am, but for the sake of showing you this fairly quickly today I'm just gonna go with pretty dry is dry enough. Grab your Sharpie and start drawing some fun accent lines on your cactus. And these can look like whatever you want. I'm not trying to be super realistic. I'm basically going to be drawing lines that look like this. But if you want to do cactus spines you can do a repeating pattern that looks like this, or you can make Xs. You could even draw polka dots, it's whatever you want. I'm doing lines today. I just, I like the look of it. Again, these do not have to be perfect. Nothing about this project has to be perfect. It's still gonna look so cute and so amazing. I also find it's easier, instead of just moving my fingers and moving my pen to draw the line, I'm holding my fingers and my hand pretty much in the same position and then just using my whole arm to pull the pen down. After you've created your designs or your lines you can start putting your cactus together. Take your mug. Using my left hand to guide, oop, oh, make it like this, and create my own funnel with my hand. Is that possible? Anything is possible. I did make a little bit of a mess, but that's okay, crafting is messy. Just make your pieces perpendicular to each other and make the slots meet. This might be feeling a little funky, because of the paint. Adding a little bit of an extra layer, but it should still slide through. You can make sure these top pieces are centered, like so. I feel like there's a little bit more it can go. Yep, snap it in. Looks nice and even. And slide that right into your mug full of quinoa. And then if you want to you can add your flowers. I'm just gonna use a scissor to trim some of these off. These had a little bit of wire in the back, so I'm just flattening the wire. I can't cut these too loosely, or I can't cut them too closely, because then the whole flower will fall apart. So I'm keeping a little of the wire and using it to keep the flower together. Grab some Tacky Glue or hot glue, hot glue can work as well. This is Turbo Tacky Glue and I find that the hole gets clogged very easily. And I don't have a pin within reach to unclog my glue. I'm just gonna pull off the top. Use my pencil eraser as a brush. Just as a reminder, you can also use pompoms, tissue paper, little balls of yarn, any little surprise colorful thing to represent your flower. Look how adorable this is. Get up close. It's so cute. By experimenting with different shapes and arms and flowers and colors you're going to have the most amazing mini cactus garden.

Day 23 - Embroidered Image

- Embroidering on found imagery combines two of my greatest crafty loves, collaging and embroidery. Look online, there's a lot of artists doing really special things with this art form, you'll see them doing cross-stitching on found photographs, and needlepoint, and all different kinds of stitching. We're gonna do a very basic, straight stitch embroidery. We have a very grumpy cat wearing a birthday hat, and then we're gonna have a more cheerful looking horse wearing a birthday hat. 'Cause it has nice straight lines, it's easy. Gonna begin by threading our needle with about 14 inches of thread, and you actually don't have to pre-punch the holes. You might want to punch from front to back, making sure not to get your fingers, so that you have a visual, so that you're not going in blind. And then instead of tying a knot, we're going to tape it down. Also, if

you're using a page from a magazine instead of a photograph, you're going to want to glue it to some thicker paper first, so I just used glue stick to glue this to a card stock weight paper. And we're just gonna give him little party hat. We don't want it too tall and pointy, 'cause then it'll look like a dunce cap, and clearly, this is a smart pony. We just poke it through. I'm not sewing into the front, of course, I'm just poking a hole. And I'm going to leave this, I'm not gonna cut this short yet, because I'm gonna do some more stitches along the bottom, but I wanna do my yellow first. Gonna repeat the same process, poke a hole so you can see where it's going. And I'm just using a straight stitch, but I've seen some really cool examples done with French knots. And then I'll go ahead and clip my threads and tape them to the back. You might want to cut a piece of card stock, let's say you're going to send this in a card, you might wanna cut a piece of card stock and glue it on top of your threads. You could even make it the same exact size as the page, and glue it over so that you see even less of a patch job. And I think I'm gonna give this other pony a party hat too, 'cause he looks like he wants to join in the fun, but I'm gonna do that on my own time. The question is, are the pony and the cat at the party together? Is it the same party? Yes, 'cause they're color-coordinated.

Day 24 - Washi Tape Manicure

- Crafting and making art are both fabulous forms of self-care. However, if you're working with your hands like me day in and day out, your me time might need to look a little bit different, and what I like to do is give myself a manicure. I'm using the word manicure very casually, nothing fancy, just a couple coats of color. But if you want to add a fun design, all you need is washi tape. I'll show you a couple bold modern designs you can create with Gesture washi tape collection, and then when you're going back to work with your hands, you have a little flash of color and a little flash of design to make your crafting even more fun. These are the materials I'll be using today for my manicure. You can also see that I have some nails that have a base color on them. You can start with fresh nails for these designs or you can throw down a foundation color if you prefer. Also if you have a base clear coat or a base color coat, make sure that they are completely dry before you move forward with your washi tape. Otherwise, your washi tape designs when you pull off the tape, will also pull off your wet nail polish. Before the nail art Seche really gets started, I begin with tearing off a bunch of pieces of washi tape first. I'm doing this because as I go, I'm going to have wet nail polish all over my fingers and picking out the washi tape roll will become problematic. So you want to get lots of washi tape going, probably more than you're actually going to need in case you have a mess up, or some of the strips start sticking to each other and you have to start over. So just get ready. I got a little over prepared, and created a layout of the designs that I want to show you. I figured that these nail designs would be living on my hands for a little bit, so they might as well look good all together. Obviously, you don't have to have all these designs on your hands all at once. I think it looks really cool when you have just a regular manicure. All your nails are the same color, but you have one accent nail, that looks really modern and really nice. Mine are going to end up looking a little crazy together. But I wanted to show you a couple different techniques. We're going to start with this one, it's very simple. You're using the washi as a resist, and I chose a horizontal line but you could certainly do a vertical line, or even a diagonal line. Just grab a piece of washi, place it over your nail, and you want to make sure it's making good contact. So rub that on, you don't want any of your nail color, your nail polish to seep through. You especially want to pay attention to the edges here. If you have an orange stick or the blunt end of a paintbrush that could be helpful too. I would suggest one fairly thick-ish coat, or two coats where the first coat hasn't completely dried because you want to pull the tape while the nail polish is still wet. If you wait for it to dry, you might

pull up some edges of your dried nail polish, which would be a bummer. So paint this right on, remembering to go over the edge of the tape. Heads up, I'm so bad at painting my nails, I'm really messy. I get it everywhere, kind of looks like a murder scene but that's what the Q-tips, oops see, there you go, that's what the Q-tips and the nail polish remover are for. And then pull the tape. Creates a nice line, I might take off some of this bottom glue just so I don't catch that on something else as we go. Let's dry that up a little bit. It's not really going anywhere. The second one I'm going to show you is a V-shape. You have your washi, you want to cut it into a little square with your scissors. Square-ish is okay, it doesn't have to be a perfect square. I'm using a clean nail for this one. And you use the angle of your square, put the tip of the square in the center and bottom of your nail. Make sure it gets really on there. Rub the edges. It is probably a good idea to grab a tool for the rubbing or the burnishing. Also if you have your Q-tip, that could work as well. Make sure to overlap your tape. Get a good coat on there. And then pull the tape. Oop, I caught the tip of mine a little bit. Want to be careful while you're, pull the tape slowly. I went a little quickly. But you can see how it makes a really cool V-design. And I have a pretty thick white moon shape on my nails which I looked up last night and it's called the lunula, like Luna, a little moon. And my Lunas are pretty big. So for me, this method looks a little funky but it looks really cool for people who have a smaller lunula than I do, okay. Moving on to the third, using a diagonal thin stripe. I'm going to cut my washi an eighth-ish of an inch, something thin. It's looking a little thick to me, so I'm going to fit it down. My fingernails are always a little smaller than I think they are. So that's why you need a tiny pair of scissors to cut tiny pieces of tape. Okay, lay this diagonally through the center of my nail. I'm gonna burnish that down. Want to pay attention to the edge of your nail here, that need some love. I'm going to use a different color for this side than I am for this side, but you can certainly use all one color too, you will still make a really cool stripe. So I'm gonna see my red on the top. And my blue on the bottom. Getting a little messy down there. It's my signature style, totally kidding. And then slowly pull up the tape. I got a little wiggly, I might not have burnished it quite as well. Also, it looks a little messy. The next one is my favorite, it's the heart shape. So you'll need a piece of tape that's a couple inches long. It's getting a little dicey because I have a lot of wet nail polish all over. You fold the tape in half. Place it on your non-dominant finger. Like so, make a loop. You want to fold this in half, but you still want to be able to unfold it later. So that's why you stick it on your finger in a loop. So pinch the center here to fold your washi in half. We're going to create a heart-shaped hole in this piece of washi. And it's much tinier than you think, like I'm going on this nail and it's a pretty small area. So think tiny. I bet almost might be too big, but let's see. So pull up the ends. Carefully open it back up, to reveal your heart. It might take up more room on my finger than I had originally planned, but I'm going to go with it. But if you don't get it right the first time, you can certainly try it again. You also might find that some brands of washi tape are stickier than others. I really think the sticky are the better, I might not have a super sticky washi on hand right now, which is why I'm not getting super clean lines. So if you can test the tackiness of your washi, pick a sticky one. Let's make sure to go over the edges of your washi to really fill out your shape. Then hold your breath and hope that it comes out beautifully. Sometimes, I'm going to admit, this has been a bit of a like hold your breath and pray situation. Carefully pull it up. I have a little bit of a dot on top, but you can see how cute that little heart is. The last method I want to show you is if you want the washi tape design to show on your nail, effectively, creating a nail wrap out of your washi tape. So if you're going to use this method on all of your fingers, you need to make sure your washi tape is wider than your thumb. For me, this particular washi tape wouldn't work on all 10 of my fingers. Washi tape certainly comes in all different widths, so it's just something to keep in mind as you're picking a tape design. I'm

putting this on my third finger, so for me, this width is fine. You can also take a look at your washi tape design and if there are multiple designs on one piece of tape, you get to decide which part you want to use. I'm going to use this fun floral pattern. So I'll trim around it. Give myself a nice rectangle to work with. You wanna grab your clear coat, open it up, and then place this right on your finger, you need to trace out the shape of your finger nail. I forgot to tell you to grab a pencil. Some people are really good at eyeballing this, that is not something that I excel at. So, a pencil is very helpful. There might be some wrinkling, that's just gonna happen with washi. I have read that some people find less wrinkling when they use a decorative tape that has a plastic content more than a paper tape content. This is a little awkward because I'm using my left hand and I'm a righty. So cut out this U-shape at the bottom. Place it back on your nail to see how you did. I feel like that needs a little bit of smoothing. That's pretty good. Then you want to trim the top to match the length of your nail. That's going to be a trial with your wrong hand. My scissors are pretty sharp. So trim that up until it fits your nail, watch out for your fingies, you don't want to cut those. This is also a good time to maybe file down any rough edges. I'm not a nail filer, so I don't have one. I'm just gonna go with my rough self, burnish this down. If you have longer nails, I also think this technique is more successful because what you want to do is get your top coat to wrap like around the edge and bottom of your nail to really hold in that washi tape. And then you just throw on a couple coats of clear coat. The Seche Vite is pretty powerful stuff. It's pretty thick, so you may only need one. Just paint that right on. Make sure to get the edge. And try to get it to wrap underneath the top edge of your nail as well, to really hold on that tape. That's pretty much it. I'm going to finish painting the rest of my nails and then I'm going to throw a top coat on, clean up the edges with some Q-tips and nail polish remover and then I'll show you the big reveal. I threw a lot of different ideas at you just now but I hope you found a little bit of inspiration to grab your favorite polish colors and some washi tape and try something new.

Day 25 - Making Marks

- Whenever I wanna be creative but I don't know where to start, I don't have an image in mind or something that I wanna paint or draw, I sit down and I make marks. We're gonna gather some very basic art materials like pens and paper, paint brush and a little bit of paint and just go to town. We're gonna make some marks and respond to those and see what we get. I've got a big sheet of paper here, this happens to be watercolor paper, but you can use card stock or anything, you could do this on cardboard, in your sketchbook, whatever you've got lying around. And the idea is I wanna start by just making random marks on this. So I've got a variety of brushes, I've got highlighters, Sharpie, brush pens, glittery pens, jelly roll pens, I have my paint palette out, and I just wanna make some marks. Those are really light. They're gonna dry even lighter so let's get some darker color on here. It's a very big brush for my palette. I'm just kind of playing with whatever. Let's do a different brush. I love these hardware store brushes because the bristles really separate and you can make kinda stripes. If you've watched any of my painting gift wrap classes, I use these a lot for surface design and stuff like that. I'm not trying to make anything pretty or look like anything just yet. Let's try, I'm even gonna rotate this so I don't drag my hand through the wet paint. Let's make some little marks. This is fun to do with pens that are running out of ink also, 'cause you can get some really interesting shapes and irregularities. Let's do two pens together and see what happens. (pens scratch) 'Cause these are water-based, you can see they kinda blended. I've got this sort of toothbrush brush. I don't really know what it's gonna do. I mean I can guess, but, just gonna rub it in my palette here. (brush scratches) I have this foam brush that already has paint on it from making

rainbows. Oh I like that color. Let's do that. And scribbling, you don't have to do anything specific, just scribble. This is a good collaborative piece you can do with little ones, 'cause little ones like to draw. And like I said, nothing is precious. Just see what kind of marks your hand is naturally inclined to make. And remember, you're just doing this with what you have. In my head, I'm thinking, oh I really want some crayons or something, but I don't have any crayons with me. So I'm just using what I have. Okay. I think that's pretty good. Now I'm gonna use this as the basis of kind of like a drawing. So I'm gonna look at this and come back and think, "Okay, what do these things look like?" Pam Garrison does something similar where she kinda finds florals in her abstract mark-making. I'm not restricting myself to florals, I can add anything here. So what do I think these things look like? I might just outline them to start. These kinda look like flames, but they also look like little people. You can wait for things to dry also, I'm not really doing that, but you could. Or maybe they look like peas in a pod. And then what does that lead me to do? Maybe I do some little pea tendrils. What does that look like? Maybe I just wanna draw a pattern in here. I'm using a jelly roll, so it's not like you're creating your own coloring book exactly, it's sort of just like you put down whatever and then you respond just by what's in your head, what things look like to you. I'm gonna wait 'cause that's super wet. Maybe this needs more, because it's just two lines, that's all I'm really seeing. So maybe I wanna just add some more. Maybe these are all just gonna become flowers in a field. I mean, I do tend to make a lot of things flowers, or people. But maybe they become buildings, maybe they become cars, maybe they become bigger abstract shapes. There's no right or wrong to this. (pen scratches) So these are kind of like poppies in the field. (pen scratches) And maybe that makes me think, okay these are also flowers here. (pen scratches) And I can come back in and draw more things on top, (pen scratches) now that I've decided these are flowers. This kind of looks like a person underwater. There's their head. There's their arm. Here's their other arm kinda underneath them. Their back, and I don't know, a mermaid tail it looks like. Maybe a little bigger than what you see there. These are very narrow hips, a mermaid would have much wider hips, and it looks like a mermaid with really short hair, or a merman. And just little hands. That's kinda fun, I really like that. I like this person, I'm moving it over so I can reach it. But maybe I want just a bigger trunk here. (marker scratches) So then maybe that makes these waves, or sea kelp, or maybe this is a whole underwater scene. I can go back in and add some paint if I don't have colors that I want. So maybe he's blue and green. What is he swimming toward? Is it a big shell? Is it an underground space? I kinda just wanna do more marks now. (water swishes) Yeah, maybe that's some kind of nautilus shell. I can't really think of what that nautilus shell really looks like, so maybe I'll just kinda outline this. And maybe these things become shells. I should wait 'til they're dry, because I'm gonna ruin my pen drawing on wet things. (pen scratches) There, my little shells. So that's fun, that shape was not a person, and then it became a human kinda figure. At least that's how I see it now. (water swishes) A merman. What else is happening? Maybe these are seahorses, if I just kinda stick with this theme. Again, I'm really making this up because I can't really recall what a seahorse looks like. They're kinda interesting shaped, and I think they have little wings here and little eyes here. So maybe this is just a group of seahorses. Is there a collective noun for that? I don't know. What I like about this kind of an activity is that I would never, ever sit down and draw a seahorse. It would be very unlikely, and if I was going to, I wouldn't start this way. And I don't know if I would sit down and draw a merman, but because you started with mark making and used that as your prompt, that's kinda what you're getting. Or some unusual characters. And maybe you're looking at this and you're like, "I don't see a seahorse and a merman at all." But that's okay, that's the point. That's the beauty of art. You are gonna see your own thing. They're starting to look like dragon birds. (instructor laughs) That's funny

too. Those were pea pods, maybe those are underwater pea pods. Maybe this is also an ocean wave, but it has a boat on it. This kinda looks like a girl running to me. I'm not very good at drawing people without, from the side without a reference. So that's a little tricky. Again, I'm just gonna go with it. But here's her puffy sleeve, and here's her dress, and she's kinda flying along in the wind. Her eyelashes. Her nose. Her lips. And her fabulous hair. Maybe she's also turning into a boat, or she's like the sail on a boat. So maybe so some kind of sail we saw, but she's really a woman. (pen scratches) Here's the wind. I'm just gonna keep going. Maybe we can make more marks. All I'm seeing are waves and ocean things. And tomorrow, if I sat down and made exactly the same marks, I would probably see something totally different. (pen scratches) And maybe that makes me think of coral, and that's coming into here. And maybe you'll find something in this that you really love and you wanna continue exploring, a color palette, a series of shapes, or actual drawings that you end up making. If you don't love it, you can paint over it. You can also cut it up and make it into something else, which I think is really fun. Sometimes if you just kind of look at small sections of something that you don't like the overall part of, the smaller sections can be more interesting. And I wanna fill that whole page, because this is just a mark making exercise, it's not a painting. It's not a finished painting. So I'm just gonna come in here and add more marks. I still have that foam brush that has paint on it. (brush squeaks) I'm just dabbing the brush. (brush scratches) It's getting very muddy, so once that dries, I might go over and make darker marks. But like I said, this isn't a painting, so I don't have to find overall balance. I just make the marks that I think are interesting. (pen scratches) But very loosely, still just kinda scribbling. Yeah, I really like that. So like that part. Okay, that's cool, that's something I can take onto something else. I really like this mark. It hasn't become anything, but I just like it as it is. I think it's fun that I drew this merman guy from looking down through the water, I would've never done that. I like this little girl, she needs more, I don't know. She's riding on the wind. But I don't know where this will take me. I might just cut it up and make a postcard out of it, paint over it and just leave little parts of it showing through. Mark making can lead you to really new and unexpected places. You can do it with almost anything you have in your house, pens, pencils, markers that are running out of ink, paint, any old brush, it doesn't matter if it is really, really scruffy, you'll make more interesting and unusual marks that way, which will lead you to a new place in your work.

Day 26 - Thumbprint Cards

- When was the last time you made thumbprint people? I'm guessing not recently enough, but it's something that I think we all do when we were kids and it's just as fun now. You'll just need a couple of colors of ink and a Sharpie, and some paper. We're gonna make thumbprint cards, and I'm gonna make a very friendly caterpillar. He was hungry! But I think he was friendly, too. (chuckles) A very hungry caterpillar inspired thank you card. We're gonna use just three colors for that. And we're gonna use a different finger for each color to avoid cross-contamination. Think of them as your brushes. I'm gonna use the tip of my finger to make a round mark for our caterpillar friend's face. (gasps) See, I dipped in the wrong color. That's why it's good to have a baby wipe, and you can gently borrow off your ink pad. Okay, blue, green. And I'm gonna give him a little face. And some feet. And I think I'm gonna write thank you in the bumps. T-H-A-N-K, space, Y-O-U. Then I'll start here. Who wouldn't want to get that adorable card? And just because we have our ink pad out, what is thumbprint art if you're not making actual thumbprints? And I now wipe my thumb off between each print. Let's give them little faces, too. And they're all happy, because they're thumbs. You can't see their other arms because they are hugging. And now I can either write a message here

or leave it blank for now. (gentle upbeat music)

Day 27 - Crochet a Strawberry Pocket

- Crafting and making art are both fabulous forms of self care. However if you're working with your hands like me, day in and day out, your me time might need to look a little bit different. And what I like to do is give myself a manicure. I'm using the word manicure very casually. Nothing fancy, just a couple coats of color. But if you want to add a fun design, all you need is washi tape. I'll show you a couple bold, modern designs you can create with just your Washi tape collection. And then when you're going back to work with your hands, you have a little flash of color and a little flash of design to make your crafting even more fun. These are the materials I'll be using today for my manicure. You can also see that I have some nails that have a base color on them. You can start with fresh nails for these designs or you can throw down a foundation color if you prefer. Also if you have a base, clear coat or a base color coat, make sure that they are completely dry before you move forward with your Washi tape. Otherwise your Washi tape designs when you pull off the tape, will also pull off your wet nail polish. Before the nail art sesh really gets started, I begin with tearing off a bunch of pieces of Washi tape first. Doing this because as I go, I'm gonna have wet nail polish all over my fingers and picking up the Washi tape roll will become problematic. So you wanna get lots of Washi tape going. Probably more than you're actually going to need, in case you have a mess up or some of the strips starts sticking to each other and you have to start over. So just get ready. I got a little over prepared and created a layout of the designs that I wanna show you. I figured that these nail designs would be living on my hands for a little bit so they might as well look good all together. Obviously you don't have to have all these designs on your hands all at once. I think it looks really cool when you have just a regular manicure. All your nails are the same color but you have one accent nail that looks really modern and really nice. Mine are gonna end up looking a little crazy together. But I wanted to show you a couple of different techniques. We're gonna start with this one. It's very simple. You're using a Washi as a resist and I chose a horizontal line, but you could certainly do a vertical line or even a diagonal line. Just grab a piece of Washi, place it over your nail and you wanna make sure it's making good contact. So rub that on. You don't want any of your nail color, your nail polish to seep through. You especially wanna pay attention to the edges here. If you have an orange stick or the blunt end of a paint brush, that could be helpful too. I would suggest one fairly thickish coat. Or two coats where the first coat has completely dried because you want to pull the tape while the nail polish is still wet. If you wait for it to dry, you might pull up some edges of your dried nail polish, which would be a bummer. Just paint this right on. And we're going to go over the edge of the tape. Heads up, I'm so bad at painting my nails. I'm really messy. I get it everywhere. Kind of looks like a murder scene. But that's what the Q-tips, oopsy there you go. That's what the Q-tips and the nail polish remover are for. Then pull the tape. That's a nice line. I might take off some of this bottom goo, just so I don't catch that on something else as we go. So dry that up a little bit. Okay. It's not really going anywhere. The second one I'm gonna show you is a V shape. You have your Washi. You wanna cut it into a little square with your scissors. Squarish is okay. It doesn't have to be a perfect square. I'm using a clean nail for this one and you use the angle of your square. Put the tip of the square in the center and bottom of your nail. Make sure it gets right on there. Rub the edges. It is probably a good idea to grab a tool for the rubbing or the burnishing. Also if you have your Q-tip that could work as well. Make sure to overlap your tape. Get a good coat on there. And then pull the tape. Ooh I caught the tip of mine a little bit. You wanna be careful while you're pull the tape slowly (laughs). I went a little quickly. You can see how it makes a

really cool V design. And I have a pretty thick white moon shape on my nails, which I looked up last night and it's called the lunula. Like luna, a little moon and my lunas are pretty big. So for me, this method looks a little funky but it looks really cool for people who have a smaller lunula than I do. Okay. Moving on to the third. Using a diagonal thin stripe. I'm gonna cut my Washi an eighth of an inch, something thing. It's looking a little thick to me. So I'm gonna think it down. My fingernails are always a little smaller than I think they are. So that's why you need a tiny pair of scissors to cut tiny pieces of tape. You can lay this diagonally through the center of my nail. I'm gonna burnish that down. We're to pay attention to the edge of your nail here. That needs some love. I'm going to use a different color for this side than I am for this side but you can certainly use all one color too. And we'll still make a really cool stripe. So I use my red on the top and my blue on the bottom. Getting a little messy down there. It's my signature style. Totally kidding. And then slowly pull up the tape. I got a little wiggly. I might not have burnished it quite as well. Also it looks a little messy. The next one is my favorite. It's the heart shape. So you'll need a piece of tape that's a couple inches long. It's getting a little dicey 'cause I have a lot of wet nail polish all over. You fold the tape in half. Place it on your non dominant finger like so, make a loop. You wanna fold this in half but you still wanna be able to unfold it later. So that's why you stick it on your finger in a loop. So pinch the center here to fold your Washi in half. You're gonna create a heart shaped hole in this piece of Washi. And it's much tinier than you think. Like, I'm going on this nail. And it's a pretty small area. So think tiny. That almost might be too big, but let's see. So pull at the ends. Carefully open it back up to reveal your heart. It might take up more room on my finger than I had originally planned. I'm gonna go with it. But if you don't get it right the first time, you can certainly try it again. You'll also find that some brands of Washi tape are stickier than others. You also might find that some brands of Washi tape are stickier than others. I really think the stickier the better. I might not have a super sticky Washi on hand right now, which is why I'm not getting super clean lines. So if you can test the tackiness of your Washi, pick a sticky one. Just make sure to go over the edges of your Washi to really fill out your shape. And hold your breath and hope that it comes out beautifully. Sometimes, I'm gonna admit, this has been a bit of a like hold your breath and pray situation. Carefully pull it up. I have a little bit of a dot on top because you can see how cute that little heart is. The last method I wanna show you is if you want the Washi tape design to show on your nail, effectively creating a nail wrap out of your Washi tape. So if you're going to use this method on all of your fingers, you need to make sure your Washi tape is wider than your thumb. For me, this particular Washi tape wouldn't work on all 10 of my fingers. Washi tape certainly comes in all different widths so it's just something to keep in mind as you're picking a tape design. I'm putting this on my third finger. So for me, this width is fine. You can also take a look at your Washi tape design and if there are multiple designs on one piece of tape, you get to decide which part you wanna use. I'm going to use this fun floral pattern. So I'll trim around it. Give myself a nice rectangle to work with. Wanna grab your clear coat, open it up and then place this right on your finger. You need to trace out the shape of your fingernail. Forgot to tell you to grab a pencil. Some people are really good at eyeballing this. That is not something that I excel at so, a pencil is very helpful. There might be some wrinkling. That's just gonna happen with Washi. I've read that some people find less wrinkling when they use a decorative tape that has a plastic content more than a paper tape content. This is a little awkward because I'm using my left hand and I'm a righty. So cut out this U shape at the bottom. Place that back on your nail to see how you did. I feel like that needs a little bit of smoothing. That's pretty good. And you wanna trim the top to match the length of your nail. That's gonna be a trial (laughs) with your wrong hand. My scissors are pretty sharp so we'll trim that up until it fits your nail. Watch out for

your fingies. You don't wanna cut those. This is also a good time to maybe file down in your rough edges. I'm not a nail filer so I don't have one. Just gonna go with my rough self. Burnish this down. If you have longer nails, I also think this technique is more successful because what you wanna do is get your top coat to wrap like around the edge and bottom of your nail to really hold in that Washi tape. And then you just throw on a couple coats of clear coat. The Seche Vite is pretty powerful stuff. It's pretty thick so you may only need one. Just paint that right on. Make sure to get the edge. And try to get it to wrap underneath the top edge of your nail as well to really hold on that tape. That's pretty much it. I'm going to finish painting the rest of my nails and then I'm going to throw a top coat on. Clean up the edges with some Q-tips and nail polish remover and then I'll show you the big reveal. I threw a lot of different ideas at you just now but I hope you found a little bit of inspiration to grab your favorite polish colors and some Washi tape and try something new.

Day 28 - Make a Creature Collage

- Today's project is as much photo safari as it is collage making. There's a local artist named John Heltunin who makes these wonderful collages by putting animal heads on human bodies and giving them these beautiful landscape backgrounds. So we're gonna do exactly that! I don't know about you, but I have a large stack of magazines that are either waiting for some free time to be read, or have been read and are waiting to be put in the recycling bin. But this project ended up being so fun, I couldn't fall asleep the other night because I was desperately searching for dog faces! I would highly recommend one fashion magazine because there are some really serious and intense poses that get totally turned on their heads when the models' gorgeous faces are replaced with the cute and snugly faces of an animal that you might find in say a pet food advertisement. So we're going to flip through, we're going to try to find some pets and some people. Also, even if you just have junk mailers lying around, you can find some very good torsos. So once we find the person, we're going to cut off their heads, which sounds very intense. So for example, this guy is gorgeous, and we're going to keep his shirt. And I would probably go ahead and cut out the whole, I will eventually cut out the whole body. But we'll just start by now cutting out his shoulders so we can audition different pets. Even in magazines that are mostly text, they'll probably have a Geico add in there. It's a little gecko head! And we have Nation Wide dog, his neck is a little big, though of course we can always cut it down. Oh, that cat's super cute. It's just cute, it's a little too small! Oh little Bella. Oh this might be the one. We have some other torsos too. See this would look super fun too. Okay we're gonna try this one just because he might fit that small cat head even better. Popped collar. Oh this one might be too small. Oo, I have this guy before and we removed his head. We're getting pretty serious. Oh, but this pupper. Yeah this is the one. And this one makes me extra smile because he's holding up an apple, but then he also does not want to look at it. I'm gonna give him a little trim so that he fits. And you can go in with an X-Acto knife of course if you want it to be more precise, but it ends up being a more kid friendly craft if you just use your scissors. Use glue stick. Oh my gosh. This is ridiculous and wonderful. If we wanna give this a background, you can look in a more landscape-y magazine. Oh this is so good. Though his body blends in a little bit. But you can look for something that just has a vista or is more... Oo, oo! I love this! This is extra weird because there's this fallen statue here. Let's see if we can give our other creature friends a home. I think maybe this Geico dude... Oh he's so excited to be amongst the flowers. (gasps) Oo, look at those colors together. Clearly I could do this all day, and there's a good chance that I already have by the time you watch this video. Have fun seeking out your images and creating something truly unusual.

Day 29 - Paint and Draw Florals

- One of my most favorite things to draw and paint are flowers. You'll notice that if you're walking around outside that a lot of things are in bloom right now. Maybe you have some beautiful plants blooming in your own yard. You can snap a photo with your phone. You can harvest a couple plants to bring home, or you can use field guides or images off the Internet as your inspiration. And from there, we're gonna try a few different types of drawing tools. We're gonna use a brush pen, a thin pen, a marker, a crayon, you can even use pencil for this, and we're gonna see what kind of line quality we get if we sit down and draw some florals. Inspiration for drawing can come from the most easy places, your own backyard or plants that you might have in your house. I know a lot of people are trying to go on a few walks during the day because it's hard to stay inside all day. These are some things that are blooming right now in my backyard. I also absolutely love field guides. I probably own 100 field guides for flowers, mushrooms, ferns. And they have different types of illustrations. Some are just black like this. I have a lot of books that have color illustrations. If you can't get outside or you don't have anything blooming, you can also take a look at a field guide. We're gonna do some really loose drawing. This is an older book, which I am obsessed with carnations and pinks. That's the type of flower. These have color illustrations, which are just so beautiful. I love the sort of like lacy edges of carnations and their peppery scent. So we're gonna use these things as our inspiration, as well as our harvested florals and leaves. I've got just whatever drawing or painting materials you wanna use for this. I've got a Micron PN, which is just a regular tip. I really like to have a brush tip pen if I'm not gonna get out my paintbrush and paints, but if you wanna follow along with a paintbrush and paints, that's fine. So this is a brush tip pen, also Micron. These are Pentel brush tip pens. One is gray and one is black. So I have those. I've got a flexible brush tip Pentel Sign Pen. This is an ocher color. Then I've got a really thin pen. This is a G-Tec Pilot in .4. And then I have a china marker, which I love. This is like a giant waxy crayon. So honestly, you can follow along with anything. It does not have to be a perfect set of paints and paintbrush. It could be markers, pens, even crayon. Now we're gonna start really loosely. So let's say if I start with this guy. This isn't exactly a blind contour, but it's sorta similar how I would start one continuous line, but I'm looking at both my reference and what I'm doing on the page. But I just wanna do one line. Can you hear that? It's like sticky tacky, oof, I love using this. And if we wanted to try with our brush pen, something similar. I'm holding it really loosely in this middle part. I'm not holding it like a pencil. Because I don't want a perfect mark. I'm just kind of, I'm not drawing just the outside. I'm kinda trying to capture the whole leaf here. Going back and refining that shape. If we try it with a really fine pen, but even smaller. Again, starting with my outline. You can kinda see, this one's starting to look more like seaweed. I love seaweed, I love drawing seaweed. I have a lot of seaweed field guides also, although those are harder to find. Fun, oh I'm working on the same thing I've been working on all month. This is just a huge block of studio grade hot press watercolor paper. This one happens to be by Fluid, but you can use construction paper. You could do this on cardboard. I mean, really, this is a whatever you have at home kind of daily practice. So whatever you got is absolutely good enough. Let's do this. I have no idea what this plant is called, but it's so pretty. It's kinda this deep corally color and it's in my front yard right now. Just gonna start with a little, few little blossoms. I'm not gonna try to get every single little blossom, although you could if you wanna be precise. Again, I'm doing one continuous line here, sort of like my blind contours, but I am looking at my paper a little, just so I don't go off the rails too much. Starting to look like leaves and not like flowers. That's okay, though. These are not accurate drawings. These are just inspiration to bring a little bit of plant life into your house. Good. Let's try this. Maybe I just wanna maybe isolate

one little thing like if I just look at that one little flower, just pressing really lightly. And could try something like, oh yeah, let's try this little, this brush pen. This is the Micron brush pen. That only comes in one size. Similarly, let's do a tiny little study of just one part of this. And they wind up being very gestural, and I just really like kind of how my hand translates what I'm seeing and it changes, depending on what kind of material I'm using, what kind of drawing tool. I do wanna definitely do a big brush because I like these big juicy petals. So let's start with that and then we'll move onto something that we haven't tried like the ocher Pentel brush pen. So one petal, these petals here, again, not super accurate. This is the stamen. I'll maybe come in with another color for that so I can differentiate it. This leave here. It's going right over what I drew before, which is totally fine. Again, not going for perfection, but inspiration. Whatever you can do to inspire yourself is, I highly recommend. Look at your surroundings. Everything's blooming right now. It's so beautiful outside. And take advantage of some indoor time to capture that. I like how that looks. I think that's kinda fun and watery. I'm gonna come back in with, you know what, instead of doing a brush, why don't we come back in with a Micron? This is a PN tip, only comes in one size. I love these because I tend to ruin my Microns by pushing on them too hard, and the PN or plastic nib has a lot more resistance. Kinda treating this like a blind contour. I'm just one line squiggles, not picking up my pen, wanna capture some of the veins in these beautiful petals. I used to know what this flower is called and I don't remember anymore. My grandma had it growing in her yard and my mom has one in her yard too. It's funny the things that in the natural world that kinda bring up childhood memories for me. Like my grandma had this fuchsia plant right when you walked up to the front of her house, and I just loved them. I thought they looked like little dancing ballerinas and it also makes me remember that I would always have to walk, not run, in the winter up to her house because she had brick. And it would get slick with moss and you could easily slip. And so these are all the things that come to mind when I think about fuchsias. And these shapes kinda remind me of fuchsias. This is not a fuchsia, but they kind of look like dancing ladies, these petals, these juicy petals. Let's do something from a book. I love the style of this person's illustrations and drawing. The goal is not to copy it. The goal is to be inspired by it. Like I love that single little bloom. So what if we, holding this open, just did a little quick five-petal flower. And maybe do this part of it too. Those look like they're sort of individual. And then we could come back in with something small. This is my G-Tec pen. You can see that this pen is not waterproof and so it's bleeding just a little bit into the gray ink that I laid down, which I like that. I think that's cool. When you start to work with a variety of materials you just have on hand, you can get some really interesting interactions that you didn't anticipate or plan for, and that is the beauty and serendipity of just using what you have. These kinda weedy grasses are pretty. There are a lotta grasses in people's yards in my neighborhood. I'm using the Pentel brush pen with a flexible tip, and I don't know which one I wanna do. I really like that. Making it slightly wonkier than it's appearing here. I can just be inspired by this and stop looking at the image and just kinda draw my own little thing here. If I was being more true to the style or the way this plant actually is, these leaves or little collections of leaves are alternating, so they don't appear right next to each other on the stem. So I can try to keep that in mind. This is called ryegrass. And you could label these images too. I'm not doing that, but you totally could if you wanna do a more scientific study. And this book is called "Handbook of Wildflowers, Weeds, Wildlife, and Weather "of the Palos Verdes Peninsula." Very, very specific, but anywhere I go, (laughing) I always stop into at least one of the local used bookshops, and this is, I usually buy botanical floral field guides. They're under \$10 in most cases. I have way too many of them, but I love them so much. I love this. Let's try just a really thin pen. Oh, or maybe this, I love those too. Oh, this is so hard to choose. Let's start

with this 'cause that's what I originally liked. Again, my favorite way of drawing is sort of this blind contour style. So that's the thicker part of the stem coming up to this poppy. Or I'm not sure that's what it is, but it looks like a poppy to me. I'm just using one continuous line. You can see that I messed up here, messed up in quotes because it doesn't follow that, but that's okay, I'm really enjoying this process. I'm just kind of, again, one continuous line, not being precious. I wanna capture these lines inside. So I can do that with this pen, or I could actually use a brush pen and get big swaths of color in there if I want. But we're doing everything with this little thin pen, so we'll stick with it. Oh, so pretty. I kind of like that this is all monochromatic black and gray with just this one tiny little ocher thing. I could do more ocher things too if I wanted, but, totally up to you. I love this. I love that so much. Little flower here. And then what will that look like if we did that with something like a brush pen? Much, much different. And with our china marker or crayon, again, different. All right, let's look through my beautiful carnation book just because it's sitting here. Carnations get such a bad rap. I think they're often like associated with cheap funeral arrangements, and there are really so many kinds. I think they're so pretty and like I said, I love their really peppery scent. I can't decide. Maybe that one. We're running outta space on this, but that is A-OK. Just keep filling it up. Maybe I'll just do one of these little pods right here 'cause it's close to me. I'm using that Pentel brush pen, the gray one. And then if I wanna do, a lotta my blossoms tend to be over here, oh, I guess here too. Let's do this carnation. We'll do this one. Just kind of inspired. I wanna try to capture those like really lacy edges, like a lion's mane, I guess. Let whatever inspires you be the thing that you draw. Don't worry about carnations. My friend Alicia's really interested in irises right now 'cause they're blooming. If you don't have anything blooming in your garden, when you go on a walk, just go ahead and take a picture with your phone and then use that as a reference. You can use images off the Internet as a reference. Remember, we're not trying to copy anything exactly. We are just using it as inspiration. So these are soft little delicate touches with my brush pen here to capture these little carnation bits. I'm not getting the light and dark necessarily. I could go back in with this darker one and get a little more variation, maybe just in some places. I'm literally just like barely pressing down. And maybe someone will look at this and be like, "What is that pom-pomy looking thing?" But that is okay because I know what it is, and it makes me super happy. (laughing) Yeah, this is fun. We've kind of looked at some of the things that we've gathered, as well as used our field guides or books that we have around the house. You can do this exercise with almost anything. So I'm using botanicals. You could look at kids picture books, encyclopedia pages, Internet images, phone images, things that you've snapped pictures of on your walk. You could also take this approach to objects. So it doesn't have to be flowers. You could find interesting things in your house. You could do all your bottles of hot sauce if you wanted and just experiment with your different materials and the way that you hold your brush, whether it be fine line, thick line, crayons, and just see what you get. I really am enjoying all the variety and quality of lines on this page, and these kinda blobby ink marks, I think they're really, really beautiful together.

Day 30 - No-Sew Sock Bunny

- We all have unmatched socks lying around and now we can put it to good use by making a no-sew sock bunny. Now I did try this with adult sized socks. I happen to have super large feet, and the bunnies were too big to be cute. But, when I used a baby sock, it was the cutest thing I've ever seen in my life, maybe, aside from the baby of course. So you'll need one baby sock, and some rice to stuff it with. I'm actually using barley, because I used up all my rice on last night's stir fry. And you'll need two pieces of string that are the same color as your sock. You're also going to need a roll of

tape. And we're using this to hold the sock open, so that when we pour our stuffing material in, we can do that a little bit more easily. You might wanna use a funnel or make yourself a funnel out of paper. And you are going to want to stuff it down into the sock. So you'll see this heel of the sock is going to become the face, and the bottom of the sock is going to become the body. So make sure it has stuffing just past the heel. Just tap it down with your finger. And then we're going to tie a piece of string around, just above... Actually, first we can tie the string around just below where the face is going to be. And you'll want the heel portion to be in the front, and your knot to be in the back. (gasps) You know what, maybe let's take out our tape ring. Goodness gracious, Faith. And I'm gonna tie on top first so that we don't have any more barley spillage. Make a knot. Make another knot. I'm actually going to wrap it around and make one more knot. We're going to trim, leaving about a quarter of an inch. And then, yeah, this isn't pouring out. It was just in the top. Errant barley. And then we're going to separate the head from the body, just below the heel. We want it to be a little bit bigger than the head, think like a snowman. So cute already. And doesn't even have a face. Make a double knot and then wrap it around and make another knot. I should mention, if you are going to give this to a little baby to play with, as I did, make sure you do not leave them unattended with it because they could potentially gnaw through and get a mouthful of barley. Not that that happened to my baby. But I could see it potentially happening. We're gonna trim these down. Next we will make the ears. Cutting this in half. That was one of the problems using an adult sized sock, is I had so much more sock that when I cut the ears instead of standing up perkily they kinda drooped, and it wasn't in like a cute floppy eared bunny way, it was in a like this bunny's had a tough time kinda way. So we're going to cut these in an arced fashion to create our ears. So pointed at the very top. Working down. Give them a tug. Oh my gosh. I love this bunny. And then we're gonna use our Sharpie to draw on a little face. You can use any permanent marker. And just a little X for a nose. How sweet is that? Could this be any cuter?

Day 31 - Gratitude Jar

- We're on the final day of Daily Creativity at Home and we thought this would be a wonderful opportunity to pause and take a moment and really reflect on and appreciate the things, people, and activities we're missing so much right now. Let's make a gratitude jar. I also think of this as a wish jar, a to-do jar, a remember to do these things jar. Humans have such an amazing capacity for adaptation that we might be get back to our daily lives and daily rhythms and completely forget about all the wonderful things that we'd be missing just a couple weeks ago. So let's remember to write them down. And also let's remember and make a promise to each other to open this jar maybe at least once a week, maybe on the weekend, pull something from the jar and try to do that thing or see that person or eat that food that you've been missing, that day. These are the materials I'll be using to create my gratitude jar. Your jar can be as intricate and beautiful as you want, or you can keep it as simple as you want, it's really up to you. For me this is really less about the crafting and more about the intention and taking a moment to really document this place in time. I'm using an acrylic-lidded jar that never quite got rid of its plastic-y smell, so I've never used it for snacks and I'm really excited to give it an important job. I'm using A2 greeting cards simply because I happen to have them around and they're colorful and visually appealing, you can use whatever paper or cards that you happen to have, you could even use paper bags, you can cut up cereal boxes, whatever you want to write down your wishes. We'll also need a pen or some sort of writing tool, I'm just using a Sharpie. I'm using a paper cutter to cut my greeting cards in half so that they're a more manageable size, but you can also use scissors or even your hands just to create a surface to write

on. I'm just eyeballing this, I chose to cut this in half just because I think this is a little big. But I also don't want to cut them too small because I want enough room for writing. Especially if there are younger children in the house that you know, you want them to contribute also, they might still be working on their writing skills so you wanna make sure you're not giving them too small of a piece of paper to write on. You can also put doodles in here, you know, like if there's like, I wanna go to the zoo, you can put a picture of a penguin or a polar bear. Something to that effect. I also have some other cards cut up here. The first gratitude card that I'm going to write is on behalf of my roommate because she's been talking about how much she misses going to the beach. And we live only two miles away from it, so it's really sad that we can't go. The things she loves most about the beach is the feel of sand on her feet. Just put this in the jar. The card that I'm going to write for myself is also for my dog Bunny, she's named Bunny because her ears are really big. I miss taking her on walks that are a little bit more elaborate than just around the block. Get started with a couple of your own wishes and moments of gratitude and then leave out some blank cards or paper and a writing tool so that whenever inspiration hits you, you can immediately write down your wish or your moment of gratitude immediately and you will for sure be having tons of wonderful adventures very soon.