Mixtape: 5 Ways to Make an Owl with CBTV

Chapter 1 - Mixtape: Draw and Paint Owls

Upcycled O is for Owl with Suzy

- Oh my, it's O. (laughs) I adore birds so I was very excited to do an owl for the letter O. We are gonna start again with the nose, which with our owl it's a beak, right in the center. And then, we're gonna give our bird giant eyes. I wish I'd be able to see more owls in the wilderness. I've mainly seen them at rescue centers. They're kind of hard to see out in our backyard probably 'cause they usually come out at night when I'm asleep. All right, so we've got our owl eyeballs and beak. This is another one that we're painting in that dark blue. We wanna make sure we keep the eyes and the beak open to the cardboard so that we can paint with our other colors inside of those openings. I'm getting my blue and I am gonna use my big brush. I do find it easiest to paint around the eyes and beak first because then you can just have fun painting in the big empty spots without worrying about these fussy little areas. Owls have those big beautiful eyes so they can see at night, that's when they go out to get their food so they need to be able to see in the dark. Okay, I'm gonna give it a little bit of heat. You could probably just go and paint the yellow eyeballs next, but I think some heat will just help me stay neater as I work on the little owl here. (air whooshing) Sometimes I forget I'm painting and I put my whole arm into the paint as I'm painting and then I smear it everywhere else. That's why I like to use the drying heat gun or a blow dryer, it helps me stay a little bit neater. Next we're gonna go for the yellow eyes, and I'm gonna use my medium brush for that. Now, we're gonna use our pen to fill in the black. I think I'm gonna need to use the brush part of this, the brush pen. Circles for the middle of the owl's eyes, the pupil. And I would like to give my owl some eyelashes. I drew them on, but you can't see them so I'm going to pencil them in evenly on both sides. They're a little hard to see on the blue, but they still show up. I'm filling in the beak a little bit more around the edge here. There we have our owl.

Draw a bunch of owls with Lisa

- Today we're going to draw some owls. So let's get started. This first owl, I'm going to start with a modified teardrop shape. Might even look to some people like a speech bubble. And then inside of it, draw that shape. Two eyes. Can pull down draw a little beak and two little legs. And there's your first owl. The next one, we're going to make a semicircle shape and make two little ears up at the top, the very edge. And then I like to make little suggestions of wings off to the side. And then about two thirds of the way down, you're gonna start making a connected scallop design. Scallop design is a really great space filler for birds and fish. Here's my little beak. And last but not least, my eyes and my little feet. This one will have a slightly different shape. I'm gonna start with a semicircle. This will be the top of the head. And then this is the outline of our body. And I'm gonna make my wings come down here almost looking like arms. And on the inside, we'll make a shape that looks like this. A beak. I'm gonna color this one in black to draw my eyes way over to the side. And I'm gonna fill in this little semi-circle here with some little lines. And maybe we'll color little triangles inside his ears. There's our next guy. And last but not least, the wise old owl. You can see each of my owls has a very different shape and I'm going to make his eyes look like eyeglasses just for fun. And we'll add some little shapes at the bottom to mimic the patterning that you might see on the belly of an owl. Now let's give him short little legs. Here you see I have four very different little owls. They're all about the same size but they're all really differently shaped. I challenge you to take one

© CBTV and Creativebug Inc., 2026

of these shapes, the circle, the semi-circle shape, or one of the other two and turn it into your own owl design.

Make a monoprint owl with Courtney
- We're gonna make an image of an owl and you can see that I've already got my setup, my reference image is face up, then I have my transparency and then I have a sheet of my Strathmore paper cut down. I think this one is, I don't know, six by nine roughly. And everything lines up pretty well. Dipping our pen in our ink here, still using the indigo. I'm gonna do some little funky marks here for the feathers. If you have too much detail too close together, when you go to blot the image, it's gonna create a big smoosh so you have to gauge what your threshold is. That's looking pretty good. I'm still getting some of the scalloped edges of these feathers. Again, I'm starting upper left because I'm right-handed. I don't wanna drag any ink. Eyes are also very particular. You can get blobs really quickly so it's better to do a lighter touch, and come back and do it again than to get a really heavy handed eye and then have a big splodge there when you didn't intend it. Let's do some scribble marks in this dark part. Let's see how that looks. Yeah, it's pretty good, happy with that. You can't really take away the ink so it's better to do light-handed touch and then go back and redo that area than it is to wind up with a really big dark mark that you don't want. But I'm happy with this so far. You can see again, here, I'm not really tracing, I'm just letting the image guide me. Whatever I don't pick up in the ink and in the monoprint stage, I can also sort of correct if I choose to paint this. I don't know if I'll paint this one. He's mostly just gray, so I think the monoprint might be fine. There is, like, a claw down here. I might just make some of that up. Let's print that and see what that looks like. Long feathers here. You may hear some scratchiness. I'm not getting it right now so you shouldn't hear anything, but sometimes if you go backwards instead of drawing down, then you can get a scratchiness on the nib. Oh yeah, did you hear it there? (pen scratches) There. That's not really gonna hurt your nib, but you might feel some weird resistance. I would avoid that if you get it a lot, but it's not a huge issue if you get it occasionally. Oh, you can see that I have ink there where my paper does not reach. I'll just clean that up later, but be sure not to drag your hand or your finger through it 'cause it'll transfer to your paper. So part of my owl's tail feathers are going off the page. I'm okay with that too. And we'll just make up the bottom of this tree. Could do some darker marks here, some scribbles or, oops, scratchy. I could also come in with a brush and do it this way. Make sure you rinse your brush well after though because the acrylic ink will dry and harden your brush. Show you what that looks like. It's a totally different texture when you print that. It's much, much shadowier. I like it though. Just to combine these two areas, I'm gonna come in and also do more pen marks so that the brushy area is integrated a little more. And the reason I'm doing horizontal marks is because this, the bark of this tree, which is probably, like, birch already has those so I kind of wanna keep that consistent and go in line with that. I'll just draw them down here too. Okay. So take a look at that before you decide to remove it from your stack 'cause you'll never be able to realign it. I think that looks good. Take this off. Take a look at it. Yeah, I'm happy with that. Now, like I said, you can't realign it, but let's say you wanted something that you didn't get in your print. Let me just move all this. What you can do is have a second transparency, or you can even do this with a sheet of paper. Let's say I really want that line to be closed or a line here next to the face. I can actually draw it onto the paper and then before it has a time or a chance to dry, I'll take my transparency and blot it so that it looks like the rest of this image. There we go. Yeah, he looks good. I don't think I'm gonna add any color, I like him just black and white like this.

© CBTV and Creativebug Inc., 2026

Cardboard tube owls with Courtney
- Something I start collecting in the beginning of the holiday season are empty toilet paper tubes or paper towel tubes, 'cause they're actually really fun to craft with. I wanna show you the sweet little owl that you can make and later in the month, Faith is gonna show you how to upcycle your tubes as well into an ornament. So this is actually part of a paper towel tube that I cut with an X-Acto or utility blade. Just be careful. You can paint it with any color craft paint you want your owl to be. My absolute favorite paint of all time, one of them, is this champagne metallic paint by DecoArt. It normally comes in a small little regular craft size tube, but I use it so much I like to buy it in this pot. And I have just a standard one inch craft brush. You can use whatever brush that you have on hand. And in this case, it's actually pretty similar to the color of the craft paper, but it's so pretty that I just love to use it. But you could go, like I said, any color. If you're making a lot of these owls and you're gonna put them on one tree, you may want to coordinate a color theme, so you can just like easily stick your fingers in here and kinda spread them apart to hold this, so you don't get paint on yourself. And these are fun for kids to decorate. You could do all the painting and cutting and then kids can draw on them with markers. All right. And you're gonna set that aside to dry. And I have one that's already dried. This one is an actual toilet paper tube and you can see how pretty that finish is. And then we're just gonna doodle on it, draw our owl. And I'm using the Uni POSCA pens. These are paint pens that are really opaque and easy to use. They also come in different tip sizes. So there's a bullet tip, but there's also the little fine tips, which I also like. So just pick out your favorite colors. And I'm gonna start just by drawing my owl in black and then I can go back on top with other colors. So let's start with like the nose or beak. And these would be fun for Halloween too if you did like a spookier owl. My owls I think tend to look like girls, 'cause I like to put eyelashes on them. Like, owls have really big eyes. We'll add some white in there too, but let's just do our black for now. And then I like to just make like a stomach portion, kind of almost like a penguin. If you think about that oval, you can do like more than one. You can kind of make it feathery depending on the texture that you want. And then I like to do little scallops or long feathers. So you can do long feathers like that. Or you can do little scallops like this and you can do a variation. You can play with your feather design. You can see I'm definitely not being precious about this. Make it a little more textured. And then I like to do cheeks. I'm not gonna do that in the black, but let's make kind of eyebrows coming up like that. Yeah, I feel like that looks pretty much like an owl. And we're gonna cut out some wings and then we can decorate those too. Lemme do, I have an ivory color here. This is the really broad tipped one. We can come in here and add some highlights and you can see like how opaque that color is. So you can kind of go back and forth, like this white will go right over the black. If I want to come back in and add more black shadow, I can. This makes it very forgiving and easy to play with your drawing. Do those big cheeks. It's a very chic owl. And maybe I wanna add some highlights in here. While that's drying, let us cut out our wings. So do be careful. I would just sink in your X-Acto or utility knife. Don't cut your fingers. And actually once you've done that, if you feel more comfortable with scissors, you can come back in and kind of pop this out and use scissors the rest of the way. So just make like this little shape and we can pop these out like so. We'll repeat on the other side for our wing. (X-Acto snipping) It's even easier if you have a sharper blade. You can use your scissors to do the rest. (scissors tapping) And you can choose to do this before you start your drawing or after. We're gonna pop the top of this down and that's what's really gonna make this look like an owl. So it gives us those like little wizardy ear pieces. And you could, you know, play with the shape of this just by using your fingers, but I don't mind that it's a little bit wonky. I think it's really sweet. You can kinda stand it up just to make sure it looks good. Go in if you

© CBTV and Creativebug Inc., 2026

need to, just to smooth out anything. And let's add a few more details to her. Do some cheeks. I like off register color, so I tend to like leave a little bit of glimmer of what was below. I think that's fun. We'll go back in with our black and just tidy up some of these lines. Like I said, I think owls have really big eyes. That's kind of what they're known for. It's fun to make them have like sleepy eyes. There you go. This cute little owl I made out of a toilet paper tube. And of course she needs some friends. Here's one that I used color shift as the base, which is another paint that I really love. This one's called Black Flash by Plaid, or FolkArt. So now we've got our little trio of owls and you can use them like that as table decor. You can stand them on a mantle. You can also just nestle them into the tree. If you want them to sit on a branch, you can also just take your scissors and do a little snip on front and back, maybe even a little triangle depending on how thick your branch is. And then this will allow your owl to nestle right onto the branch if that's how you wanna display him or her. The key to using any kids' material or kids' craft is to really elevate the look and feel of it. So think about your paint colors, how you draw your owls, the tools and materials that you use. Of course you could do this project with kids and it would be super fun, but just 'cause you're all grown up doesn't mean you can't still make a toilet paper tube owl. You're also not limited to owls. You could also do little foxes or any other woodland creature would be really cute in this same technique.

Print and paint an owl with Courtney
- For this print, we're gonna do a bird, and in my case, a barn owl, because I love them. You can print this larger on an 8 1/2 by 11. This is half that size because I'm gonna fit it onto my six by eight sheet of Canson mixed media paper. And you can see I've got my little setup here. So my print taped down to the table, my transparency, cleaned and on top, and then we'll do our mixed media paper on top of this. I'm still using my Paynes grey ink. We'll start with the outline, moving kinda fast here. I'm not pressing hardly at all. You can see how thin that line is, so let's just print this just so you can see what this looks like. I'm working on that mixed media paper. And you can see really how textured and soft that line is because we, I didn't really press down at all. So I can go back over this if I want something thicker, press a little bit harder. And it is definitely a push and pull of trying to figure out how much ink, how thick the line, how much pressure, and also, where on the image do you choose to create a line. And that's really up to you. I'm gonna print. You can always go back and add more detail, like I said, but you cannot take it away. So it's better to have a lighter hand. And for the eye, you might be tempted to do all of this black or filled in with ink, but if you do that and you print, it's going to be super blobby. So I just did a thick line around the outside and let's see how that looks. I'm not pressing super hard. Ooh, it's very blobby. But I'm just gonna go with it. Once you get going, this is a very quick process. So if something turns out not how you like, then either go with it or start over. Because it's hard to remove ink from your transparency. You can try to get in there with a baby wipe or something, but it can be very tricky. Some of these lines are coming out real thick, and I'm okay with that. I'm just gonna go with it. But it also means I don't have to print right away because they're so thick. Some sorta out of focus claws here or talons, I should say. Just make little marks. His little harem pants, the owl feathers, that's what I call Charlie's, my dog's, little fuzzy by his legs, his harem pants. I think there might be a little gunk stuck in the nib, 'cause I'm getting super thick lines. I'm not gonna print 'cause this stuff's pretty juicy. I'm not worried about it. But I am going to just wipe off my nib here on my paper towel. See if that helps, yeah, I'm getting my thin lines again, so that's good. You can choose or choose to not include this bark, but I like it, so. I've got another fuzzy. You know, we're just gonna go with it. This fuzzy is sort of dragging and creating these weird marks, but for bark, it's totally fine. And I'll clean it off again.

© CBTV and Creativebug Inc., 2026

All right, let's print. (hand whooshing) Let's see how that looks. Oh, some of those lines actually did not print because they dried. So it can be hard to sort of tell what is it that didn't print, 'cause you're looking (laughing) at the image upside down. But I think there's some more detail in the legs that I could do. So let's go back over these lines. And we're gonna print this part more rapidly so we can really tell if the marks we're making are making a difference on our image. That looks okay, so maybe it's the outer lines that we missed here. I'm getting some duplication 'cause I'm drawing those lines over. Yeah, it looks like the talons. Now my paper, my transparency paper, has shifted just a little bit. So I'm just gonna make sure it's realigned as best I can when I go to print. That's from the weight of my hand on it. All right, and let's clean up around this part of the owl. (hand whooshing) You can't really see his beak, so it can be a little bit hard to tell if you have enough detail. I think that's gonna be fine, and I can just make up any extra definition with my watercolor. So here they are looking at each other. I wanted to show you another example on gray paper. So this is a Paper Source text-weight paper. And you can see I added some texture lines here that were very blobby and then a little bit fainter. I had a more graphic quality to his eye. Actually, I like his face better, but that's okay. I'll show you how to clean this one up a little bit. And I had smoother lines here, and these got a little blobby. Again, totally fine. I do wanna clean up my transparency, though, before I do my watercolor, so I can see this for reference. So if you can get it quickly enough, you can use a baby wipe. Again, you can also use your Windex. Now, the ink will stain your fingertips if you keep using the same baby wipe over and over, just FYI. I might also use a paper towel just to take away any moisture or fuzz that I was getting left on the transparency, because I was picking that up in my nib. Just wipe that off. You can remove this. And we'll add some color. (tape whooshing) (palette clicking) All right, I've got like an amber tone already on my palette. You can pick up some more brown. And just come in. You have to remember, no one's gonna see your reference image, so you can be as exact or as fanciful as you like. Some color around his eye. This is why I really like working with FW Ink because it dries almost automatically. And I can paint right over it, and there's not a lotta waiting. I don't like to wait. His eye is bothering me because it's not defined enough. I could go back in with my nib pen, or I can try to get it with my watercolor to start. That's a little better. It's not as sharp as it is in the original image, but again, no one's gonna see that. I think getting some more shadow on this side is gonna help the definition of this. Oh, that's purple. Let's add some blue to that, make it more gray. There we go. His outer feathers are grayer, and then they get more tawny inside. So looking between his legs, adding this darker color is gonna help add some definition around his legs so you can see what's going on here. (paintbrush clinking) And don't be frustrated if it's not exactly, the monoprint part isn't exactly what you thought. You can do a second one. Or you can just try to add your watercolor to help it. 'Cause this has like a lot of dots and things, so by adding the shadow, it's helping to define the image a little more. Do the bark here. You could also play with using brush pens or, like I said, colored pencil instead of the watercolor. Some talons. His little legs. (paintbrush clinking) I'm just gonna add a little bit more warmth to this part. Maybe... Something darker here. Because this is Inktober that we're doing this for initially, I picked sort of spooky, quote, unquote, spooky. There's actually nothing spooky about owls, I don't think, (laughing) but definitely in certain folklore, owls can be harbingers of death or they can also bring good omens. And they tend to be either fairly or unfairly lumped with spooky things, so and I think they're so pretty. So I thought it would be fun to paint. Okay, I think that looks good.

© CBTV and Creativebug Inc., 2026