Crafting Together: Pony Bead Bracelets with Abby and Violet with Abby Houst

Chapter 1 - Crafting Together: Pony Bead Bracelets with Abby and Violet
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- And here they come. The people from the waiting room are flooding in. We're so excited to see everybody. - Yay. Look at all these faces. - Hi. - Familiar and new faces. - And we'll do the official intro in about two or three minutes. We'll give everybody time to load in. Some basic housekeeping before we begin. Please open up your chat box and we'd love to hear where you are visiting us from and what the weather is like, and whether you're happy with it. It's a very muggy day today, but my hair loves it. Thank you for the compliments on that. On my cute haircut. It's not even a haircut, it's just the humidity. I turn into a different person. And Abby and Violet, where are you two? - Hello. Hi everyone. Thanks for joining us. I'll put into the chat also, but we, Violet and I, and McGuffin, by the way, we have a little guest today. This is our brand new kitty. Do you wanna say hi Kitty? - Hi Kitty. (Abby giggling) - So McGuffin and Violet and I are tuning in from where? Where are we, Violet? - We're in Portland. - Portland, Oregon, where most days it is cloudy and rainy. And yet today it's beautiful and sunny. So we're super thrilled. (Violet speaking indistinctly). - Abby, did I ever tell you my Portland story, which is that I was living in Colorado and working for an alt weekly newspaper and when I visited Portland, my editor wanted me to write an article about why Portland was not that great. (Abby laughing) - I Love it, welcome to- All the haters. This sounds so great. We love it. Yeah. - Well, and so I interviewed everybody I came across, whether it was like the cashier at the gas station and everyone was like, "It is that great. I'm so sorry." And I had to let my editor down and say no one would go on record with a single- - Oh. - Bad thing to say. - I mean, it really is the dream of the '90s, is still alive here in Portland. If you've seen any episodes of "Portlandia," we really are just like that TV show. And I've seen people like tuning in from Minnesota, New Jersey, Cincinnati, Ontario. This is so fun. Wenatchee. Oh, we love, we love Wenatchee, Washington. Buenos Ares, Argentina. This is so cool, Faith. I love joining you guys and your community on Creative Bug, 'cause there's just such a wide range of artists and crafters that tune in. - And everyone's my favorite people, our Creative Bug people. And I love the- - Oh oh, did you go dark or did we go dark? - I'm not dark. - Oh, I went dark for a second. I froze up for a second. Sorry guys. - Oh, oh oh. You didn't flinch for me. And also, you do freeze and will just keep talking. Nothing stops me. (chuckling) - I love it. Hello from Idaho. I gotta give a little special shout out. Do you wanna do your quick shout out to these people here? - Shout out to Audrey and Nani and Papa G from Idaho. - All right, we've got some grandparents tuning in. And a cousin, Audrey. I see my friend Sarah on here. Hi Sarah. So fun to see you. I'm gonna scroll through to another page to see other people. This is great. Oh, hi Stephanie. How are you? - And we'll start the intro in about one minute, but I do encourage everybody to, if you have questions, you're welcome to put it in the chat box or you can put it in the Q and A. That is a really great way to get your questions answered. There's a new Q and A box on the bottom towards the right hand side. So if you have questions for me, for Abby or for Violet, don't hesitate to put them in here. And I think we can get started with our program. - So exciting. - Welcome everybody. We're so excited to be here with Abby and Violet. You might know Abby and Violet from their really special class together on Creative Bug. Little Artists, a course for parent and child. They walk through four different projects to do together and touch upon really important topics like modeling creative behaviors and how to have an art space that's like manageable yet contained. Also, Abby has a fine arts practice and is the teacher of one of my

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favorite daily practices, the abstract art making daily practice. It's really good. I have so many new materials that you introduced me to in that class and- - That's amazing. Thank you Faith. - Absolutely fantastic. And if you two would please introduce yourselves and tell us a little bit about what we're doing together. - Fantastic. Well, I'll introduce myself first and then I'll let Violet tell you a little bit about herself. So, hi everybody. I'm Abby Houston or Houston. I live and work in Portland, Oregon. I have three kids and a home art practice that I have built out of my 17-year career as an art therapist, an art teacher, which I left two years ago to become a full-time professional artist. And one of the things that I love about what Creative Bug has enabled me to do is that I get to still teach in an online format and teach virtually and be part of these live events and still incorporate, you know, distance learning into my practice and the way that I facilitate. And yeah, as Faith mentioned, I have currently two courses available on Creative Bug. One is a daily abstract art making and a sketchbook. This is the current sketchbook that I'm working, ooh, actually if I put it down here. If you guys go to your camera, you don't have to look at my face, you can look at the top down view if you see that there. This is one of my sketchbooks that I've been working in in the last couple months. And you know, if any of this kind of piques your interest, you can go and check out my entire course that is on the Creative Bug platform. It's 30 days of creative art making and abstract acrylic art practice in a sketchbook. So that's a little bit about me and I'm gonna head over here. And Violet, I saw that there was a question here in the comments. Did you see someone's curious about what Kitty's name is? - Our cat is named Alfred P McGuffin and the P stands for Pancake. His nickname is Muffin, Alfie or Guffie. - Guffie. - And he is very clingy, kind of. But I'm Violet Houston. And I like what we're doing today. Wait, should I say what we're doing today? - Maybe just tell a little bit about yourself. Do you wanna tell them what grade you're in? - I'm in fifth grade, almost sixth grade and I love doing art and today we're making bracelets. - Yeah, so we're gonna talk a little bit today during this crafting hour about creating community by making bracelets. And so, you know, one of the things that all of my kids have experienced in the last couple years as we've kind of emerged from pandemic life here in Portland, it was pretty much lockdown, shut down for a really long period of time. And one of the things that we really encouraged our kids to do since the pandemic is to use creativity as a way to reconnect with different communities that we are involved in. And so that's kind of where our blog post activity came out of. And if you had a chance to read the Creative Bug blog this last week, Violet and I came up with a little project for you to engage in. And I'm gonna hold this down from the top view. If you see that one. And what it is is using one piece of paper with, and this can be done with anyone, it could be done with another adult, it could be done with kids in mind, but really it's taking one piece of paper and turning it into a one day sketchbook where you record different ideas and experiences in your life on a day-to-day basis. And so what Violet and I did, would you like to fold it while we, you wanna, this is one of Violet's illustrations. So Violet's just gonna kinda, oh, you wanna do it with the blue paper? 'cause that's on camera. I know, it's kind of tricky to see. Do you see it there? - Yeah. - So Violet's got this paper here that she's gonna kind of fold along. If you want the full instructions, it's all in the blog. But I just wanted to talk a little bit about this project before we moved on to our bracelet making and the different reasons why we value kind of trading and sharing of items that are handmade. So, you know, this, the title of my book here is, "Today Will be a Great Day." I think we all know that when we start out a day with an intention to be creative, it's sometimes hard to follow through with that because I don't know about you guys, but sometimes when I sit down to paint or make artwork, I end up thinking I need to have like a two hour chunk of time or you know, have a really big space to work in or a quiet area to work in. And honestly that's just not always, it's not always possible. So

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that's kind of why Violet and I came up with this particular project. Thanks for getting that started. And what we decided was that it would be kind of fun just to take one piece of paper for one day and create a little like, recording or make a little zine about the day. And so when we decided to do this, I thought, you know, this needs to be something that's pretty simple, right? So it needs to be not super involved. It needs to kind of have art materials that really anyone can access. And basically the first thing is that you get to fold your page into eight different sections that are even sections. And then do you remember what the next thing is that we're gonna do? - We're gonna fold it into like, I don't remember. - We're gonna fold it in half. And where are we going to cut? - We're going to cut right here. Wait, can I add- - Yeah, you can draw the lines. Violet likes to draw the lines in, which I appreciate 'cause I think she's known well enough that if she doesn't give specific instructions to me that I cut in the wrong spot. And then you have to adapt your project. So yeah, so if you're at home, you're welcome to kind of check the blog and do this project before we hop into our bracelet making here. So I'm just gonna cut along this dash line and then Violet, do you wanna do the next part where you kind of pull it apart? - Yes. - Okay. Can you lean forward here because we're gonna show it on that screen. - Here's the way to do it. - Good job. - You're going to do this and make it into kind of like a star. I don't really know. - Yeah. Absolutely. - Then you're gonna fold it like that and you've got your book. - Oh my goodness. So like two folds, right? One cut, two folds and we're ready to go. So if you started to feel like it every once in a while, you can start working on this during our time today. Okay. So then the prompt from here is to pause what you're doing several times a day, just for five minutes to add something to your book. It could be writing down a reflection or a prayer or a meditation. It could be drawing something that you see or making a note to yourself that has some sort of positive feedback for you and the people around you. And the idea is that by taking just five minutes a day to create something throughout the day that it really enables you to stop doing one of the more maybe addicting things that we like to do for five minutes a day, which for me is pulling out my phone and scrolling. And so instead of pulling out my phone and scrolling, if I have this little tiny booklet available, then I'm much more likely to pull it out and spend some time reflecting and creating something. So it's that idea of creating something instead of consuming something. So I know we just kind of got going. Oh good. I'm so glad. Sarah, hi to Gus as well. And what I love also about this is that any ages can create this. This can be something that you do with a book group, it could be done when you are meeting with friends after school. This could be done starting in the morning on one of those summer days where parents have to get work done and the kids are running around because I forgot to sign them up for any summer camps. And they really wanna go and, you know, do screens, but instead we kind of prompt them with these ideas that get them going throughout the entire day. So I'm gonna put that one aside and I have a quick question for you guys to put into the comments. Before we get started, I want people to add into the comments your favorite color, and then I want you to, you're gonna put the comments and you're gonna say, my favorite color is, you know, this. And then I want you to guess. You ready? We're gonna have a little poll here. I want you to guess what Violet's favorite color is. Okay. I know, she's been cooking this one up. So she wants to hear from you. Do you wanna say? Yeah. So we wanna hear from you, what's your favorite color, what do you think is Violet's favorite color? And Violet, you can start to read the responses over there as we get started. Wow. Okay, good. This is fun. When people start going. Oh. (Violet gasps) (Abby gasps) (Violet gasps) Oh my goodness. That was really, that was spot on. Okay, so you're paying attention to the comments already. I'm already seeing Annette's favorite color is green. Natalie's is pink. Oh, Annette thinks your favorite color is chartreuse. That's a great guess. We're not gonna reveal it yet. Let's see.

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Paula's, your favorite color is lilac. Oh, I love this. I love what someone said. Angela McFarland said, "Today my favorite color is blue and I hope that Violet's favorite color is violet." Oh. You can also put in the comments if you have any guesses to why I named Violet Violet. Violet was born in the year 2013. If you have any guesses about Violet's origin name story, you can throw that in the comments. (giggling) Let's see here. So I'm seeing Faith, your favorite color is turquoise, which I really appreciate, 'cause my favorite color is teal. I know, right? Like, I feel like we're on the same wavelength. Oh, you're muted. But I could see you also having that connection. - [Faith] I guessed incorrectly that yours was hot pink. - I love it. Okay, so you, well, I mean I do love hot pink and I use pink in like all of my artwork. Those of you who are like familiar with my work, I love pink. But I love pink, I love teal. Okay, so I'm seeing other people. Lily's is Periwinkle. Oh, Kendall. Hi Kendall. Kendall thinks your- - Kendall! - Kendall thinks your favorite color is purple. Janice is guessing pink. Oh my gosh, there's just so many. Okay, so Violet, would you like to tell us what your favorite color is? - My favorite color is rainbow. - Awesome. - It's kind of a trick question, but... (Abby laughing) - Okay. So Violet, what do you love about the rainbow color? - Because some days I feel like maybe it's blue and some days I maybe feel like it's orange. But if I say it's rainbow, then I feel like all of the colors and that's good. - Yeah. So did you see what Annette just wrote there? Perfect for- - Pride month. - Pride month, which we celebrate wholeheartedly in our family. We live in a super inclusive community that celebrates allyship and being aware and inclusive of the LGBTQ community. And that's actually kind of where our bracelet making activity came from. Would you agree with that? - Yeah. - Yes. - Kind of. - Okay, let's move some of our things over here into the camera view. Here we go. Ready everyone? In honor of Violet's favorite color being rainbow. There is our rainbow set of beads. So we have a couple stories about bracelets and we wanted to share a few of those with you. But actually, ooh, sorry, I'm like all over the place. Oh, my daughter loves rainbow for all the right reasons. Did anyone have any guesses to where Violet got her name from? Any guesses? Ooh, I know. Tricky. Happens to be one of my favorite TV shows that I am currently binge watching with my oldest child. Oh yeah. Oh, okay. Yes. I see someone has their hand raised. I love it. Oh, now your grandma's favorite color is rainbow. That's so sweet. Nani, that's wonderful. So Violet is actually named after the dowager countess Violet Grantham from "Downton Abbey," which, I know, right? I know. Because honestly, you know, the character, actress, you know Maggie, why am I blinking on her last name? Who plays also Professor McGonagall from the "Harry Potter" series, but she, I feel like just embodies- Oh, Maggie Smith. - Maggie Smith. - Thank you. Yeah, yeah, Maggie Smith. Thank you, Sarah. I feel like she just embodies like, boldness and a little bit of stubbornness and you know, the matriarch of the family at the time when Violet was born. It also was my favorite color at that time. So you kind of embody a lot of my favorite things. So yeah, let's talk about bracelets. Okay. Turning it over to Violet. Go for it. - One time I went to this like, event where it was for pride and it was called Yas. And I went, but I wanted to make bracelets for all my friends that were going with me. So I made a bunch of rainbow bracelets and gave them to them and that was really fun, to connect through rainbow and bracelet making art. - And what specifically about like different colors did you focus on? By the way, if you have bracelet making supplies with you, you're welcome to make something at the same time. Oh, I also see Oma just joined in. Hi Oma, good to see you. You got a special shout out. So when you made bracelets for the Yas event and the event used to be called Yas, but it's now called Y'all, which means for everyone, right? Y'all. Everyone is included. And what I learned from you when you went to that event, it was put on by the school district, is that there were different color schemes for different groups that identify with the pride flags, the variety of pride flags. And I feel like I'm learning so much from this next generation of kids and their

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openness and inclusivity. And that was something that really, like, you connected really well with all your friends, right? Yeah. So what kind of bracelet are you gonna work on today, by the way? - Alright. My middle name is Joyce, so is yours. - Oh. Wait, wait. Cute moment. I didn't even tell her to say that. I know, our middle names are Joy. - So I picked out, I'm gonna, we have bead bracelets and so I'm going to spell out my middle name. - Okay. You already put those out here. They're kind of little J-O-Y. I didn't you were gonna do that, that's really fun. - And then these are my color schemes. I wanna do light blue and light pink. - Sweet. - And then I did have a yellow. - And then, yeah, so we've got, you know, letter beads and I have some stretchy elastic, which I would highly recommend this for littler hands because the biggest sort of, you know, thing with my first grader is that when she starts, and maybe you have this happen too, when you start a bracelet, it's really, really important to anchor the first bead by tying a knot. Because otherwise, countless times during the summer and in classes or in just like art cart activities, I've seen students begin their friendship bracelet without tying off one of the ends and then they go to pick it up. Raise your hand if you've ever done this. I've done this many times. Right? It all falls down. Yeah. So do you wanna keep working on this one? - Sure. - Okay. You wanna do it up here so people can see what you're working on. Okay. So we also have here, so one of the materials I have is this kind of stretchy rainbow elastic. And you know, later on I can, I should have put this in the comments too, where I got this. But rainbow, stretchy elastic or this really thin craft wire. And the reason I like to use craft wire in bracelets is because it's super malleable and a lot easier to put through really, really thin beads. So, you know, we're just, we're using like these curler beads, or not curler beads. We're using just like the plastic beads right now, but oh yeah. Will I have a link to the materials. Yes, I absolutely will. I will make sure to give that to Ivy so that that gets sent out in the post call. Thank you for asking about that. So I'm gonna anchor my first bead. I'm actually using greens for my bracelet because my bracelet, do you know what mine is gonna be inspired by? Do you wanna guess? - Rainbows? - Not rainbows. I love rainbows, but mine's not gonna be inspired by rainbows. I'm using a variety of greens. Do you know why? - You like the color green? No, no, no. Oh, you like walking. - I do, yeah. - Love walking. - I do. I do love walking. - You like taking walks. - I love taking walks. I love going on walks. Yeah, that's really true. You know, we're from the Pacific Northwest where everything is luscious and green until the month of August and then we all freak out because forest fire season. But what I actually am inspired by for this bracelet are your soccer teams. - Oh yeah. My colors for our soccer team is yellow and green. - And why is that especially important to me? - Because, oh, is it the Oregon color? Is it the Oregon colors? - I don't know. Maybe Oma can answer this. Oma, you can put in the chat. Why are these green colors from the soccer team important to me? I know you guys are getting like a little helpful look inside of what the different things are. I don't know if she's typing or not. Nani, you can also input, 'cause you both know me really well. Oma's trying to figure it out. Faith, do you have a guess? What's your guess? Why do you think the green is important? - [Faith] Why the green is important? - Yeah, why do you guys think green and soccer are important to me specifically about Violet's teams? Actually, if anyone wants to guess, throw it in the chat. - [Participant] Timbers, Timbers. - [Participant] Are you Irish? - Okay. Wasn't planning on that as my answer but yes I do have Irish heritage. Okay. Someone said the Timbers. We also love the Timbers, but we like the Thorns better. Okay. If you're local Portland, you know, Thorns are our women's professional soccer team. University of Oregon. Ooh, I love all these. Oh these are great. Okay. I did not go to the University of Oregon, but my father did. And we are Ducks. - I was trying to say- - [Participant] Ducks, Ducks. - Ducks. Ducks. Ducks. Okay good. Yeah, my mom said quack, quack, quack. So the actual reason, I didn't even realize this was gonna be complicated. The reason why

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Violet and her sister's soccer teams and their colors are so important to me is because I coach. There are three youth soccer teams and I have a real big emphasis with all those groups of kids on active engagement for, specifically girls and non-binary kids being a part of an athletic experience. Whether that's, you know, running or playing a specific sport. Just staying engaged with the natural world as an athlete or being part of a team. So your teams are really important to me, because I get to see my kids running around in nature and being really connected to a specific group of kids that they are inspired by. - That was a trick question. - We had a soccer tournament on our weekend. - Ooh. - We lost by one point in a shootout. - Really hard. Yeah. - It was rough. - Faith was like, no. That was really hard. There were a lot of tears shed. I'm gonna be honest- - It was fun though. We got to play and it was the perfect weather. It was kind of cold and not super hot. - Yeah. Cold and rainy. It was the perfect soccer weather for Junioruary. So anyway, my bracelet here is inspired by my connection to the soccer kids and the outdoors and being in nature. So one of the things I'll just say, 'cause Violet was really speedy here, can you hold your hand up here so people can see it in frame? So Violet just put about double the amount of beads on their wire as I did. But one of the things you'll notice is just that when you're done with using this craft wire, instead of using, you know, like a flimsy string, you're gonna be able to bind it together and just do a really easy like twist or knot. If you ever are worried about the ends of the craft wire, like being pokey, I like to take out a hot glue gun and just put a little dab of hot glue on the end of them so that they don't scratch you. And then you just have a really easy way to put together your bracelet when it's done and fit it around your wrist. Oftentimes when I wear a handmade bracelet like this, like a crafted bracelet, I'll wear it for like a day or two and then I hang it up in my car. I actually hang it up on my rear view mirror. And then that way I can kind of look at it and remember, you know, the reason why I actually have one still that your sister made when she was in first grade. - Yeah. - Hanging up there. It's pretty darn cute. So, okay, I think we're ready for another trivia. Would you guys agree? Give me some twinkle fingers if you're ready for another piece of trivia. Amazing. Okay, I saw two people twinkle finger. Thank you. I need better audience participation. Okay. So our next piece of trivia is I would like to know from people what is their favorite type of art making? What do you like to do when you start to get like, creative? So I wanna see that in here because I know there's a variety of people. Oh, and Diana, you said in here for your bracelets, you like to use pipe cleaners. That is brilliant. These craft wires work really similarly to pipe cleaners, so I'm glad you said that. Okay. - Pipe cleaners aren't as pokey. - Pipe cleaners are not as pokey. That's true. They're a little bit more fuzzy. So I'm seeing people like, oh, I'm so glad Katrina, you said paper mache. I feel like paper mache is, do you wanna go get your paper mache thing? Okay. Violet's gonna go grab a paper mache thing that she made recently to show you all. - Sleeping cat. - Someone just started water- Oh, there's a sleeping cat. Hi Guffie. What's up? So I'm seeing crochet. Ooh, Angela makes brooms. Yes, it's true. You make brooms. I'm excited to hear more about this. Sewing and writing. My friend Sarah is a ceramic artist. She's on here crocheting, watercolor painting. I think one of my favorite crochet artists ever is on this call. Stephanie is around here. You can follow her. She's also a Creative Bug artist. Goes by the by the handle twinkiechan. But Stephanie's crochet pieces make my life so happy. I'm seeing people are painters, collage, scrapbooking. Love, love, love scrapbooking. Violet brought something over to show you. Do you wanna hold it in front of the screen here? Okay. - When it was Valentine's Day, we all made boxes and had a competition and I made a paper mache Winnie the Pooh. (Abby giggling) And I really liked doing paper mache even though my hands get really dry, but. - Yeah. - And it was really fun. - Yeah. - I like paper. - Do you remember your paper mache recipe and why it worked so well? - It was newspapers. - Newspapers. But do you remember

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what you mixed up? This is a little tidbit in case you have been stumped about a paper mache recipe before. Do you remember what it was? It was three ingredients. - Flour. - Flour. - Water. - Water. - Elmer's glue. - And Elmer's glue. - And Elmer's glue. - Easy peasy. Warm water. Warm water, flour, Elmer's glue. Super easy. Yeah. So this is Violet's Winnie the Pooh box inspired by paper mache. Oh, someone put little honey pots on there. So cute. It was Natalie. Oh, a Cricut. I'm so glad someone put a Cricut on there, 'cause I feel like that- And I'm so glad, Natalie, that you have confidence in that area because I feel like digital art, you have a sticker. Violet has a sticker that says digital art is art. And I feel like that's a really important thing. My friend, another artist, created a line of stickers that talks about digital art being respected as an art form. Because sometimes people, it's hard, it's a difficult form of art. Absolutely. And there are just as many skills to learn when you're working with digital apps and a Cricut to create different home goods and other things like that. So this is amazing. Okay. I'm just going back through the comments to make sure I'm not missing anything. Sewing. Oh, I love this, Faith. You said, "Today sewing, tomorrow knitting." - Good. - Pretty amazing. Knitting and painting. Knitting and painting. Ceramics. Painting stickers, Cricut and hand embroidery and card making. Oh, I'm glad that someone mentioned something about cards. - Oh yeah. - Yeah. Do you wanna go grab one of, well, I don't know if they're here. We recently started making hand painted cards and I feel like that's been something that was inspired actually by a friend of my mom's who I don't think is on this call, but she is someone who I've known my whole life, Becky. Mom. And Becky sends a card, a handmade, handwritten card to people in her life still on every birthday, on every anniversary, on special moments. And I feel like, yeah, card making is maybe like one of the most underappreciated ways to connect. I feel like we should put one of these bracelets around the cat's collar, but maybe not. What do you guys think? Okay. So I wanted to take you guys around my studio real quick if that's okay. It's time for the tour. Is everybody okay with the tour? Can I get a thumbs up if people would like to see the studio? Okay, I'm seeing some thumbs up. Okay, so I'm gonna hand off the cat back to Violet. McGuffin is taking his cat nap for the afternoon. We literally got him like three days ago, so he's like, I know, I wish I could hand him through the, yeah, over. - He's only two pounds. He's so tiny. - Yeah, Annette is like, I'll take him. Yes, I'll have him. Yeah, he is, he's 2.2 pounds. Okay. So I'm gonna try to not make you feel like you're going on the Indiana Jones ride at Disneyland right now. So buckle your seat belts. So those of you who don't know, I started out my creative practice, well, started 43 years ago. Just kidding. That's my little, my mom's gonna smile at me for that one. I've been an artist my whole life, but I also have really struggled with saying that I'm an artist because I've always been an art teacher. I've had a profession as an art therapist. And so really a couple years ago is when I started to claim my role as an artist and my ability to share my own creative work with other people. And all of that came well before I had this beautiful studio. So I for a long time, for years and years and years, made art at my dining room table. And one of my favorite items that I still use to this day, I'm walking over to grab it, is my, and this, I'll put this material in the comments too. This is kind of my portable art studio. Okay. All it is is a plastic clipboard. You can see it's about to burst at the seams because it has so much stuff in it. And what I love about the plastic clipboard is that it keeps and holds work that is kind of in progress, right? And at any point I can grab this and throw it in a backpack, grab a pencil pouch full of markers and be on my way. And so it clips things on the front and it holds things together. And you know, that still to this day is a big part of my art practice. However, in the last year, we kind of shuffled things around in the house and okay, hi little guy, we shuffled things around in the house and I ended up being able to move my art studio up into our upstairs floors. So I have about 800 square feet of completely dedicated art making space. And I think the most

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important part of that, there's Violet, one of the most important parts of this space are these two giant butcher block tables. So the two butcher block tables I built myself and painted. And they can either run the length of the room or they can be put together as a six foot by six foot table here and have a square. And then, will you take the cat? 'Cause he's climbing on me. (Abby chuckling) Thank you. My other favorite part of my kind of studio revamp here is my lazy Susan. So if you don't have one yet, start looking, start thrifting for a lazy Susan that you can turn into a little portable art area. And what I love about this is that all of my paint pens are stored in mason jars and paint brushes here on my lazy Susan. So the awesome thing is that anyone who's here at the studio table working can access them from any point in the table. So I'm gonna go back around, I have like my stickers over here and tapes and glycine paper and butcher paper for when we get down on the floor to do some art making. You gonna come too. Okay. I'll be at your spot next. Violet's gonna go into her studio, so she'll be there when we get there. Over here I have the paint carts that are super popular in classrooms and in home studios. I've got all my materials, my acrylic paints and paint pens are all there. And then the one other section that I love to show about my studio is kind of my curated wall of little knick-knacks and special sort of nostalgic items like my Fisher-Price camera, which I just cannot get rid of. A doll horse that I painted because I paint doll horses every winter. And then some other plants and items that I've created. I'll show you one little special area that I recently kind of revamped because I got a label maker. Label maker. So I just went through and organized all my papers, which this is maybe the most organized place in my entire home. And there's a reason why I'm not showing you other corners of this room, 'cause they're not so organized. So with that. Are you ready? Okay. We're going to take you into Violet's studio. Okay, Violet. - This is my area. It's just to the side of my mom's area. But the one thing that I really like using in our art space is a hot glue gun. (Abby giggling) And I don't know why, but I just, I really like making also dioramas of houses. So one house, I made a smoothie shack. - [Abby] Oh yeah. Come over here and show 'em your smoothie shack. - I've made a Smoothie Shack. - So Violet loves to make little cardboard dioramas. This is a Smoothie Shack. - And then I have- - [Abby] You wanna go get your bedroom? - [Violet] My bedroom. - [Abby] So when do you, Violet, when do you find time to do this kind of stuff? - Well, usually after- - [Abby] Wait, come back, come back, come back. I'll hold it. - Usually after school I love to listen to an audio book and do art and that just calms me down and gives me a little rest time. And then- - [Abby] What's your favorite item that's over here? - Crayons. - Okay. So Violet was pretty intent on finding crayons last night. Like, to the point where she drove me nuts because I couldn't find the crayons for her. And then you found the crayons and what did you do? - I made a mini jar for my crayons. I also have a label maker, but instead I just used label paper. - Label paper. - Every kid's studio needs to have label paper. You've also got, this is a good shout out. Your Tay-do list, right? Anyone? Taylor Swift fans? We've got a Tay-do list. Yeah. - And then, yeah. - All right. Okay. So the cool thing is that Violet's space is kind of on the other side of the room from where I work. And you know, what I think is kind of special about that is that, you know, she has a space to go and tidy up as her own, but she also has an ability to stick around and kind of be present while I'm working. So we've got a kind of a real sort of synergy with the way that we work together. - Yeah. - Yeah. Yeah. And what do you like to put on to tune everybody out? - My headphones and listen to audiobooks. - She does. Violet loves a good headphone tune out, which, don't we all. So if you have any questions about our studio space, you are welcome to, Swifties for life. People are saying, those miniatures are so fantastic. Look, you've got all this love in the comments. You guys are so sweet. "Can you show how to tie a bracelet using the elastic-" Oh, okay. So Barbara, I'm glad you wrote that in there because I specifically don't use the clear elastic, the

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tech line. And the reason for that is because I have like, the beginnings of arthritis in my fingers and I have a really hard time tying those, like that clear elastic. And so what I have found is that with this kind of stretchy rainbow elastic, what I have found is that, and I hope I can show this, okay here, is that if I do a loop and twist and then go ahead and do, I don't even know, Faith, you're gonna have to help me. I don't feel like I know the names of like, a special knot. All I did was a little loopy knot. Does anybody else know what that's called? - [Faith] Like an overhand knot? - Great. Oh, that feels like very official. An overhand knot. Thank you Faith. Yeah, she's like, I don't know. Yeah. Okay. Could be a slip knot. Okay, maybe it's a slip knot. But the reason again, why I don't like that clear, the clear elastic is because it doesn't hold and the little gritty sort of fibers on the outside of this rainbow elastic, it's kind of more like a fabric as opposed to a plastic. So that would be my quick answer for that. So I'm cooling, let's see, I'm not cooling, I'm checking out to see if I missed anything in the comments. Okay. Awesome. So the next thing that Violet and I wanted to share with you, or that Guffie and I wanted to share with you, are a few of our favorite books, because as we're getting into summer, one of the things that we try to do, we have a tradition on the last day of school of going to, do you know where we go on the last day of school? Do you remember, to get a book? - Oh yes. The library. - So we go to the library. Well, we usually go to the library like the first week of summer to do our summer reading. But we go to Powell's on the last day of school. - Oh, Powell's. - Powell's. Okay. So if you're familiar with the Portland area or if you've ever visited the most iconic place in our city to go to, or one of the best places, I would say the classical rose gardens and Powell's are pretty high up on that list. - It's this huge, well, there's two. But my favorite one is this huge bookstore and they have really good books to read in the summer because I did OBOB this year, Oregon Battle of the Books. And so I would get like 16 books, then we would read them all in a team of four and we would compete against other people with questions about the books. And- - So it's kinda like debate. It was kind of like a question answer quiz show about these 16 books that Violet and her peers would've read together. - Yeah. - So when summer starts, when school's out, we always go to Powell's and buy the kids a couple books to kick off summer. And I even have a great story of Violet's sister who was on a tandem bike one year reading a book at the same time as she was riding a tandem bike. - She was reading "The Hunger Games." - She was reading "The Hunger Games" while being on a tandem bike with her cousin. So anyway, but we have a couple books we wanted to share with you. Okay. So do you wanna go first? Do you wanna share one of them? - Oh yeah. - Yeah. Okay. Which one do you wanna share first? - "The Chosen Family." - This one. Okay. Violet's gonna share the first book with you. I'm gonna hold it here so you can see. Ivy is gonna put into the comments, the titles of all these books and the authors. So if you are curious about adding them to your home library, you can totally do that. So Violet, tell us about this book. - This book was made by one of my counselors at my school that leads our GSA and they made it about chosen family. We also got it signed. - Yeah, Violet has a signed copy of the book. Right? So cool. - This book series, it's not only made by one person. People get asked to make like one about like racism and gender and like- - There's a kid's book about periods that talks all about periods and period awareness for not just girls but boys also. And there's a different author for every single book. - Yeah. And I really like that because it's from different people's perspectives kind of, and not just one person's perspective. - And a Kids Co., which is the publisher is a Portland based company, so. "Kids Book About Chosen Family." We love this because it talks all about, you know, choosing the people around you that bring out the best in you. So little shout out to our friend Maddie and A Kids Book About. That's our first one. Okay. It wouldn't be right to mention a Portland author without mentioning the next book, which is a Creative Bug artist, a friend of mine and another

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Portland artist. "Find Your Artistic Voice" by Lisa Congdon is one of my favorite guides that I go back to time and time again. In this book, she actually interviews and talks to a lot of different artists. There's amazing illustrations in the book. There's different little kind of tidbits so you can kind of open it up and glean what you want to from it. You don't have to go, you know, all in and read the entire thing at once. But I kind of use this as sort of like, in the same way that I do a couple podcasts about creativity where I just kind of tune in, absorb a little bit on a daily basis and kind of find inspiration from how to define your own creative and artistic voice. So that's my second book recommendation. Do you wanna talk about this one? - Oh right. No, the other one. - Oh, the other one? Okay, I'm gonna talk about this one. It's called "Women in Art: 50 Fearless Creatives who Inspired the World." And what we love about this book are all of the amazing illustrations. And the voices. Oh. oh this is so funny. I opened it up to one of my favorite artists. This is a spread about Mary Blair who happens to be one of the very first animators at Disney and one of the only female animators when Disney originally, 'cause kind of was being thought up. And so what I love about this is it gives autobiographical information about different artists who are change makers around the world. Frida Kahlo, other art history sort of people that might have been originally left out of a lot of art anthologies and books earlier on. And what I love this about this is that it covers photographers, painters, current artists and women from history. So that is an amazing one. "Women in Art: 50 Fearless Creatives who Inspired the World." Okay, so I have one more book to share with you and then I know we're kind of getting, Oh good, thanks Ivy, she's putting into all of the comments here, all of the different artists that we're talking about in the books that we're talking about. So my last favorite book, and this is a newer book that I just received a copy of about a year ago from my nan Paula. And Paula is an art teacher and advocate and she created this guide that is called "Be a Creative Changemaker." And I wish I had had this book when I was early on in my teaching career because what she's done is she's gone through and taken life stories of a diverse range of artists and she has put together hands-on constructive art projects that connect both to the world around us, history and actually engaging materials. So what I love, my favorite lesson in here is probably the wire historical figure sculpture. Back in the day when I was teaching middle school and high school art, I always did a project very similar to this where we created a person and gave them, you know, sort of an identity. What I love about what Paula has done here is she's created like a historical perspective and lesson plan to add to it. And again, this is a paper mache project. Really fun to add paint. I know Violet's like, "Ooh, that's really cool." (Abby giggling) So you know, this is a great book. If you could grab a copy, this would be an awesome one to have around this summer to go through and let your kids pick out different lessons to do with them while on summer break. So "Be a Creative Changemaker," a kids' art activity book by Paula Liz. So those are the books kind of that we thought about sharing. And I don't know, I just wanna open up the last few minutes for any questions you might have. Anything that you might be curious about. It could be about our blog post that was up this week. It might be, oh yeah, go ahead. - One of the questions- - Oh, do you wanna read it? - The book fold. please- - Again. Do you wanna read it out? How did you make the folded book at the beginning of this event? Fantastic. I'm gonna go ahead. Do you wanna grab another piece of paper out of the paper drawer? First you take a cat, here's how you make the folded book. Are you ready? First you take a cat and you fold him lengthwise and then, I'm just kidding. Faith is laughing. I appreciate your laughs, Faith. Thank you. Oh, my cousin Jenny's on here. Hi Jenny. Good to see you. So Violet's grabbing a piece of paper and again, the full details for how to do the book project. I've got two little copies of it here, so we'll kind of open this one up at the same time. Violet, why don't I fold and you talk us through what I'm doing. Does that

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sound good? Okay. So here's the paper right in front of us. There's the other one. Why don't you tell everybody what we're doing. - So first we're gonna do a hamburger fold. - Yeah. You could call it a veggie burger fold too. - But then... (Abby giggling) - Violet's dad is a vegetarian, so we always have to- - Then you're gonna unfold it and switch it into hot dog fold. - Hot dog fold, burrito fold. - Yeah. Then over again. - Okay. - Very long burrito. - And then you take the cat and he needs to go ahead and crease it. Good kitty. Okay, good. (Abby giggling) Then what do we do? - Then we're going to take the side and fold it into the middle. - And this could be kind of helpful if you don't have a burnishing tool or like a bone folder, you could take like, I like to take the edges of my scissors to kinda make that fold or crease really, really helpful. Okay, what do I do next? - This part is like the only kind of tricky part, but you're gonna take it, you're gonna take the middle and you're gonna put it in. - Put it in. Okay. - Yeah. - Okay. So I fold it. - Fold it. Yeah, yeah, yeah. - So I fold it down the middle. - You fold it back like a hamburger. - Back in a hamburger, and we're gonna make a little dash line. - I like to make a little scissors. - From the fold to the middle. - Yeah. - Right. Okay. And then where am I gonna cut? - From there down. - From there down to there. We're gonna cut right here. Okay. And then when we open it up, it really, and we're using like a heavy card stock. You can use computer paper, watercolor paper would be really fun. But immediately when you start to kind of fold it, you can see that that middle section wants to open up. So I'm gonna grab it by the two horizontal edges and kind of pull out and fold down. And like Violet said before, we're kind of making a star or the letter X. Okay. And then we're just gonna fold it right together. - And you have your mini book. - And you have your mini book. Ta da. That was amazing. That was a lot easier. We've made so many of these in the last couple weeks that they're just kind of lying all over our house. And so maybe our next project is gonna be picking one up and adding to it, even if you're not the maker of it, like a collaboration. That might be kind of fun. You did start this way. - I sometimes like making scissors, a scissors logo, next you do to where you got it. - Violet likes to draw the little scissors. Okay, so I see one other question from Annette. "What's been surprising or unexpected about this?" Oh, this is such a good question, "About the transition from salaried artist to entrepreneur." I love that question. Thank you for asking that. So for me, what really helped me to build my own business and start out as an entrepreneur is that for the first two years of it, I was moonlighting. Like, that's what I was doing all evening, up late at night. That's the only time I could fit in my art practice because I was still teaching every day and then doing the kid cycle in the afternoons. - With soccer and picking me up. - With soccer and pickups and play dates and meals and all that kind of stuff. You know, I'm so grateful and fortunate to have an incredibly involved husband and partner in Violet's dad. And you know, he works on site here half of the time. And so that gives me the freedom to also share those duties with him. And so what ended up happening when I left salaried employment, I think the biggest thing that I missed was my own health insurance. It was a very big source of pride for me that I was the person in the family that provided health insurance to my three kids and myself and to him. And so that was a really big shift and a big thing to adjust to that we now rely on his job to do that. And then, you know, the other big thing is learning how to be a bookkeeper. As a working artist, there are so many more ins and outs to keeping track of my income streams, you know, my outputs, profits and losses. You know, I kind of think about my job now as a professional artist, as part artist, part marketer, you know, marketing extraordinaire and part educator. So I like to kind of be growing in all of those areas at once. And you know, luckily I thrive best when I have a lot of sort of balls in the air and I tend to, you know, bounce from project to project. So that is another benefit of the flexibility of being on my own schedule and not kind of being tied down to a school schedule anymore with specific curriculum

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that I'm made to teach or that I have to facilitate. I can kind of lead my own way now in a more fun way than before. So I hope that answered it. Okay, so Faith wrote in here, "I'd love to hear which projects each of you are excited to work on next." So as we're wrapping things up, that would be an amazing thing for people to add into the comments. Like, what projects are you excited about doing today, this week, this weekend? You know, I definitely am excited to get working in my garden this week because we had a huge couple days of rain and now there's gonna be a bunch of sun the next couple days here in Portland. And so I'm really excited to work in my garden. What about you, Violet? - I'm excited for, I'm in a school play on Friday. - Oh my gosh, you're right. Violet's in the school play on Friday. - And- - Who are you? Wait, this is a good return. - I'm Winnie the Pooh. - Violet's Winnie the Pooh in the school play. Oh my gosh. I'm so excited for you. So yeah, that's gonna be a big deal. - I'm excited for that. And then I am also excited for, I am going to work on something for the end of year. I'm gonna make something for my teacher for the end of the year, and so I'm gonna, I'm excited to do that on the weekend. - I love that. All right, cool. Awesome. So I'm seeing here, working on a collaboration, a junk journal. Oh, I love junk journaling. Gardening, yard work, hanging out with animals, end of the school year, gardening and painting, working on a watercolor you've started. Lori started a watercolor. Let's see here. Angela's gonna do the folded paper book project along with other ideas that we mentioned today. And Aunt Natalie says, "That's so fun. Go Violet." (Abby giggling) This has been great. I really appreciate all of you tuning in. Our Creative Bug facilitator here, Ivy, put my Instagram account on the live link here, so if you're not already following along with what I'm doing, I actually also this week made an Instagram account for the cat. So, you know, if you're into cats, you should totally follow McGuffin. - Guffie. - Oh my gosh, he's so cute. He's PDX Studio Cat on Instagram. Faith, you're gonna have to check it out. He's so adorable. Oh, someone just said, what is a junk journal? You know, altered books or junk journaling and maybe Faith you can answer this better, or whoever said junk journaling can put it into the, oh, PDX Studio Cat right there. That's great. You know, my experience with junk journaling is holding onto different artifacts that are in your daily life that you want to use as ephemera for a journal or for a sketchbook and putting in, you know, for those of us who grew up in a different time, it might be like collaging different tickets from events or receipts or postcards and using mixed media with those things and adding together different artifacts that you feel are precious and sort of preserving them in a journal or a sketchbook and then creating an art sort of experience out of that. Ooh, someone's gonna reverse engineer the sweater, so cool. Oh, I haven't heard of a smashbox. Sarah, you'll have to tell us more about that. I love this. Okay, so Constance put in here "Junk journaling is using all sorts of things, old envelopes, packages to create different types of books." So yeah, it's kinda like a trash to treasure project. I love that. Constance, thank you for adding that in there. So if there is anything else that people want to put in the comments or questions you might have for us, we're gonna kind of wrap things up here in a moment. Faith, do you think we covered everything? Are you feeling like there's anything else we need to go over before we officially finish our time together? - [Faith] I loved seeing the two of you work together so much. You really have just such a compatible relationship. And I think that there's a couple of Creative Bug staff members with little kids. - Yeah. - [Faith] And working with little kids is, sometimes it feels like, are they going to be trying to use my special paint forever? - Yes. - And also, please stop touching those scissors are too sharp for you. - Yes. - [Faith] So this is real hope for our futures. (Abby chuckling) - Do you hear that? It's so great. I think that's really great to point out, Faith, because especially like being a parent at home with little ones, it can be super frustrating to like have your materials stay precious and your materials and like, you know, we have a photograph actually of Violet from when she was

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about three years old. She got into a tube of acrylic paint of mine and she used, I'm not kidding, I wish I had that picture to show, but it's Violet standing in a, you must have been littler than three. She's like in a diaper, holding this acrylic tube paint and she is covered in paint. Like horrifying. It was white. Horrifying moment for an artist's mother, because you know it's gonna absorb into her skin. She's going to eat it, she's gonna get poisoned. You know, nothing bad happened, but what I learned from that was to utilize clear bins. Friends, clear bins are the best thing you can invest in with little kids at home because you can see what they are able to use. You can let them get in and out of clear bins that have your materials, that have materials that are off limits to them. And I feel like that has been a big learning curve, is at what age and stage to offer certain materials to my kids and to try out a big pair of scissors with them when they're a little bit smaller. If they can manipulate them under parental supervision, of course. - [Faith] My daughter's teacher did say that she had unusually good scissor skills. - Oh, I love that. - [Faith] For such a young child. We said, "Oh she's been using them for a while." - She's had 'em for a while. Yeah, no, I think that's really great. I love unusually good scissor skills. I love it. - [Faith] Suspiciously good scissor skills. (Abby laughing) - Suspiciously good scissor skills. (laughing) I think that's great. - [Faith] Thank the two of you so, so much. So inspirational and exciting. Violet, you nailed it. You did an amazing job. I know a lot of adults did that real stressed out and you were cool as a cucumber the whole time. - Oh I love that. - Thank you. - [Faith] Thanks to the little kitty. - Yeah. Oh yeah. McGuffin says, leave me alone. He wants to take another nap. - [Faith] Good job McGuffin. - Good job McGuffin. First live event. Way to go, buddy. - [Faith] And thank you everybody else for joining us. We love spending this time with you and we will see you in two more weeks. - Yeah. Awesome. Thank you guys so much. This was so fun. - Bye. - Bye.

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