Crafting Together: Sketchbook Pages with Rebecca Ringquist with Rebecca Ri

Chapter 1 - Crafting Together

Sketchbook pages with Rebecca Ringquist

- I love this part when everyone comes pouring in, it feels a little bit to me, like when you're waiting for trick-or-treater's on Halloween and then someone rings the doorbell and then 10 people ring the doorbell. So, thank you everyone for being our trick-or-treater's. - I always feel like on Halloween it's like when you're having a dinner party and you've like done all this work and you're like, "Maybe, no one's gonna come." - Yes. - Do you- - And they all come at once. - Your new house is kind of in the woods, yeah? - Kind of, I mean, we're just like right outside of Portland City limits. - Yeah. - But I live on an acre in like a oak woods, yeah. - So are you gonna get trick-or-treater's? - I don't know, there's not that many people. There's not that many... Because I'll be out trick-or-treating with my kids so I'll probably just turn off the lights, yeah. - That's true. I think last year we gave away 1,200 pieces of candy because we're on one of the slow streets in my town. A slow street in Lambertville. - How many sweets give to each trick-or-treater? - It was a bowl so people were taking handfuls, I'm sure. Thank you everybody for coming in. We're gonna chitchat for a few more minutes before we get started with the real deal. - Hi everyone. - And please feel free to say, where you are from, where you're calling from, where you're tuning in from in the chat. Yeah, my town is a big Halloween town. People come from all over the place and it's just like a big block party and the grownups take it very seriously. - That sounds so fun. - It's really fun. Like hearing the "Monster Mash" live is even better than a recording of the "Monster Mash." - Like there's a cover band that plays it in your town? - Yes, yes. - That's so fun. Oh my gosh. - But next year, we realize we all have to do glow-in-the-dark costumes 'cause it's still dark, it's quite dark. - Yes. - Thanks all, early birds for your patience, we have a couple more minutes. I'm so excited to be here in the first of the month, isn't it so nice that the first of the month started on a Monday? It feels very tidy and efficient to me. - Agreed, agreed. - Right. - Oh, two people from Michigan. I'm flying to Michigan tomorrow and I can't wait. - How long are you gonna be there for? - A week. - Oh heaven. - Yeah, a vacation with my family, I can't wait to see my cousins. - Cousins are the best. I just hung out with my cousins, one of my cousins is six-foot nine and I'm one of the shorter cousins at 5'11. - Wow, Faith. - I know. - Six nine, that's wild. - Yes. And I'm not one of the tallest cousins. - Wow. - But I am in my house, Southern Ontario, Webster Kentucky, Love Colorado. And Davis, California, it must be hot there today, yeah. - It's gonna get hot in Portland this week. So I'm getting out here. - Columbus, Ohio, trick-or-treat, in the country, they drive in cars. One year, my grandmother was the editor of a magazine and she often worked in trade. So instead of people paying her to advertise their services, they would just give her, her services. So one year, she had a limousine and we went trick-or-treating in a limousine. And it wasn't that we were fancy children, we just had access to a free limousine ride. But it's not a bad way to go trick-or-treating, I'll tell you that much. - It sounds amazing. Did you roll down your window and say like, "Excuse me, do you have any Grey Poupon?" - No, but we did go to McDonald's and had a really hard turn making it around the turn. But these past few Halloweens have still been the best Halloweens. - It's so fun being a mom on Halloween, huh? - So fun being a mama, yes, yes, I agree with you entirely. - I love it. - Oh, it's 4:05 so now, we can begin. Thank you everybody for joining us, we're so excited to have you with us today. A little bit of housekeeping, please use the chat box. You'll see on the bottom of your Zoom screen chat, just so that it pops open. This will be the best way to chat with one another and if you have questions for Rebecca or if you have questions for me,

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please use the Q&A box. I'm gonna be asking Rebecca some questions throughout, interspersed with our prompts. The first thing I'm hoping to ask from all of you is, if you brought your sketchbook and if you could hold your sketchbook up to the screen or tell us a little bit about it in the chat. My sketchbook is made by Ebond, she's a creative book artist and a close friend of mine. And she does these really beautiful papers that she stitches over so they're kind of hidden and there's a couple different papers. But today, we're here with Rebecca Ringquist and it is her class birthday. I always think of them as birthdays 'cause there's so much excitement, and we really get to celebrate it and the class is, Magpie Sketchbook Daily Practice. So you filmed 30 different classes. One will be releasing every day this month. Was it 31? - I was just thinking, aren't there 31 days in July, I think we did 31? But I can't be sure on that one. - Maybe, 30, Josephine says, 31 days. Thank you, Josephine, I would've been counting on my knuckles, but that's... - I know, I do that trick too. - Really helpful. And today, was the first day, it was opening days and so I already have my opening day, I'm really excited about it because I am often daunted by the sketchbook. But you have a regular sketchbook practice, so you have developed some tips and tricks for remaining undaunted, or are you still daunted, but you just do it anyway? - Sometimes, I'm still daunted. Sometimes, I feel stuck and not sure what to do. And that is why I have sort of a protocol that I always follow when I start a new sketchbook, which is what I did today on the first Creativebug class from the series and I'm gonna do another one today during the Zoom to start this sketchbook, which is totally blank. And I both love... oh wow, I just had all these stamps on my table and they just like flew away in the flitter from my book, that's okay. Yeah, it's fun to start a new sketchbook, but it often feels very intimidating to look down at all this white. So I have some techniques, I always do the same thing on the first pages of my sketchbook. And I have a couple other, three other exercises that we're gonna do today, ways of just like getting rid of the white and starting something out so that you'll have something to respond to in the coming weeks of this month, days and weeks of the month. - Perfect. - I always prefer having something on the page rather than nothing 'cause then it's like, oh, I'm gonna draw this, you know, elf, I've never drawn an elf in my life, but like where would it go on a white page? But if you have something already down, then you have like a surface or a horizon or something to respond to when you're trying to figure out what to do next. So that's where- - Or you can reject it entirely and that gives you something to do other than come up with something from scratch. - Exactly, you could like collage over it, decide you hate it and cover it in Gesso. Yeah, so many good options. - And forgive my presumption, I forgot to introduce myself and to introduce Rebecca, I'm Faith Hale, I'm a staff artist here at Creativebug. And if this is your first live, welcome and if you are a repeat visitor, we're so thrilled to have you back. These are my favorite thing I do, I love spending time with you. I feel like we're across the table from one another in the studio, just doing our own thing, but doing them together. And Rebecca has been with Creativebug for quite some time, our absolute favorite artists, your classes are brilliant and beautiful and thoughtful, and we have more of your classes that are fabric-based, but we are really excited to be spending time with you in our sketchbook this month because you're actually a multimedia artist. Would you care to introduce yourself briefly? - Yeah, I'm Rebecca. And I live here just outside of Portland, Oregon. And my job for my... the way I keep the lights on here in my log cabin in Portland, Oregon is that I own a business called, Dropcloth Embroidery Samplers. And I design embroidery patterns, many of which I've filmed Creativebug classes that go along with them and that's been so fun. And I have like subscription embroidery clubs and all kinds of things. And the way that I develop all those ideas for dropcloth embroidery is that I make drawings all the time in my sketchbooks. And that's how I come up with new ideas and new designs and new patterns. And I also love to draw just for fun. And

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drawing just for fun usually ends up being the way that new ideas come up. But anyhow, I think it's such an important way of relating to your own life and collecting ideas to have a sketchbook that you just keep everything in. And I've said this before, I think I said this in the Creativebug class just today, but I always think of my sketchbook as something that's just for myself, that I'm not making it to show somebody else, I'm making it 'cause it makes me happy and I'm making it to like keep all my ideas in one place. And occasionally, I show pages to the internet or to a friend or like to all of you today. But I think it's good to just keep in mind that it's just for you and it doesn't have to be a certain way. So that helps me feel like loose and ready to make things. - I feel like you're reminding me that the sketchbook pages I see are the ones that people are choosing to share with me. So of course, they are good and exciting and interesting and well done. And I compare myself way too much, but why am I comparing my worst work to someone's best work? - Exactly, yeah. And I used to take a really chronological approach to my sketchbooks and every time I sat down, I would write the date and then that page would be finished and I'd go onto the next page and write the date. And then I'd look back and think like, "Oh, that doesn't look good, that doesn't look good, that doesn't look good." And in the last few years, I think in the last eight years, it's maybe since becoming a mom, I'm just like, "Well, why do I have all those pages in my sketchbook that I don't like?" It seems like a waste of paper and I don't need to keep those around just to make myself feel bad so I often Gesso over those or collage over them and keep going back to sketchbooks that I started years ago and that has felt really freeing and exciting to like just have all these pages that I can work back into and make them better. - Did you feel so naughty the first time you did that? Like (creepy laugh). - I felt a little worried like, "Oh, am I gonna regret this?" 'Cause I'm losing the chronology of my work, but it doesn't matter. - Oh. I'm not like Claude Monet, you know, like it's not like there's gonna be some retrospective of my work one day. Like the sketchbooks are still just for me. And if there is a chronological retrospective of my work, I want them to look their best. - Perfect, I love that perspective. - Yeah. - Oh, and Anita asks, do you keep multiple sketchbooks at once for different themes? - I don't have different themes in different sketchbooks, but I have lots of sketchbooks at once and I probably have like 15 right now that I'm working on. - 15? - Mm-hmm. - How many are within an arms reach of you right now? - One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. - And also, the last time we checked in with you, you had multiple paintings everywhere. - Yeah, I have been painting a lot. I didn't get any paintings out to show you, but I have recently started painting with acrylic paint and collage on boards and that's been really fun to get outta my sketchbook and a little messier, even messier. - Even messier. Shall we do the first prompt? - Yeah, so the first prompt is gonna be the same one that we did in today's class in the... what do you call it? The daily challenge. Do you call it the Daily Challenge or the Daily- - Daily Practice. - Daily Practice, yeah. When that is to start a new sketchbook. So I'll show this one so here's one that I started in 2017. So every time I open a new sketchbook, I always write, opening day and then the date, it's a little blurry to see on my camera, hopefully, you can see it better. April 3rd, 2017. And then down here, I'm covering my phone number so I don't get a bunch of phone calls, but you can see my name and then my phone number and then my email address. So I do that in every single book. This one doesn't have my phone number and I always write, please return if found. I don't write that there's a reward or anything. This book, it has a suggestion, if lost, please return to and then as a reward, I don't know, I've never lost a sketchbook. Thank goodness. Before I start writing all that information, I'm gonna glue some stamps in. I have a big collection of stamps. There's this thrift store here in Portland called, The Bins. And I think Faith and I talked about this at length in our last live, but I recently found this whole album of stamps at the Goodwill Bins and it was very exciting. And I've

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used a lot of 'em in sketchbooks. First thing, I'm gonna do is cover this little area that says, Artesa, I don't know how you say that. I don't like it, I don't want that font there, I think it's boring and I would rather have my own artwork and my own handwriting to list my name and the date, I don't wanna advertise that, I'm not offering a reward. - Just a quick note for everyone watching, if you can't see what Rebecca's working on, make sure you are in speaker view. So go to the upper right of your screen, click view and make sure speaker is checked. Then you should be able to see Rebecca and her sketchbook. And also, please work in your sketchbook along with us while Rebecca's doing this, because I don't have anything to glue down. I'm gonna be drawing hands. - Yeah, you can do anything. You could just do a big wash of color. I'm laying down all these fish, maybe, it's because I'm going to Michigan tomorrow, I'm gonna go camping, I'm not going camping, but I am gonna go fishing with my cousins and I'm very excited about that even though I've never once baited a hook and I don't plan to. And I'm happy with having other people bait the hooks for me, which is not really my MO, I like doing things for myself, but I don't need to ever bait a hook, that's kind of gross. - I had to get a boat license the other day at Walmart and my daughter saw bait for sale for the first time and she was really perplexed that you could just buy worms. And also she was like, "Well, let's get some worms." - Yeah, I bet that's what my kids would say too, they're like, "Can we buy those worms?" - Yeah, you can just buy 'em. Why are you stopping me? - Come on, mom. I think what I'm gonna do for the opening day text is, I am gonna use something, I don't remember if I use these in the daily practice, but I have a set of these water soluble Caran D'Ache crayons. They come in these beautiful tins. They are made in Switzerland and they're crayons, but they're water soluble. So I'm gonna get those out and I have a little thing of water here. One of the ways that I like to use these is to give it a little dip in the water and then they are a little juicier, so to speak. So you can also draw with them and then go back in with a paintbrush and manipulate the color a little bit. So this was a blank page, hard to know what to draw, you know, I think that probably all of us have been in the position, I have lots of times of opening a sketchbook and saying like, "I really wanna draw, but I don't know what to draw. What would be cool? What would look good? I went to graduate school at a very conceptually-based art school. And so oftentimes, I'm plagued by the question of like, what would be smart? What would be the most clever thing I could do in my sketchbook? And because I have this direction for myself or sort of a requirement, I don't have to worry about it 'cause I know exactly what's gonna go on the first page. And then hopefully, by the time I've done the first page, I'm kind of in the rhythm of drawing and I'm not so strung out about what would be the cool thing to do next. Okay, I'm gonna switch to a different color green, what is today? July 1st. July 1st. You know, it's my class birthday and it's also, my birthday week. I'm gonna be having a birthday later this week. - Happy birthday this week. - Thank you. - Do you love your birthdays? - Mm, I like it okay. - Oh. - I like that I'm with my cousins. Sometimes, I really like my birthday. Last year, I threw myself a really amazing block party for my birthday, I organized a whole block party and I rented a bouncy castle and it was so much fun. - Did you get to go in the bouncy castle? - Heck yeah, I got one that adults could go in, I paid for it. I went in that bouncy castle, so fun. It was a blast. And this year, I'm excited to just be with my cousins in Michigan and I don't have any big plans for my birthday and I feel good about that. My birthday's actually on the 4th of July, so I often as a kid could never have friends over for my birthday 'cause it's a national holiday and everybody always has barbecue plans and stuff. But I like my birthday now 'cause I almost always have plans with my family and I love being with my cousins. So it works out, it's all good. - [Faith] When you were little, did you think the fireworks were for you? - I did, and I thought everyone had fireworks and parades on their birthdays. - What a sad realization when you - I know. - [Faith] learn the truth.

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- But another sad thing about me is that I actually hate fireworks. And that is a real disappointment to my mom who loves them and would like to watch them with me on my birthday every year. But they just make me feel anxious and they make me think about war, I wish they didn't happen on my birthday, so. - [Faith] I think fireworks are a contentious issue, especially in my town, we have a lot of birders and a lot of rescue dogs. Neither of whom appreciate fireworks. - Exactly. - [Faith] But I like the music that accompanies fireworks, like big band music. - Oh yeah, I like big band music too. - [Faith] Angie's birthday is on Memorial Day and when she was little, she also thought the parade was for her. - Oh. All right, this is kind of messy and I'm gonna let it dry for a little bit while we do some other, well no, I'm gonna add my name and my email address. So let's see here. How could we do it? It's very colorful. I'm gonna do a big kind arch here to make a space for the other information and we'll see how. To be totally honest, I'm not liking this very much at the moment, which is in some ways, a gift 'cause I'll go back and fix it later and I feel confident that I will like it eventually. It's a lot of pressure making a drawing on the internet for the whole world to see. But here I am, okay. Sometimes, I like to get out my fancy cursive. Please, return if... Okay, then I'll write, Rebecca. I'll go back later and add my phone number and my email address and we'll see how this dries out, while I'm waiting for it to dry, I thought we could do a couple extra. I have a few extra like bonus exercises that aren't included in the daily practice, but I wanted to share with you all today and I can see that a lot of you are drawing, which is so fun. And I would love to get some pages going with you all to work back into throughout the month. So I'm gonna do is, set this book aside and get out a different sketchbook to work into. I'm just gonna set that there on the drawer, on the drawer, on the floor. I'm gonna get out another book. So this book is one that has lots of blank pages and you can see there's some pages that my kids have drawn on, which I love too. I often let them draw on the blank pages in my sketchbook and then I end up drawing back into them. So here's a blank page in a book that's very much full. There's the opening day from- - [Faith] Oh, that's beautiful. - Thank you. So this is the opening day of this book. I started it in November, 2022. And you can see it also, has stamps and these are some collaged images. There's some drawings back here that ended up getting collaged over. The one I started today might very well get collaged over. So an attempt at a pretzel drawing that didn't turn out very well. Maybe, I'll go back and fix that. And these are some images from, or these are some actually vintage paper dolls. But what I wanted to do on this page, since you all are here, is just a suggestion to draw a rainbow. And I'm gonna use my Caran d'Ache crayons again to draw these kind of wet rainbows. However, you could also draw rainbows that are just in black and white. So I have a few here to show you, to give you some ideas. This is a page from a plant identification book. This is, you know, might not think it's a rainbow to begin with, but I just drew a line of color through, I think these already had a line of color going through them in the book and then I just matched that color and extended it out onto the page. And this could be a whole spread or maybe, I'll draw back into it. Here's another page that just has these kind of scallops on it or rainbows, a bird. And here are some more. This is a little preview of something that we'll get into later in the month. So I don't wanna show too much about that 'cause you'll learn about it in the Creativebug class. I'm gonna show you that next, here's another... why isn't it showing up? That's weird. Oh, it was like a weird delay. Anyhow, here is another set of rainbows and that's what I think I'm gonna do today is draw some big rainbows for you. If you don't have Caran d'Ache, you could use markers. In the Creativebug class, I use those smelly Mr Sketch markers on a few different classes or a few different days. And those are really fun to use. I love sniffing them. I mean, not in like a inappropriate way, but just to smell the cherry smell. It smells so good. One of the things that I love about these Caran d'Ache crayons is that they are so saturated with color. So what

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I would recommend doing is opening your book up to a page that doesn't have anything on it and adding a rainbow or two or three. And you know, I'm not worrying about like, "Oh, I wonder what this is gonna go with. I wonder if anything will ever go with. I wonder what is gonna be my next step." I'm not thinking about that. I'm just thinking about making a cool rainbow. And it'll be like a little gift for your future self 'cause you'll be going along in your sketchbook during the month of July when you're following along with a daily practice. And then you'll be thinking... I'll have another prompt for you and I'll say, "You know, let's do it on a page that already has something on it." And blemo, you'll have something on your page. - [Faith] We've gotten some really thoughtful questions. - Great. - [Faith] Jenna was hoping you could share a bit more about choosing a sketchbook in terms of paper quality. - Yes, so when I filmed this class last year, I was using, I forget, I think the books are listed. The book, this particular book, see how it has this red binding is listed in the class materials, I think it's called, "Kunst & Papier," I don't know. Since that time, I got a recommendation from one of Abby Halston's classes on Creativebug. And she turned me on to these books, which are the one I started today. They are watercolor books and they're very inexpensive and wonderful. So I really like the watercolor paper, it's great for multimedia and wet medias because the pages won't... they're really thick and opaque. So you can draw or paint with acrylics or ink or anything like that and it won't sink through to the other page. In this particular book, you can see, I've been drawing on this page and when I open it up, the color is going through to the other side, which I actually really like this page here, how there's like you know, sort of like a Rorschach test on this side, which actually makes me think like, this is still wet. So I'm gonna try to Rorschach it to the other side of my sketchbook as well, I don't know if it's wet enough to do that, but oftentimes... it didn't really transfer that much, but it did a little. Oftentimes, I'll glue two pages together to make it thicker and I also spend a lot of time drawing, or excuse me, collaging other paper on, but if you want something that's thick to begin with, I really love these watercolor books and the brand is Areteza, A-R-E-T-E-Z-A. I dunno if I'm saying that right, I assume I am not. But they come in a few different... actually, I have three that I started that are the bigger sides and I'll show you those in a minute. I'm gonna keep going and add another rainbow. I think I'm gonna stop with these four colors. Usually, a rainbow has seven or eight colors, but it can have as many colors as you want and it doesn't have to be the traditional colors of a rainbow. So I'm gonna add another one that's kind of going in the opposite direction over here. I think with the same colors, although maybe, I'll mix it up, I think pink would be awfully nice - [Faith] For those of you who have asked about the crayons, they're Caran d'Ache Neocolor, Aquarelle artist pastels, but I put it in the chat, so check the chat, yes. - Oh, excellent, excellent. - [Faith] And the books are in the chat as well. - And the way that I'm using 'em to get such a juicy color, a very saturated, dense color is that I have a little cup of water and I just dip the tip into the water to get it a little bit wet and then using on the paper and after a while, it'll start to dry and you can just re-dip it. - [Faith] Another question was from Joanne who says, I sometimes see design ideas from plastic wrapping or bags. How do I use this kind of material in a sketchbook, should I photocopy it? - Oh, that's a great question. Do you mean like something like a piece of packaging, that you know, like a candy bar came in or something, I mean, it doesn't matter what kind of plastic it is, you could absolutely glue that into your book with a glue stick, I love these UHU sticks and the permanent Scotch Permanent Glue Stick, these are my two favorites. Lately, I've been using a lot of map medium and map medium, well, all acrylics are just basically liquid plastic. And so you could absolutely glue something like plastic down and then respond to that. However, if you wanted to draw on top of it, your options are slightly more limited because for example, these Caran D'Ache crayons are water soluble wax pastel. So they would just kind of beat

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up on plastic surface, but these Posca markers would work really well on a plastic surface 'cause they're acrylic. And so would a Sharpie marker would work really, really well as well. Really anything can get glued into a sketchbook as long as it's pretty flat, you don't want something three dimensional. Actually, I have this, speaking of anything being glued down, can you see this? It's like a sheer handkerchief, I found this at the thrift store the other day and it has this woman painted on it. I think it's silk and talk about inefficient for blowing your nose, it's really transparent, but I've been thinking I would glue it into my sketchbook. So there's a little rainbow, I'd love to see if anybody else made a rainbow in their sketchbook and you feel like sharing it with the group, I would be thrilled to see what you did. I'm gonna put my crayons back in this box. Side note, since we were talking about Halloween at the beginning of this chat, these are non-toxic, now, that I'm on the internet, I wanna double-check. Are they non-toxic? Yes, they are non-toxic as I have used these to paint my kids' faces for Halloween. Same thing, I just like dip them in water and they make amazing face paints. And I have made a couple of really cool lion faces and a firefighter, I don't know, all kinds of fun. These are great for face painting, highly recommend. - [Faith] Are they intended for face painting? - I don't think so. - [Faith] I love how you answered that. And someone told them they were in theory, food safe. I don't know that this stuff, that they airbrush on children's faces at street fairs is necessarily food safe either. - Right, and I feel like that has like small particulates that kids might be like, not that I wouldn't let my kids do that too, but like I just feel like that's, you know, like use it once a year and then I wash it off at the end of the night. It comes right off with those like makeup removal wipes and it's great. - [Faith] That's a wonderful pro tip that I would have only gotten from you. Thank you. - A fox, I made a really good fox face once. - [Faith] Are you in cahoots with Caran D'Ache? Do you get any benefits for promoting those pencil crayons? - I wish I did. No, none whatsoever. They don't know who I am. No, absolutely not. I am not in cahoots with any drawing companies. I wish I was. - [Faith] People who love those crayons, I count myself among them, really do love them. It would be like if you could hold air or like the sun in your hands. They're so powerful. They're so magical. You can't get it in a different medium. - I love that analogy. Yeah, they are. I also really love Prismacolor pencils. But dang, I hate that Prismacolors break constantly, you're pressing down hard and you can get a similar effect with the color, but it's so frustrating that they break so easily. I feel like I'm just constantly sharpening my pencil and then it like breaks, breaks, breaks. So I do use these Prismacolor sticks, which is the exact same thing as Prismacolor pencils, just without the wood around the outside. These are not water soluble, you know, they're like the waxy things that you get inside a Prismacolor pencil, but just in a big stick. But you can see, you have to press really hard, but they also make a nice dark line. - [Faith] And so they like smooshing them with Gesso, scribble a background with them and then wipe Gesso over the top, that sounds amazing. - I've done that before too, I love it. - [Faith] Julia would like to know, do you prefer a specific size of sketchbook? I feel like I have seen you work with 100 different size sketchbooks. Do you have 15 different size sketchbooks because you have 15 different sketchbooks? - No, but I probably have like five, I have a lot of different sizes. I mean, for a long time, I was working on these square books and I just started a new square book today. The one I started today, also square, but I have all different sizes. This is a Moleskine book that I started a while ago. I think you'll see some more of this in the Creativebug class. This is a Moleskine book, which has really flimsy paper so I glued the pages together, I glued. - [Faith] Oh really? Did you do it every time you glued something on top of it? - Yeah. I got that idea from Lisa Conden in one of her Creativebug classes. She recommended gluing the pages together if your page is kind of flimsy. Since then, I've started just getting books that are less flimsy 'cause it's less time. I'd rather draw than spend time

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gluing a billion pages together. I wanted to show you guys this book. So Faith and I talked about this in our last live, but I love going to the thrift store, I find so much inspiration there In anticipation of this class, I went to, I mean, I'll be honest, I go to thrift store all the time. Anyway, in anticipation of this class, I went to the thrift store and collected a bunch of things to send to one person. We're gonna have a giveaway on Instagram later today, but they all fit in this little box with this late 1970s kid that's playing a game. And there's all kinds of things in here. iron on transfers, which we're gonna use later this month in the class. Some coloring book pages, this cool envelope from Montgomery Ward, a number of books an old pattern, this cool old craft book. The "Learn How" book. I love these drawings of hands knitting, those will be so fun to collage. And then the pieces from the board game, including all these little clocks so stay tuned later today on Instagram and on my Instagram and on Creativebugs, it'll be a collaborative post and I'll be giving that away to one person later in the week or early next week. Another thing I found that unfortunately is not part of the giveaway, although maybe, I'll include a couple pages, I'm just gonna randomly tear a few of these pages out and put them in the giveaway, so you don't feel left out. Okay, but look at these pages, each one has all these little great hands and I'm very excited to glue those into my book. So this little stack of them is going in the giveaway and then the rest are here. I'm gonna use these personally, but they're so cool. You know, I think hands are one of the hardest things to draw. And I think a fun way to draw or to get an idea of what to draw is to have something to look at. So, you know, like I went to art school and I have practiced drawing and taken lots of drawing classes and I draw all... You know, I need a reference when I'm sitting down to draw something. And so I like to put little things in my sketchbook that later when I sit down, now I've got a page that has rainbows and these hands that I might try drawing a bigger version of right here. - [Faith] Were you like breathless and trembling when you found this book? - I was pretty excited, yeah. Look at all that, I mean- - [Faith] I feel like it was made for you. - I know, I love it. - [Faith] So just to reemphasize what Rebecca just said, she's doing a giveaway of a box of ephemera and to enter this giveaway, you have to follow her on Instagram or at least, watch her Instagram to see when she posts the giveaway. - Yes. - [Faith] Please remind me of your Instagram. - Dropcloth, all one word. D-R-O-P-C-L-O-T-H. Look at all these. Ooh, so good, I love this one of this little kid touching his toes. Some of these are like little finger plays that I remember doing with my kids while they were in the bath when they were teeny-tiny. Like the three little monkeys one, did you ever do that one? - [Faith] Oh my gosh, can I show you the book I just thrifted? - Yes, please. Faith, one day, I hope we can go thrifting together. - [Faith] You're gonna scream, shadow puppets. - I have that book. - [Faith] You do? - Yeah, can I see the front? Yes, I totally have that book. My mom gave me that book when I was a little kid and I've had it for so long and I've made many photocopies and glued them into sketchbooks and like made things in response to them, I love it. I can't believe you found that. - [Faith] Well, when I was asking you, if you got shaky, excited, I remembered, oh I have very recently had that exact feeling. I feel like these would be great like framed in a kid's room. - Absolutely, yes. - [Faith] Jonna says, sometimes, I find really old books in little free libraries, be sure to drop books in there if you take any. Jonna, one thing you might not know about me is I'm a proud owner of a little free library. I am obsessed with my little free library and yes, there are the stuff in there all the time. - I love it. - [Faith] I got a relationship books for teens published in like 1942 or something. - Whoa. - [Faith] I thought that would be good for blackout poetry and then it maybe, made me too, it's too much. - We have lots of free libraries in our neighborhood already so my kids started a free puzzle library 'cause we love doing jigsaw puzzles. - [Faith] Are you kidding me? That's such a good idea. - It's fun, yeah. This artist named, Mike Bennett here in Portland, who some

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of you might know, he just started a free key chain library and it's super cool. - [Faith] I've never even heard of that before. - I think it's the first of its kind. And you can take a key chain, leave a key chain and you can also, leave little trinkets and then he comes through every day and like drills holes in the trinkets and turns them into key chains, which he then puts up in the library. He's so prolific, his artwork is so different from mine, but I really like it and I really admire how prolific he is. He's always doing something. - [Faith] Tell me his name again, this is amazing. - Mike Bennett. And he paints murals and he is made all these like specific installations for kids like this whole thing called, Dinolandia in Portland. And he makes all these slow down signs that people have all over the place to like tell cars to slow down. He just seems like also just like a really kind and cool human. - [Faith] Incredible, amazing. - Yeah. - [Faith] I just posted his website in the chat and it is 4:44 so we're almost in the home stretch so if you have burning questions for Rebecca or I, here's your chance now. - Looking for a clean page. Here's a little sketch I did, this is gonna get Gesso'ed over, but here's a little sketch I did for a project I've been working on designing for a long time, I'm just kind of noodling it out here in my sketchbook and maybe, those will get turned into something else, like a building or something. But here is a blank page and I wanted to do another little prompt with you all for an all over pattern. So I pulled out this piece of fabric as inspiration and it has these kind of snowflakes or what would you call this shape? I'm not sure, but I'm gonna use that as a base for an all over pattern on this page. So first, I'm gonna just make this book into a grid that makes it easier for me to draw these so I can tell that there's an X and then like this. And then these go up like this, it'll get easier once I've drawn a few. And it might not be perfect, but now, I can tell that, you know, this goes down like this. - [Faith] Do you quilt? - Yeah, I have made some quilts just for fun for myself, I love making quilts and every time I'm on a deadline, without fail, like I am right now, I'm getting ready to go to Creativebug in August and I have a lot to do before then. And in the back of my head I'm like, "Oh, I should start a quilt." I am not going to, I am not allowed to start a quilt, but dang, I want to. And I have the perfect quilt, Faith because recently, well not recently, years ago, I went to one of my favorite thrift stores here in Portland and it's called, Scrap. And they sell fabric. It's like a creative reuse center, kind of like... Well, there's a Scrap in San Francisco and there's one of the East Bay Center for creative reuse, it's like that. That day, they had a whole bin of fabric by the pound and in that bin, there was a, you know what a hexie quilt is? A hand pieced hexie quilt that was king size, just the top, king size, all hand stitched, all like probably fabric from the 40s. And talk about like getting the shakes, I was like really casual, I was like, "Oh hey, is this part of the fabric by the pound?" Just curious, you know, but in my head, I was like- - [Faith] You're playing it cool, you're sweating, but you're playing it cool. - Trying to be really cool. And they said, "Yeah, yeah, that's totally part of it." And so I said, "Oh, okay." And I just like shoved it into a paper bag. So now, I have this quilt that's a hexie quilt that somebody made in the 1940s probably and never turned into a quilt. And I cannot wait to make it into a quilt for my bed. It's bigger than a king. I have a king-sized bed. I put it on my bed and it like drapes down and it's huge, it was clearly some woman's like, life work. - [Faith] What a thrill. And I'm so pleased it ended up in exactly the hands it needed to end up in. - Thanks. Oh, this has gotten kind of off the rails, but- - [Faith] I'm sorry, it was me talking to you. - That's okay, I like it when things get off the rails a little bit, so it's fine. You can see, this is becoming a little loose and I'm a fan of that, so it's okay. And you know, I'm gonna keep going all the way across over here and I would encourage you too. I'm gonna move this over here in case, you're also making this pattern and wanna look at the original. This is a piece of woven fabric that I think I also found at a thrift store years ago. And I've saved to use as inspiration, I've never used it until this moment. There we go. And you know, I'm drawing this with one of those

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Prismacolor sticks and so that is waterproof, not water soluble, like the Caran d'Ache crayons. And so I might go back in, I could go back in and Gesso over the top. I could go back in with Caran d'Ache crayons and color these in. I think what I'm gonna do is, add Gesso later on. - [Sue] I have a question. - Oh great. Who's that? - My name's Sue. - Hi Sue. - I have a question. One, what kind of festival were you talking about with the quilt thing that you're heading to in August? - Oh. - [Faith] You said that you were going to Creativebug in August. - Yeah, I'm not gonna to a quilt festival. I'm going to Creativebug in August to film some new workshops that'll come out in 2025. - [Sue] Oh, okay, okay, thank you. And then secondly, I'm getting into urban sketching, do you know anything about that? 'Cause I think there's a few of us in the feed that was asking me some questions about that. Like what would you take to travel with you if you were like, let's say, you had limited space in like a Ziploc bag. Like what would you take on a trip with you? - Oh, good question. - It's summertime, people are traveling. - Yeah, I went camping last week with some friends of mine at the coast. I was telling Faith before the live started and I have a little Ziploc bag that I bring things in. And so my ride or die pen is this pen. It's the Uni-Ball Vision, this is what I draw all my dropcloth embroidery patterns with. But it's also what I use to draw in my sketchbooks all the time. I like it because it's a very smooth surface to draw with. My kids like drawing with them too. But once it's dry, it's permanent so you can paint over it with watercolors. I often bring, I have a small thing of these, here's my small thing of the Caran d'Ashe crayons, say, we're packing a quarts size Ziploc. So I bring this, I bring this, I would probably bring some of these Posca markers with which Abby Halston turned me onto and maybe, some gel pens because those are fun to draw over a dark surface 'cause they make a bright mark even on a dark background. And I might bring a glue stick, although, it's hard to bring a lot of collage materials out in the field. And I would bring you know, at least, two sketchbooks, but probably just two, if I was gonna go draw out in the world. And I would maybe, bring a pencil and a pencil sharpener. Sometimes, I bring a watercolor palette, but not very often. - [Faith] The pencil sharpener is smart though, because then you're not knee-capped by a broken nib or leg. - Yeah, yeah. The Uni-Ball pen that I use is this one, that's called, the Uni-Ball Vision Fine. And then I also use the ultra fine sometimes. I think it's called, ultra fine, it's like a slightly darker pen that's has a black cap instead of gray. And they come in different colors. I really only use the black. That was a great questions, Sue, and I love that you asked it. So now, you can see I drew these on in repeat and by doing so it created this repeat square pattern. So now, I'm just roughly coloring those in pink. I might come back in later with acrylic and make it darker, but for now, I'm just coloring those in, in pink. - [Faith] We've had a couple questions about what Gesso is and how you use it. And it is an acrylic medium. - Yeah. - [Faith] That impairs your surface in a certain way, is my immediate thoughts about Gesso. How do you use Gesso? - Yeah, I use Gesso. One of the people that's live on the Zoom, I can't remember her name, but she was saying, she likes to use it in combination with these Caran d'Ache crayons. Look at this, it says $2. This was a score at Scrap in Portland as well. Only $2 for this whole set probably would've cost a lot more at the art store. Anyway, I digress. So Gesso is, it comes in two colors, it comes in white and black. I most often use the white and it's a way of sealing a surface, I use it on boards when I'm painting to make the surface non-porous. And I also use it in the same way in my sketchbooks, like you can see on this page, this opening day page that I showed earlier, this has a lot of Gesso on it and I can't remember where the other colors came from, I think that some of it came from Caran d'Ache and then I smoothed it out with white Gesso, it's really inexpensive compared to white acrylic paint. It's less expensive 'cause it has less pigment in it, but it still has a little bit of white pigment. You could also do the same thing with matte medium or gloss medium, but those are clear. - [Faith] Perfect

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answer, thank you so much. - Yeah, thanks. - [Faith] Thank you everybody for your engagement, I'm loving these questions and it's really giving me an idea as to what people are excited, about materiality function, getting the right materials to do the right things, but you do encourage in this class, to most importantly, use what you have on hand, use what you already like to work with, try new things, but you do not have to have a set of materials to begin a sketchbook practice. In fact, that's probably the worst way to do it because then you have all this extra pressure, not only do you have a brand new notebook, but you have brand new markers. You're gonna make something terrible with brand new markers, I mean, yes, you should. - I know, yeah. Although, I will say like, one way that I sometimes trick myself into starting if I'm kind of stuck is, I really love a new pen and I love going to the art supply store and looking at that whole wall of pens and testing them out and do I need a new pen? No, I don't, I have hundreds of pens, but it's so fun to go and get one that has like a nib that you've never tried before or a color that you wouldn't normally use and then go home and just doodle with it. Then before I know it, I'm drawing as well. Oh, Shannon Ellis saying, there's clear Gesso as well, I didn't know that, that's cool. I wonder what the difference is between, I'm gonna Google this later, maybe, one of you knows and you could tell me what's the difference between clear Gesso and matt medium? - [Faith] That is a good question. I don't know the answer. We have a couple more questions in our Q&A, but I'm gonna edit them down because we only have a few minutes left. Brenda says, I've just started collecting ephemera, but I get a little overwhelmed. Do you sit and play with your images and box or file them to pull them out at sketchbook time? How do you keep it from getting overwhelming during a session? - Great question. I'm not sure how to answer that one, but one of the things that I do is I have like flat files, I have some of those IKEA flat files, they're called, Alex from IKEA. And I have a lot of ephemera in there and I also have bookshelf full of books that are for cutting up. But most often, those like drawing days and collage days are often separate for me. So I'll spend an evening just gluing things really quite randomly and intuitively and like, here's a page that I glued some things in and then Gesso'ed over the top and the ink from the pages, the printed ink from the pages got kind of weird through the Gesso, which I love. And then later on, I went back and sketched into it. So I often am gluing things down without a real plan. And then I go back in later. There's a fun page. I love that one. There's people flying through the sky. Here's another one where I glued down these strawberries and this is a bag from an apple picking stand. And then they weren't really related. And then I came back in and kind of put them together with this kind of rainbow pattern. I wanted to show you one more prompt before I go. And that is, can you see this page? This is from, you'll see more of this later this month, but you see these houses. So one thing that I think is a fun prompt to do is to take an image that you like, a pretty simple image like this house. And I'm gonna draw it on this page and I'm gonna draw it as a repeat pattern. So now, I'm using my Uni-Ball pen 'cause it happens to be what I have in my hand and I'm just gonna draw like a series of these houses here and I'm gonna draw them one on top of the next and build, I guess like a little community. And then I'll go back in and add details to the houses later on, but it's just a nice way to fill up this space, if you can't tell by looking at my sketchbooks, I'm a real maximalist and I like to have a lot of stuff going on. So this page had this blank area. I think this is a page I worked on, I think you'll also see this in the Creativebug class, but I had this whole blank area and I decided that that wasn't working for me. So I went back in and added some of these little houses and these doors will be lower down 'cause they're cut off. I love doing an all over pattern that goes all the way off the page. I'm gonna do some lines up here to suggest that these houses also go off the page. - [Faith] Only you would throw in just a brilliant, provocative, fascinating prompt in the last two minutes of live. - Thanks guys, thanks Faith. - Thank

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you so much for being with us, Rebecca. And we're so excited to see your class. I know a couple Creativebug staffers who are planning on working throughout the month. - Oh, really, that's so cool. - [Faith] Yeah. I mean, I got mine right here. Or I guess, I didn't use enough colors. I do have a teeny tiny rainbow and one to work off of later. - You can use many or as little colors as you want, you could do the whole class in black and white. - [Faith] The brown rainbow. Thank you everybody so much for joining us. We're thrilled to have you with us. What a stellar live and if you missed anything, we will be reposting this at creativebug.com in about two days. Thank you so much for joining us today, and always, I love being across the studio table from y'all, bye for now. - Ditto, bye, Faith. Thank you so much. - [Faith] Thank you. - Thanks everybody. See you soon.

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