Block Printing on Fabric with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Block Printing on Fabric
(cheerful guitar and percussion music) - Hi everybody, it's Faith from Creativebug coming at you live like we do every Tuesday and Thursday. And today I have one of my most specialist of guests, Sonya Philip. - Hi Guys. - Please introduce yourself, who are you? What are you doing here? - What am I doing here? My name is Sonya Philip and, I'm a designer and an artist and also, a Creativebug instructor. And I have a new class which is going live tomorrow. Very exciting. Dress number two. That's part of the Wardrobe Basic Series. - And it's so good. - So good. I always look forward to it. - I have one article of clothing I wear all the time. I wore it on the last shoot which is why I couldn't wear it today. - Aw, okay. And I'm actually not wearing it right now. I'm wearing tunic number one which is from the last class but 'kay. - But it's a really special class because, it starts off with one pattern. And then in the class you learn how to make four garments with that pattern. And it's really versatile, and it's really easy to wear. And it looks absolutely amazing. And I feel like class releases are like the class birthdays. I get really excited about them. So I'm so glad to have you here. - Yay! - And we are going to be doing block printing on fabric. And the reason why I wanted to do this with Sonya is, I think that you're known for, even though you're wearing a solid color shirt. - Oh. - Totally proving me wrong. I think you're known for your patterns and your use of fabric. - Yes. - And colors. And so we are going to be using a technique that is on our site, Block Printing With Fabric. Liana's gonna post you a link to Jen Hewett's class, who also wrote an amazing book about it called, Print, Pattern, Sew. And we absolutely adore Jen. And this is a really special technique if you are new to sewing but you want to play around with fabric. Or if you're an experienced seamstress and want to get into printing techniques. So, let's get. - I'll scan it. - Oh you can flip through. - [Sonya] This has patterns and how-tos. Sorry that's my dog barking in the background. And it's a great book. - It's a really lovely book. - And it just came out. Willy come here. - We do have a special guest today, Willy. - Willy come here, Willy. (camerawoman laughs in the background) I brought my dog, Willy. And the reason I brought my dog was because, Faith made this amazing stamp here. It's a custom Willy stamp. - Yes, and so you can see that it's all scruff-tastic just like he is. - I made myself a cat stamp, because I'm a cat person, but of course I had to pay tribute to the wonderful Willy. Also, you can follow Willy on Instagram. Willy the Terrier. He makes me smile everyday, especially when he's not barking. - Yep. Hopefully he'll go to you (mumbles). Okay here, he's going to go off camera now so we can get printing. - So for this you will need, fabric yardage, or Sonya's gonna be working with precut pattern. - [Sonya] Yeah I like, when I dye stuff or have printed, I like to like cut my fabric out already. This is linen. It's already been washed and dried. And I cut it out just because, instead of like printing whole yardage. Then I just know exactly, you know if I'm doing something like Shibori or if I am printing then I'll know exactly where the placement is as I'm not necessarily like using all this time, printing yardage. Just, I'm all about the shortcuts. - [Faith] But I will be using all this time printing yardage, because I don't know exactly what I want to do with it. I have some ideas, really cute ones. But I don't know if I want to commit yet. You'll also need a foam roller. You can get one, a 4-inch one from a craft store. This one's a little bit more heavy duty. And a brayer or a baren. And this is just to apply pressure to your stamp. And the ink you'll need, Sonya will be using fabric paint by Tulip brand. And I'll be using screen printing ink by Speedball. You'll also need something to roll it out on, a square of plexiglass is great. I wouldn't recommend something porous, like a paper plate

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'cause then you end up loosing out on a bit of ink. So go ahead and-- - [Sonya] Oh and we're also printing just on a surface because unlike printing on paper, there will be some seepage with the ink, and so you want to protect. But what's a little better than newsprint, is we're just using batting. This is like cotton quilt batting which you can get at most stores. They just sell them in packs and, all of that information is in Jen's class and also in Jen's book. Like the whole everything, everything you would need. And another good thing is, like a big ruler or straight edge just if you want to then, like align stuff as you're-- - [Faith] I'm so excited to see what you do to that top. - Printing stuff, yes. Okay, so let's get squeezing. (laughs) Or in my case squeezing. You've got like a corner, like a finishing ruler right there. - [Faith] Yes. - [Sonya] It's like the prosumer. (Faith laughs) - [Faith] We're gonna dot out a line of ink at the top. - [Sonya] I'm squeezing. And Faith told me that, and it's true that these film rollers soak up so much ink, so. - [Faith] And we're gonna keep rolling until it's totally coated. So you'll see there's some blank spots. I'm just gonna add some more. - [Sonya] I'm gonna get the C cam. That's more Willy's natural color. I was printing-- - That is a Willy color. - [Sonya] In blue. He's kind of, he reads as white, but sometimes he looks, he looks kind of Nicotine stained. (Faith laughs) So. - [Faith] You know what you use for that. - [Sonya] Need a little blue rinse, right? - [Faith] Blueing. I'll tell you my blueing story in a minute. Now that we have the surface of this totally inked up, we'll place it on our fabric. - [Sonya] You wanna kinda just like go, straight up and down. Like, just flop it. - [Faith] And you can tap along the back, and that's what I like the brayer for, you can show them the brayer. Is it applies even pressure all the way across. Now, the best thing to have on hand when you're block printing is, realistic expectations. Because sometimes-- - Aww. - [Faith] That is so cute, I can't even stand it! (Sonya laughs) Oh my goodness. - [Sonya] I know, a little adorable dog! - [Faith] See you'll see some of the background color shows through. It's not a super thick application of paint and that's totally fine. Also you'll see like a little bit of the, the stamp. - Yeah. - Things that weren't necessarily totally carved away. I actually really like those, 'cause you can tell it was hand made. - [Sonya] Jen calls that background noise. - Background noise! - You just don't fret that stuff. That it's like-- - It's like atmosphere. - [Sonya] Yeah. That it's, exactly. It shows that it's, that it's hand made. It's not, 'cause if you were just trying to get rid of it, 'cause you can, like once you print something. And definitely, we both tested these out. Like and so, definitely before you start printing, test your stamps out. And once, just because you've carved it and printed with it, you can go back and like take more. It's a subtractive technique. But, kind of like you know, cutting your bangs or something. It's like once you start it can just be like oh, oh, now I'm gonna take a little bit more away. - [Faith] That's a really good parallel. - [Sonya] And before you know it-- - It's gone. - You've got no more stamp left. - [Faith] Yeah. - [Sonya] These are, what we're using are these little rubber, so I dunno. I did a lot of print making in highschool and we would use Lino. - [Faith] Mhm. - [Sonya] But these are rubber and so they're almost like eraser material, I guess they're called Easy Carve or something. - [Faith] And they are easy to carve. - They're like the name says. - And they mean it. - [Sonya] Yeah, truth in advertising. They're easy to carve. - [Faith] Also don't forget, we are live. - Oh shoot. (Sonya laughs) I grabbed the wrong thing. - [Faith] Oh! - [Sonya] Ha. - [Faith] Do you need some baby wipes? - Maybe. - 'Cause you know we have those on hands. - I've got it. - We are live so if you have question, don't hesitate to ask. We love answering them. If you have questions for Sonya about any of her classes or any of her patterns. Or Willy 'cause-- - Yeah. - We love to talk about Willy. - So what I'm using for this top, I'm making a little sleeveless top. This is just dress number two But without the sleeves and shortened. So, yes. - [Camerawoman] Tracy wants to know, where did you get the dog and cat patterns? - [Faith] Tracy, it came from my exquisite brain. (Sonya laughs) Not really. The cat pattern

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I made up, and the dog pattern I, I took a photo from Willy's intagram and traced around it. So if you want to learn more about carving your own blocks, we have several classes on our site. - Rah. - A very popular one which is Jen Hewett's, and Jen Hewett of course wrote the book on block printing fabric that Sonya has today. - And she has, she includes templates in the back. Whoa where, she has patterns but, also she has templates. But hers, like her style is mainly floral, so you're not really going to get the dog and cat related stuff here but, she does, and she also shares instructions on how to carve your own, so. - [Faith] And it's the most fun thing because you feel very fancy. And then if you accidentally cut yourself and then you're bleeding a lot, but then there's like paint, you see like all those tortured artists who's just covered with paint and wounds. (Sonya laughs) - And you say I suffer for my art. - [Faith] I suffer for my art. Willy was fun, I had no incidents with carving him. - [Camerawoman] Kristine wants to know, what material is the stamp made from? - [Faith] Kristine wants to know what material is the stamp made from? Rubber. Just like a pencil eraser. So it's pink like a pencil eraser and Sam actually said, does it erase things? And we tried it. It does, it erases things. Imagine that. Some people like to mount their rubber blocks on a piece of wood. - [Sonya] Or plexi too. - [Faith] Or plexi, that could be very helpful. It's a little less messy. But I really like having it just plain. I have a lot of craft stuff everywhere. So it saves me, you know that quarter of an inch of not being mounted. It saves me a tiny bit of space and every quarter inch counts. - [Sonya] So essentially it's like the rubber, a thick version of the rubber, of a rubber stamp. So-- - Yes. - That's what it is. - [Camerawoman] And can you also tell the folks at home, what kind of paint are you using and how long does it take to dry? - [Faith] So your best bet with your paint is to read the packaging instructions, because I went through a couple different fabric paints. And each brand has it's own drying time. So this says, lay dry flat for four hours and then after 72, tumble dry low. Where this is a screen printing ink. And that has different directions. But all this stuff you should definitely lay flat and let it dry off for a bit. - Yeah. - It's such a bummer if you like, it feels dry to the touch and then you fold it up when you're ready to go. Now that I'm saying that out loud, why would you do that? It's wet paint. If I were to do that, I would have been very disappointed when my dishtowel was all smooshed. - [Sonya] Yeah, definitely follow the instructions on how to heat set. Because if you, especially if you're making a garment or any other thing, you'll want to you know, not have it come out of the washing machine and be faded or just not there anymore. - [Faith] And would you recommend washing your fabric before you get to stamping? - Oh definitely, yes. Yeah so, yeah all fabric has sizing and stuff on it and, you know, one great resource for if you wanted to print yardage is, Dharma Trading Company, they're actually local here in the bay area-- - Oh yeah. - They're in Marin County. But they have an absolutely fabulous catalog and website. If you look past the kind of like tie-dye, because that's what they really got into. They have lots of ready to, I think it's PFD, I think it's Prepared for Dying, but that works with block printing. So they actually sell garments and bags and all kinds of things. But they also have a bunch of fabric too that's all ready. Look, I got like his little ears. Boom boom. - It's gonna be so darling. - [Sonya] Yeah so, you want to wash it to get rid of any sizing or anything like that and just, because you never know what's like on the surface. And then if that's going to then, like if you're printing on that and then the ink's not actually adhering to the fibers, so. Look at Willy go! - [Faith] He's so happy. - [Sonya] This is like freckled Willy. - [Faith] It's the happiest tap. And one of my favorite things about your projects is you often finish things with a contrasting bias tape. - Yeah. - What do you think you're gonna use for this one? - [Sonya] I don't know, I have to find a one that speaks to me. This is not usually a color that I use, I just had it. - Brown? - Brown yeah, I don't really wear that much brown. But it was-- - It's too serious? - It was linen that was on sale. I was like, nice. - Where did you find it?

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- [Sonya] I can't remember now. I gotta figure out where he's going to go here. - [Faith] Also please let us know at home if you have ever block printed fabric yourself, and what have you made with it, what have you done with it? I'm pretty excited about this one. There are several tiny baby girls in my life, and I always want to make them dresses, but by the time I get around to it, they're always a little bit bigger than they were when I started. So I think this could be-- - They grow, children. - This could be like a little girl dress right? - [Sonya] Oh totally, yes. - [Faith] But then also I have problems, I feel like I'm picking favorites. (Sonya laughs) - [Sonya] Who gets the cat dress? The fight for the cat dresses. - Yeah. - [Sonya] This is a lot of fun. - [Faith] It's so addictive. And also, like you can really zone out. And then before you know it, you have this beautiful fabric. - [Sonya] And the white isn't really, like it's not a super, this is actually almond, it's a new linen. So it's not a really, I think to get like a really white-white is hard, because you're always going to have some of the fabric show through. But I kind of like this little faded look. - [Faith] It's so chill. (Sonya laughs) Mine is not chill. - [Sonya] Yours is like, I'm a cat. - [Faith] Hello. - [Sonya] Meow. - [Camerawoman] Faith do you want to tell them about your block printing class that's going to be at the Joann grand opening in Ohio. - I am so excited to get on the airplane tomorrow and we're going to fly to Columbus Ohio to open up a new Joann. Is it technically called a store of the future, or is it just what I've been fantasizing it's called? - [Camerawoman] I'd like to think they're calling it the store of the future. (Sonya laughs) - In my mind it's the Joann store of the future. - It's like Epicot Center. - Yes! (Sonya laughs) But for crafts. And I'll be demoing this exact technique, so you're actually getting a sneak peek, but if you want to see me in person, and you live in Columbus Ohio please come by and say hello. That would make me happier than anything. Also I'll be there for a bunch of hours, so you have a full window of time to come say hi. Bring me an ice tea if you want. (Sonya laughs) Is that exactly what Courtney said too? Courtney also loves ice tea. (Camerawoman laughs) - Couple of ice tea addicts here. - We're on an ice tea kick. - [Sonya] Oh. - [Camerawoman] One more question for you, do you recommend printing the fabric and then cutting out a pattern, or cutting out the pattern and then printing it? - The question is-- - So. - Oh. - Go ahead. - I wasn't sure if you were gonna repeat the question. - I wasn't, I'm not skilled and schooled in your ways. - The question is, but now I do it in my personal life. (Sonya laughs) The question is, how do I feel about that? Well therapist, the question is, do you print the yardage first and then cut it out, or do you cut it out and then print it? As you can see, we're doing both versions. So it's based on personal preference. - [Sonya] Every which way. - [Faith] I know that I want to be printing fabric, but I don't know what I want to make with it, so I'm just doing yardage. But Sonya does know-- - I've been like using this thing. - [Faith] You know what, you're the guest. This is crafters version of hospitality. So Sonya already has a project in mind that she's going to do. And so she's cut it out ahead of time. And also, I noticed you did something real tricky there with the edge. So I don't know if people can see it on this camera but, you just printed it right off the edge. - [Sonya] I did yes. - [Faith] And it worked just fine. - [Sonya] Yeah. - [Faith] Sorry did that scare you? - [Sonya] No. - [Faith] Okay. - [Sonya] You got some blue on it. (gasps) Ah. - Oh no, it's just fuzz, it's just fuzz. (Sonya laughs) It's not paint. - [Sonya] It's okay, it's alright phew. Crisis averted. - Hoo. - No, it's alright. I love few things more than a crafting crisis, 'cause it makes me feel really important, but then there's actually zero stakes. (Sonya laughs) A knitting emergency, and I'm not calm in a knitting emergency. I'm not the person you want to go to. - Oh, oh see. Didn't we talk about this, that I'm gonna be dropping things? (laughs) - The hardest part is, if you accidentally drop it. - Butter fingers. - But you hadn't inked it up yet. - Yeah. - I distracted you. - [Camerawoman] Phil has a tricky question. - Wait. - Phil has a tricky question, bring it on Phil. - What Phil is this? This a Phil I know? - This is our Phil. - Phil's a regular. -

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Oh alright, your Phil okay. 'Cause I know a Phil who would ask a tricky question. - [Camerawoman] He says, hey ladies, do you have any tips for creating print blocks with text? - [Faith] Yeah. Don't. (Sonya laughs) Real pain in the neck. - Don't do it. Don't do it Phil. - [Camerawoman] Reverse it right? - Yeah. - Oh, so I, I do actually Phil. I have an answer for you. And this is, I think-- - The question is-- - Yeah sorry-- - Do you have any tips for printing text? - So I think what you would do is you would, print it out and then you would take some like tracing paper. - Or you could print it out. - Trace it. - Trace it with pencil. - Yeah. - Put it down on the rubber-- - Yes. - And scrub. - Yes. - So that's the easiest way. - A bone folder right? - A bone folder. - A bone folder. Or a spoon. - And once you get the reverse on top of your stamp. - And then carve around it. - [Camerawoman] Do you want it to be backwards when you're looking at your stamp? - Yep. - When you're looking at your stamp you want it to be backwards. - But I would not, I'm not. I would not. Personally I wouldn't do it, because I would get almost almost all of it right. My daughter just graduated and I had to. This is like not, just to show how bad I am with letters, I had some Mylar balloons and I was putting them, you know just the little letter mylar baloons and I was blowing them up and I had to write congrats. And they all came with all the right letters. - Did you say congerts? - I said conrats. I forgot to put the G on the little like, stringing them up. So we were laughing about that. It was like, conrats. - Which is to say-- - Which is like with rats. - Letters are hard. (Sonya snerks) - Conrats. - Conrats, yeah. - I do find if especially if I were-- - Letters. - To put letters in it, the more attached I am to the idea of something turning out a certain way. Which with letters, they have to turn out a certain way or else you can't read them. - Yeah. - The more disappointing I'll end up being, so. - Just stick with symbols. (laughs) - Do yourself a favor. - Or you know what, you can do Phil, instead of carving, there are lots of premade letter stamps that you can use. - Oh yeah. That's much better. - And you can get them in all kinds of fonts and all kinds of point sizes. And then you would just stamp them individually. I think that would be, you know, almost all the work is done for you. But, not to say, who am I to say you can't do it. - [Faith] I'll say it. - [Sonya] Prove us all wrong. (laughs) - [Faith] What's the opposite of inspiring, because that's what I want to be. - [Sonya] We're naysaying. - [Faith] I want to despire you. - [Sonya] Despire? (laughs) - [Faith] From trying to print letters. (Sonya laughs) This also comes from a long history of book making where that comes up all the time. - [Sonya] Hm. - [Faith] If you try to do transfers. That's just, just don't. - [Sonya] Oh that is just, don't. Just don't do it. Just leave it for the, for the typesetters. - The crows. Mhm. Are you gonna print the back too? - [Sonya] If I can, yeah. Well actually I think it's down here. This is the back, I'll paint the front. I love the way this looks, these little whiskers. - [Faith] It looks really fun. Well maybe we'll do one more and then we'll say goodbye. - [Sonya] Okay. - [Faith] You can speed print in private. (Sonya laughs) - Do a timelapse. Tchu, tchu, tchu, tchu, tchu, tchu. - You were very fast downstairs. We did a practice run, and I thought she was just gonna get four done and then I turned around to get some grapes and then when I came back she had finished an entire yard of fabric. It was pretty rad. - [Sonya] Yay Willy. Willy you wanna come back here? Are you sleeping? You wanna come back? - [Faiths] (gasps) Do we get a Willy? - [Sonya] Yeah. (mumbles) Jump through. - Faith how long did it take you to carve the Willy stamp? - [Faith] It took me, I'd say a half an hour. - [Sonya] (gasps) Look at what you did. - [Faith] I was very inspired. Oh the question was, how long did it take me to carve the Willy stamp. I had the force of inspiration behind me, not deinspiration. Which is what I hope we imparted to you today. Sonya, thank you so much for coming to join us. - Thank you for having me, and thank you for carving this wonderful stamp of my dog. I mean it's like the ultimate, I don't know, tribute. Dog tribute. - I have to say, I am a fan. I'm a fan of Willy and a fan of all of you watching at home. Thank you so much for joining us. Find us on

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Thursday, and we'll see you then. (cheerful guitar and percussion music)

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