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

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 Aires, Argentina. This is so cool, Faith. I love joining you guys and your community on Creativebug, 'cause there's just such a wide range of artists and crafters that tune in. - And everyone's my favorite people, our Creativebug 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 Creativebug. 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 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 Creativebug 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 Creativebug. 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 Creativebug 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 Creativebug 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

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.

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

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

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 Creativebug 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

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

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 g