Meet Benjamin Mach from Mood Fabrics with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Fabric Draping
(hip music) - Hey everybody, it's Courtney from Creativebug coming at you live like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and I'm here with... - Benjamin Mach. - And who are you, what do you do? - Who am I, I'm a mystery man, I am a fashion designer, you might recognize me from Project Runway All Stars season four, I did the main show a few years before that, but I'm also the creative director of education at Mood Fabrics in New York City and Los Angeles. - Mood Fabrics is awesome, it's something that we definitely saw on Project Runway, it's like a complete treasure box of fabrics and trims. - It's incredible, Mood has like everything you could possibly want is under the roof at Mood. We've got luxury fabrics, we've got everyday fabrics, we've got trims, we've got home fabrics. - You even have a puppy. - We do have a puppy, Swatch, Swatch is our mascot. - I wish he came to film with us. - I wish he came to film with us too, he's a bit of a dude. He can be a bit diva-ish sometimes. - Oh really? - Yeah. - Well he's such a celebrity, you know, he's like the world's - Makes sense. most famous dog. - I know, it's so true, well only second to Charlie. - Right, Charlie's pretty cute, yeah, we've got Charlie here in the studio. - Benjamin's been with us all week filming some amazing classes that are gonna be coming as early as March and then later on in the year. And we literally just stopped, we stopped right in the middle of this incredible fabric school class that you've been sharing with us. - Yeah, it's so much fun. - So the table is just covered in all these delicate and beautiful little swatches. What do we have in front of us? - So we were just filming the silk section, so we're covering everything in different categories of the types of fabrics that there are. Talking a little bit about the difference of fibers and fabrics, they are different things. You'll learn when you watch the video. - [Courtney] I know it's exciting. - And we were, so we were doing the silk, and we paused so that we can come on this live shoot. - Oh, which reminds me, because you're live, you can write in and ask us questions, you can ask Benjamin some questions, so feel free to do so. - Yes, yes. - I love questions. - These are all so beautiful, I had no idea there were so many types of silks and that they could look so different. - Yeah. - [Courtney] And then we have some moles too, right. - [Jonathan] And we've been doing wool as well, I've got so many beautiful wools, the luxurious stuff like this moehair is so beautiful. - [Courtney] I love. - [Jonathan] Yeah, right, and this tweed is really lovely. There's a boucle somewhere as well, this one here. - Oh, yes. - Yeah, so, boucle in French means curly I think it was. - Oh, I love it, yeah. - Yeah, so that's sort of the little loops in the fabric there. - This class is gonna be so awesome because Ben was giving, Benjamin was giving all these great tips about like what this meant in French obviously but then also that you said like Coco Chanel made all of those traditional jackets. - Right, so the Chanel jacket kind of was born in boucle, so that's kind of synonymous I guess with the Chanel jacket these days. - It's so fun to see that. - The other thing that's - really amazing is like with the silks, you know, this is silk fiber, that's a silk charmeuse, but then you've got this, which is also silk fiber, and that's a gazar, but they do like the total opposite thing, it's really - This feels so, yeah - bouncy and springy - stiff and, - And this is like really drapey and fluid, so it's kind of fascinating that you can have exactly the same fiber, but it's doing completely opposite things. - I love that, and so this is like a giant piece of this. - This is the giant piece. So in the video, we've been looking at the swatches but then we've been pulling out larger pieces and showing you kind of how it works, and it's very bouncy, I love gazar, it's quite amazing. - Really cool. - And this print's beautiful too, actually. So this is one of - It's really awesome.

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- the things that you can find in our stores in New York and LA and also online. So, yeah it's got a bit of a rustly sound to it as well. - That's awesome, how would you use this in a garment, would it be a dress, or like an embellishment, or. - It's really, I mean it's a fantastic textile for a dress and it's really great when you want to create volume. If you want to do something a bit structural, and kind of have the fabric sitting away from the body, this will really hold shape well without too much additional support underneath, so that's a great structure fabric to create silhouette and volume. - [Courtney] That's so cool, whereas something like this, what is this. - This is a silk velvet, so this is very drapey, and it's kind of fascinating the way that they construct velvet, I love that we got to talk about that in the video. - You'll have to watch the class that's coming up in March. - It's a really interesting process the way they create velvet, and something that, you know, I've always loved velvet, but when I discovered how it was made, I was like wow, it's just like it's even more amazing to me now. - Super interesting, and there are different weights and sometimes stretch, maybe, or. - Different weights, yeah, definitely you can get stretch, and I mean, a lot of fabrics these days regardless of what the fiber is, they've integrated some kind of stretch, it's a very wearable, makes it very easy to use in everyday use. People love a little bit of stretch in their garments. This sequin as well is incredible. If you do nothing else, you - That's stunning. - should just get some of this from Mood just so you can play with it, it's like double sided, it has two different - It's beautiful. colors here so you've got silver and gold. And I love this, I think we've got quite a few different color ways as well, color combinations. - [Courtney] How is this, do you know how this is constructed? Does a machine sew every single one of these little sequins on? - I mean I would imagine that a machine has done this one, because there's so much, but you do get fabrics like this where the embellishment is done by hand, and the work is just insane, and to have that kind of quality where it's constructed by hand, but you can see on the back of the fabric as well, all of the little threads that are keeping these sequins attached to the base fabric, so not as beautiful on the inside, but still quite fascinating to look at the way it's been structured. - I love this, I would totally use this as a wall hanging and just like make it a giant ... - You could, right? - [Courtney] It's so cool. - It's really funny when you look at people in the store and they happen to cross the area where we've got all the sequins and they see this double sided sequin and naturally people just get mesmerized by it and they're just playing with it. - [Courtney] Yeah. - And some of the color combinations are quite contrasting too, so it's even more kind of standing out. That there's two different colors there. - Oh, so cool, and that's something that you mentioned in your class, just the textiles are so tactile, that it's all about the touch and the feel. - Very tactile, so, I mean for me I'm a very tactile person, so I just love like, I could just kind of you know be playing with fabrics all the time, and I love to feel the weight of things, and then being able to play with them on the dress form and pin them up and see what they do and the way that they drape, it's kind of fascinating. Textile is like something that you can never get bored with. - Right, and the history, and the depths of that history are so amazing. - Yeah, exactly. - So in addition to this amazing fabric school that we were filming today, literally that we just stopped, we've also been covering draping and pretty extensive draping, now is that something that you teach at Mood U? - Yeah, so we have draping classes in store at Mood U, so Mood U is the school component of Mood Fabrics, so we've got a whole space on one of the levels of the store in New York, and we run classes in draping, we've got fashion drawing, and we also teach people how to sew, so. - That's awesome. - A lot of people have never sewn in their life, or maybe they, you know, used to sew when they were a kid, or a lot of people also kind of referenced that their grandmother used to sew, or you know, their parents sew, and now they want to kind of learn the skill as well. - So you must get all different levels, then. - All different levels, from like super

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super beginner up to people who have had some experience and they just want to learn a little bit more about the techniques of putting certain garments together. We've got a really fantastic class starting on March 1st as well, which is all about fashion branding, how to build your brand, so I think that's gonna be a real success. - That's really cool, I'm sure since the advent of shows like Project Runway and other shows where there are designers, they show you the process, there must be just like a swell of people who are curious about fashion. - Yeah, everyone's inspired to kind of have a go at it, which is really good, I definitely encourage having a go at it. - I think, just from listening to you talk during this week while you've been here filming with us, just also really understanding the qualities of the fabric before you dive into that first sewing project, you know, there's this great book that you guys have also, about fabric and fashion and how those things come together. - The Mood Guide to Fabric and Fashion is a brilliant thing to reference when it looks into all of the different types of fabrics, and you can learn so much from this, and it explains a lot about the history and the origins of certain fabrics, certain fibers as well. And there's a lot of information in here about the store, and also about the family who created Mood. - Aw, and Swatch. - And Swatch, and there's little bits, it's a really fascinating book. There's little bits that kind of focuses on certain people who work in the company as well, and like what their role is, or what their favorite fabrics are, so yeah, it's a great book to have. - That's awesome. - So, between the book and then the class, which is coming out in March, and then you guys are developing a swatch kit, right, to go along, so people can actually touch and feel. - Yeah, so being that textiles are tactile, we found that it was really important concept to be able to explain to people, you know, what these fabrics are, and how they're put together, and the difference between fibers and fabrics, but also to have an interactive component, so you can be sitting anywhere that you are in the world and you can be feeling this fabric that I'm showing you and talking about on the class. So I'm really excited for people to get their hands onto our swatch kits and start to interact with us, and to be able to get the conversation going and start answering questions, and things like that. - And really to understand like the weights and the textures and the differences, which is so much fun. - Yeah, because you know, I can sit there and I can tell you all that I can about fabric, but I find that without being able to really kind of feel it, you're not gonna fully understand, you know, what's being taught to you. So being able to feel it whilst you're watching in the comfort of your home is, I think, a perfect way to learn, yeah. - So exciting. - Yeah, I'm excited. - So many good developments. - I'm excited. - Another thing that we've been filming with you this week is draping, which is so extensive, like we just touched on that, something that you teach in person. - Right, so that was - That's what we have - An intense shoot. - On the mannequin, right. - Two days we were going, it was pretty awesome, but yeah, this is part of what we did in the class. This is a basic bodice, so I just ran through, you know, how to set up the dress form, you want to have certain points marked on the dress form. The measurements are always gonna be the same, and if you're working on the same size, then there's certain things that will always be the same no matter what you're working on, whether it's a bodice or a skirt, or a dress. And then we just kind of worked with showing how to manipulate, this is a muslin fabric, it's a fairly inexpensive fabric, so it's a good thing to use when you're trying to create your patterns. We went through and we showed you how to manipulate that muslin around the dress form and take out the shape, like the dots that you see here, so dots are what give a fabric shape and make, you know, a good fit around the body. So I'm really excited for people to get stuck into that. It's definitely an intensive class. And if you're in New York, you can take it live with me, and if you're not in New York, then soon you're gonna be able to take it online. - Which is so exciting. I know, looking at that as a non-garment sewer, it looks like I don't know, rocket science, but really Benjamin breaks

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it down. - It's really easy. - Yeah, it's just takes it piece by piece, it's so great. Because we're live, that means you get to ask some questions, so it sounds like we have some questions. - Alright. - [Woman] First question comes from Susan, and she wants to know what the sequined fabric is called. If it has a proper name. - Oh, hi Susan, well, I would, I mean that's a good question, I would refer to this as an embellished or a sequin embellished fabric. Usually these embellished fabrics will be on a silk backing, it looks to me like this may be silk, or it could also be something slightly synthetic, it maybe is a blend as well. It's got some good structure, so it's strong. - It's got a weight to it. - It's got a good weight, it's heavy. - Yeah. - Like these little sequins are usually cut out of metal, so yeah, that's heavy. - Yeah, I love that, and that falls under the category of specialty fabrics? - Specialty fabrics, which we're about to film next, right? - Yes, it's gonna be so exciting. - Can't wait for some - We're paused in between. - Amazing things to show in the specialty fabrics class. - Yes, like how would you, do you want to show maybe how one of these would actually drape? It was really fascinating to see Benjamin kind of play with the fabric on the form, he's not designing anything specific, but just to kind of watch a master at work, do you mind indulging us? - Sure, yeah, so when we were filming the silk section, we kind of played with this a little bit, just to show, it's so light and airy, this is -- - [Courtney] And what's that one called? - This is a silk chiffon, and it's actually an iridescent chiffon, so you'll notice probably it's playing with color there, so it's two different yarns. So the yarn is what is created out of the fiber, so the silk fiber got turned into a yarn, then the yarn got woven to create the fabric. So here we've got, I think it's kind of like a citron and black that have been mixed together, so it gives that kind of real kind of depth to the fabric. - [Courtney] So the warp is one color, the weft is the other, and that intersection is what gives you optically this cool green kind of. - Exactly, yeah, so we were kind of just playing with it and we just started bunching, this is what you've got to do with fabric, it's just a really tactile thing, so you can just start to kind of bunch it up and create little kind of rosette type things. - [Courtney] Oh I love that texture. - Yeah, it looks amazing, and just, you know, really kind of getting into it. It's a very delicate fabric, so I'm just playing and being a bit silly now, but if you were working with this, then you'd want to take you know, a little bit of care with it, because it's easy to snag, you can kind of, get a little bit of a pull in this kind of fabric. But it's just really beautiful the way that it's so kind of thin that you can really just bunch it up and create amazing kind of texture with it. - [Courtney] Oh my god, yeah, that's incredible. - So we just keep going like that. And it's just fun. - Have you designed an Oscar dress or an award dress? Do you like to do fancy garments? - Actually it's funny, I think, when was it, it was when we were doing All Stars for Marie Claire Magazine, they wanted us to do some sketches, it was around Golden Globes time. - Oh, fun. - So we did some sketches, so I think MarieClaire.com somewhere there's a illustration floating around of something that I did as a proposal for the Golden Globes. - I love it. - And I used to, I worked for Marchesa for a little while, in London when they were first getting started up, so it was always an adventure with them and making some garments that were worn by some pretty illustrious people at illustrious events. - That's really cool. - Yeah, they're an amazing, amazing pair of women, Georgina and Keren, and they've got a fantastic brand. I'm really excited - And you can find, by their success. - they're based out of London? - They're based in New York now. - Oh, okay. - Yeah, yeah, but I was fortunate enough to kind of work with them a little bit, just in their early days, and it was really fun. - Oh, awesome, that's exciting. And what's this one? - This is the silk velvet, so this is kind of something that we could start to, I mean these colors kind of go together I guess, so that's a happy accident. So we could start to drape this, and it's very fluid, but it's got a little bit more-- - [Courtney] It's kind of wavy though too, right. - It's got weight to it, so it drapes really beautifully, like if you kind of you

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know. Almost getting a bit of a Grecian thing happening here. - [Courtney] I love it. - So you can just kind of twist that up as well a little bit. - [Courtney] Oh, cool. - Just place pins. - [Courtney] Just like mimic the motif but in the fabric it changes the way it looks. - Yeah, so that's what's really interesting about this, because I'm doing a similar kind of thing to what I did with the chiffon, but it's represented so differently with a different structure of fabric that both, they're both kind of from the silk family. - [Courtney] Really beautiful. - But yeah, you can just keep playing with it. So sometimes, like sometimes I'll do this, I'll just drape with fabric. This is not necessarily going to be a dress, or it maybe couldn't even be a dress, but it's just so much fun to just play with it and see how it kind of falls, like all of these folds here, it's just really, yeah. - So one of the things you also teach at the New York school is fashion illustration, would you mock something like that up and have your students kinda try to attempt at drawing it? - Yes, yeah, so actually that's a really good point. So in the fashion drawing class, we take you from learning just the very basics of like the proportion of the body, and then we lead into understanding a little bit about color and textiles, and I do pin fabric up on the dress forms, just like this. And I'm not necessarily creating what I think would be an idea for a dress, but I'm showing like how the fabric falls, and the way that the light kind of reflects and the shadows that get formed. - [Courtney] It's so specific to each fabric, it's really amazing. - Right, it's very different. So here you've got like drape to consider, you've also got texture, and then you've got shadows and highlights. So in the drawing class, students will like look at a bunch of dress forms that have fabric draped on it like this, and they'll have a go at drawing. So it's really, it's fascinating to watch, because a lot of our students have never tried this before, so it's their first time. But in the course of six weeks, they go from never having done it and not quite knowing what it is to getting to the end of producing like a full mood board with you know three or four looks on a page, and we just, turning out fashion designers in six weeks. - Love it! - It's amazing, yeah. - It's a lot of fun. - Well we're so excited to have you here for this week. We're knee deep in classes, it sounds like we have a few other questions, so we'll get those, and then we have to get back to filming. We have some more questions. - [Woman] Lauren is asking what is the most important aspect to understand when learning how to drape? - I think the most important thing, so here we're just having fun and we're just pinning fabric and seeing what it does, but when you're using draping for the purpose of creating patterns, the most important thing Lauren is to remember the grain of the fabric, and you'll learn about that in the class when you watch it on Creativebug, and keeping true to that grain, making sure that you've got all of the key points marked, so we've got things like the bust line, and the waist line. All of those elements need to be marked on your muslin so that you've got something to line the muslin up with the dress form, and you've got to kind of stick with those points. If you just kind of throw fabric on the dress form, and start draping, then you're gonna go off grain and you're gonna create a pattern that might not work in the future. - Yeah it was super interesting to see Benjamin talk through all those points and then for me especially, translate it from the muslin on the dress form on to paper down on the table. That for me was like the big missing step, so that's totally something he covers in the class, and it's really amazing to see. - Teach you how to clean everything up, we teach you how to take what you did on the muslin and transfer it onto paper so that you have a finished record of your work that you can keep using over and over and over again. - It's like watching magic, really, it really truly is. It's awesome. Do we have any other questions? We're all set, thank you guys so much for joining us live like we always do, we have our live shoots on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 PM Pacific Standard Time. And we're so happy to have you from Mood. - I'm thrilled to be here, and I can't wait to meet some of you maybe in the New York store in the future as well. - Yeah, come say hello, he's there, you can hunt him down. Him and Swatch.

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Totally, and look for Benjamin's classes coming as soon as March. See you guys next time. (hip music)

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