Mixed Media with Mou Saha with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Mixed Media
(upbeat music) - Hey, everybody, welcome to Creative Bug. We're coming at you live like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I'm super excited because we have Mou Saha in the studio this week. We were hiding her on Tuesday, but we let her out today. You've been here all week and you've been doing a lot of mixed media work. What have you been filming with us? - I have done-- - The Daily Challenge. - Yeah, okay, I didn't know if I could say that. - She can say. - So, I did 31-day Challenge with different mixed media techniques. And then there is another kind of art journaling that I'm doing that I'm really into right now. That's my other class. - And that's with paper cutting, right? They're both super beautiful. I love that we're doing both The Daily Challenge with you and a whole other class. If you haven't seen any of Mou's classes, be sure to check them out on CreativeBug.com. We just released your altered book box this month, which is pretty awesome. It's a great altering technique for papier mache box. What do you put in those boxes? We have one that's too far for me to show, but you can look 'em on the site. Do you hold your projects in those? - I do. I usually hold my art journal pages in them because I don't always like to work inside a journal just because I'm art journaling. Anything, like 100 day projects, tags, just a collection of things. And I love how they look on a shelf when you line them up, and I just want a whole shelf. Right now, I have one level that's filled with those books. But, I want a whole bookshelf. - So beautiful. And this started out as, well, it's all been totally transformed. But, it started out as craft paper - Yeah, I think we have some over there. - These are so beautiful and this is also from a class on our site. - Oh yean, yeah, this was last time, remember that? - So beautiful, and you work a lot with all kinds of different materials and we're gonna be working with some of your favorites today. - Yes. - And what is it that we're gonna be making on these canvas? We have, what is this, nine by 12 canvas board? - This is a nine by 12 canvas panel and you can make anything you want. I think I'm going to make something, because Mother's Day's coming up, maybe you can get some ideas, inspiration. So I'll be making something like that. - And, I think if you just walk us through kind of your creative process 'cause I know a lot of people when they see a blank canvas, they're terrified. So how do you like to start? - Yes, yes, I can, my quickest way to turn a white thing to something non-white is to go with a layer of Gelatos. - [Courtney] So these are, I haven't really used these before, they look like lipstick, they're so cool, and they're water soluble, right? - [Mou] Yes, these are pigment sticks that kind of work like Chapsticks because you can retract them, cap them off and push them out, and just rub them, and they take on very different looks depending on how you blend them, like what surface you're putting them on. - [Courtney] And these are made by Faber-Castell. - [Mou] Design Memory Craft. - [Courtney] And they're, this particular pack, they come in a pack, and this one's called iridescent, is that right? - [Mou] Yes, it comes in a pack of 12 different colors and some tools and there are pastels, brights, iridescents, and the newest one, the translucents, there are metallics, it's just beautiful. I love them all. - [Courtney] I think Mou's used all of them every time she comes and I'm always like watching them through the camera, it's like, I really wanna play with those, so I get a chance today, which is really fun. And so I'm scribbling, I guess that's what we're doing, scribbling's okay? - [Mou] Yeah, yeah. - [Courtney] But then we're gonna add water, right? - [Mou] Yeah. - [Courtney] In most cases. - [Mou] You can mix it with mediums, I'm adding water right now, it's just a super quick way of taking that white away. - [Courtney] Oh, that brush is dry. - [Mou] Don't be

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

afraid to add a lot of water, I think people are afraid to add water. I don't know why they are afraid, but they are afraid. Don't be afraid. - [Courtney] Do you have another brush over there, can I use that guy? - [Mou] It's kind of small, though. Maybe-- - [Courtney] It's the only one we have. - [Mou] That one may be a little better. - [Courtney] It's dried. - [Mou] Then you take this one. - [Courtney] I can get it, here we go. We've got it. So I normally would only use water based stuff like on paper, but it's really working with the canvas, it doesn't absorb but you get this cool texture. - [Mou] Yeah, you can use it on canvas, canvas panels, which is what we are using, wood panels, just use your imagination. If it's going on fabric, I don't know if it would last through a washer, but if you're just using for decorative purposes I think that's just fine. - [Courtney] So art only, art only people. I love this, how long have you been using Gelatos? How long have they been out? - [Mou] I started using them around September of 2010, and they were released in the spring of 2011. - [Courtney] Wow, that's a long time. - [Mou] I just fell in love, I don't think I have reached for too many other coloring mediums since then. I'm gonna dry this. - [Courtney] Okay, so, that's okay, go ahead. We're using a heat tool to dry this, you can of course let things air dry but because you guys are watching this live we're gonna speed it up a little bit for you. I'm getting very Cy Twombly over here with my mark making. - [Mou] If you have a bigger brush, but I love the visual texture that creates. - Yeah, you're really good about like, no mistakes, right, like everything creates texture. - Absolutely. - Everything is an opportunity, and you can work back into the wet part with the Gelato, right, like I can-- - [Mou] Oh, yeah, it's very forgiving. You can add it, it doesn't hurt your Gelato or your project. - [Courtney] That's so cool, these guys are really satisfying to use. If you can't tell on camera, it's seriously like using lipstick, it's so fun. - [Mou] I love how the wet pigment is moving around. That makes for it's own little patterns, real organic, nothing forced. That's why if you add a lot of water, that's what you get, that's the bonus. You don't have to work for all of it. - [Courtney] Yeah, you have a really, mine's not as watercolory looking but yours has a really beautiful watercolor effect. - [Mou] Yeah, and you could make it look like almost solid if you are mixing it with less water, or even blend it dry. - [Courtney] Oh yeah, you blend it dry with a makeup sponge, right? - [Mou] Yeah, you can also use your fingers. I have all these tools that I never find when I need to use it, so fingers are attached, so that works. - [Courtney] Yeah, you know where those are usually. (laughing) and so what are we, should I dry mine or should we just go? - [Mou] If you're gonna add stuff on it it's a good idea to let that layer dry. - [Courtney] I'm gonna dry a little bit, sorry guys for the noise. You're just gonna have to talk really loud, Mou. - Okay, and I also like to work with found objects, recycled items, anything that nobody wants, I want it. And so I'm going to, like leftover things that are not even necessarily from my craft room or from a craft store. - So things like clothing tags-- - Clothing tags, bubble wrap, drink holder, the papier mache drink holders. - All kinds of things. - All kinds of things. - I have to say, watching you all week you really like transformed those items, like you might think ew, this is ugly but then you just use it for the shape or the texture, you change the way it looks. - Always remember, it's not what you look at, it's what you see. - I love it. - I have some doily, we're just going with random stuff. I'm gonna try to compose, this is a die tack, you can see it's from a chipboard that was I think the backing of my watercolor pad. - [Courtney] So now we're looking, we're composing different elements and thinking about our focal point. - [Mou] Yes, yes and you can choose whatever you wanted, you don't even have to do it the way I am doing, you could do something else. You could do some cut paper stuff. You have beautiful cutting stuff there. - [Courtney] I know, I have a bunch of scraps from all those mono prints I was making last week. Let's see. - [Mou] And another thing, I never really know where a project is going, I'm just saying. I make it up as I go. - [Courtney] So is the trophy for Mother's Day, like number one mom? - [Mou] Yeah,

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

it's like a best mom or yeah, something like that. You feel that message and whatever rings true to you. K, I'm going to use some gel medium. - [Courtney] So you're using the gel medium as an adhesive. - [Mou] Yes. - [Courtney] And you said that a lot of people ask if they can use Mod Podge, can you talk a little bit about how gel medium is different from Mod Podge? - Gel medium is really a paint extender, it just thins out your paint and gives you more open time to work with your paints, but I'm using it as an adhesive, as a sealer and as a resist. In this project, because you're not going to close something on it, you can use Mod Podge on this, I prefer gel medium because gel medium is much better at holding stuff longer, especially something that's going to be displayed vertically. So right now I'm just layering and stacking things. - [Courtney] You're using the gel medium for all of that? - [Mou] Yes, so far I use gel medium. If I change something else, I'll tell you. - [Courtney] And then also like, you're not, oh, can I borrow this? - [Mou] Oh yeah. - [Courtney] I'm using this sponge. So you're not gonna leave it this way, so people shouldn't be concerned about what it looks like just yet. - [Mou] No, no, this is just the beginning. Hang in there and let's see how it turns out. - [Courtney] It's really cool to just see how it all evolves, like it really never looks like it does in the first couple layers. It's totally transformed by all the stuff that Mou adds to it and does. I'm making mine darker 'cause I need more contrast. - [Mou] And if you have things that are personally meaningful to you and your mom, you could add it on a project like this. I mean, I like to do that, but of course if it's precious and you wanna keep it, then you can make copies of it or whatever. - [Courtney] Oh, that's a good idea, yeah. Do you make a lot of art for your mom normally? - [Mou] I make a lot of art in general, not necessarily always for a person in my mind. - [Courtney] And you like to store it in your book, your altered books. Do you look at your journals? Do you go back and refer to those? - [Mou] Usually when I set out to clean my studio, that's when I have the urge to flip through those pages and spend hours and not clean. - [Courtney] And do they remind you, does it remind you of points in your time, or just the technique? - [Mou] Oh, always, always. And funny thing is, when I made the pages I might have felt ugh, I don't like this, I should have done something else, et cetera, but when I look through them later I don't remember those mistakes anymore, I just see that and that brings the memory back to me of what I was feeling that day. - [Courtney] I love that, I mean I feel like that's such a good thing to hear from the other side of art making, right? People are always really concerned, like I don't like it, it didn't turn out perfect, but I think you like really embrace the process. - [Mou] Yeah, yeah, do not expect perfection from mixed media. It will just stress you out so much. It's rather unpredictable, but that's the fun of it. You let it unfold and you let it take you on a journey. You don't always have to guide it, it will guide you. - [Courtney] I love that, that's really cool. - [Mou] You just have to stay open. - [Faith] Mou, I have a question for you from Phil, who is one of our power users. He says Mou, have you always created just for you or do you create some items to sell? If so, do you approach the projects differently? - Oh, let's repeat the questions, I'll repeat it for you. Phil is asking, hey Phil, do you always create artwork for yourself or do you also create artwork to sell and if so do you approach the project differently? - Phil, I don't really make projects to sell to individual buyers, but I am part of some design teams, and usually design team assignments come with directions as to which products to keep the focus on, and yes I have to keep that in mind when I create. That usually doesn't bother me, but I have not really made art and wanted to put it up for sale yet. - I'm so surprised to hear that, that you don't sell your work everywhere. But you said something yesterday about Gelatos, because I was asking about them. You've obviously been using them for like, a decade. You were saying once you kind of start in a new material then the world opens up and you think of a hundred different ways to use it. - Oh absolutely, and if the product is reliable, if I grow to like it and if I trust it, then I really keep going

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

back to it. And every time I go back to it, sometimes there will be happy accidents, and there are lots of trials, errors, accidents, and many of them are happy accidents. And that becomes the next step. - [Courtney] I love that. Are there any new products out that you love besides the Gelatos, like anything that's new or that's really invigorated your process recently? - [Mou] I also like to keep daily sketch books, so recently I got myself a pack of Polychromos pencils, they're also from Faber-Castell. - [Courtney] Okay, so it's a colored pencil? - [Mou] Yes, they are the colored pencils and I just love it. I only have the neutrals, because when I see all the rainbow colors I get overwhelmed, I just keep playing with the pencils. I forget what I was gonna do. - [Courtney] I love it, it's good to know that the pros get overwhelmed by all the options too. - [Mou] Oh yeah, pros are humans too. So yeah, that has kind of just narrowing it down to just a few neutral shades I think, just lets me keep focus. - [Courtney] Oh I see, okay yeah. So that helps you, so if you were feeling overwhelmed by all the things maybe limit your color palette, is that a good way to-- - Sometimes I limit my color palette, because I shop a lot. I design for certain companies and I get a lot of free stuff too, for which I'm really grateful, but I also shop a lot. And I notice the more I shop, then I need to organize them. I end up doing, actually making nothing. I'm just busy with buying and organizing. - Yes, oh my god welcome to my life. I totally hear that. I'm not sure what I'm doing over here but I'll just keep going with it. - [Mou] That's all right, I am moving on too, whipped spackle, this is just a tincture paste that has the consistency of whipped cream and you apply it like home improvement spackle. - [Courtney] Oh this is so fun to watch, this technique is so satisfying. - [Mou] It's just soft and I love it. It's instant texture. Sometimes each technique that you're using need not be difficult or complicated, just the layering of it makes it. - [Courtney] So if you don't like something to begin with you can maybe add more layers. - [Mou] Yeah, yeah, be prepared to add more and just stay open to it. I added it, I got some extra paste where I didn't need it, so I am not gonna discard the piece just for that, I'm gonna work with it. - [Courtney] How long does it take the whipped spackle to dry, can you use a heat tool on that? - [Mou] You can, but be careful as not to overheat any one area for too long, then there's gonna be bubbling and charring of the medium, and you could always let things air dry. - [Courtney] Can you use a hair dryer? I know people ask that a lot, instead of a heat tool. - [Mou] If you don't have a heat tool, that's the next best option. - [Courtney] Is the hair dryer, yeah. - [Faith] Hey Mou, I have a question for you from Beulia, she wants to know what is Mou's favorite art medium and is she doing a 100 day project? - [Courtney] Oh, Beulia's asking what's Mou's favorite art material and are you doing a 100 day project, are you? - Hi Beulia, I am not doing a 100 day project, but I'm doing a 365 day sketch book, like the goal is to have 365 sketches at the end of the year, and to be honest, I used to, in the past I have tried this, couldn't finish because I always needed to make sure I was making one sketch a day. But when that didn't work, I stopped. This year my goal, I'm approaching it a little differently. I'm going back to it. Even if I missed days, that's okay. I will go back say, I missed April 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and I'm going back to it on April 4th. So I'll make up for those three sketches, and I'll keep making up. If I'm behind, that's fine, even if I'm doing it until June of 2019, I'll still finish that 365 day project. - I love that, you're very real about how life takes time and you're forgiving, you allow yourself to play with mistakes and have a real life, I mean, you have three kids. - [Mou] Yeah, I am here this week. I am being creative all day and sometimes creativity can be tiring. And when I go back to my hotel room I wanna sleep, or I wanna see, as long as there's daylight out I wanna see things, I don't wanna go back to my hotel just because I have to do a sketch for today, no. I'm just gonna do it when I get the chance. - [Courtney] I also didn't say we were using these little spatulas, which are so cool. - [Mou] Oh these spatulas are so cool, because the cleanup is easy. If you have ever done any painting and forgotten to wash

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

them, because that happens to me a lot, that is bye-bye brush, but this spatula, it's so good, you can just wipe it off, you can reuse it. It's never gonna die. - [Courtney] I love that. - [Mou] Not never, I don't know, mine haven't died yet. - [Courtney] I'm just attaching my pieces with gel medium. Mou already did this, I'm just behind. - [Mou] You're not behind, you're just approaching it differently. - [Courtney] And you said these little spatulas, they come in the Honey Medium kit, right? - [Mou] They come in the Honey Medium kit. - [Courtney] So we haven't used the Honey Medium yet, but it's like a, it's more-- - [Mou] It's a decoupage gel that is the consistency of honey, it dries clear and has really double strength bonding power. Hang on, I need to focus on this just for a second. - [Courtney] Sure. - [Mou] I'm gonna embed this laser cut wood, your whipped spackle can be, or your texture base, whatever you're using, can be used to embed things, it doesn't always have to be an adhesive. I am not gonna add too much more, I think that is enough elevation, now I'm gonna move on to colors. - [Courtney] So you're looking for texture, you're looking for height difference. - [Mou] Yes, the only thing that I'm not looking for is perfection. - [Courtney] That's a god thing to remember. - [Mou] Yeah, stay open to it. - [Courtney] So it's been interesting to watch you kind of compose a piece, all week long I've been watching you kind of do things, and so the background, obviously there's color with that, and I get a sense of what this is gonna be like from the initial part. And then you add this layer and you're like oh, it's looking different, it has different colors, different texture, but then you come back to it and you kind of change the colors, you add darks, you add lights, it's been really cool to see how forgiving mixed media is, it allows you to really play. - [Mou] Truth is, I don't know where a project is going, I never know. I start, and sometimes I set out with a vision, but then halfway through I change my mind. And it's okay, nobody knows, just do what's fun. - [Faith] Mou I have a question from Instagram. - [Courtney] You guys this is the first time we're going live from Instagram, it's super exciting and Faith is here doing the moderating for that, so it sounds like we have a question from Instagram. - [Faith] MintandLace1 wants to know if they are unable to get Gelatos where they are from what is a similar medium? - Ooh, that's tricky-- - Water soluble, okay do you want to read the question? - Yeah, this person MintandLace1 is asking from Instagram if you cannot get Gelatos where you are then what is an acceptable substitute? - You could use any water soluble pigment stick. - Like a watercolor crayon? - Yes, watercolor crayon, and, you know, Gelatos are so versatile, it does so many things. If you are trying to get a watercolor look you can always use watercolors instead. And if you are trying to do something else maybe you can find a substitute, so I cannot say well this is one direct substitute that you can use for everything else. - Gotcha, so experiment, sounds like experimentation is the best thing. - Absolutely, but yeah, a water soluble pigment stick would be a very close match. - [Courtney] That's good to know, yeah it sounds like if any of these materials you don't have at home that's another great thing about mixed media is that you can just experiment and play and a lot of different things will do the trick, or you'll discover something new that you didn't know about because you're improvising, so that's always good to keep in mind. - [Faith] And Melissa from Facebook wants to know can you tell us more about the spatulas? - [Courtney] Oh yeah, Melissa's asking about these little silicone spatulas that we're using. Mou has a metal spatula for her whipped spackle. That's a Faber-Castell spatula? - [Mou] Yeah, this is actually a palette knife. - [Courtney] Oh, palette knife, sorry. - [Mou] Yeah, and that is, I'm gonna borrow it, and this is a silicone spatula, the silicone being it's non-stick so you can put any medium and just clean it off. - [Courtney] With a baby wipe, we use a lot of baby wipes here. - [Mou] Oh I actually have one here, and one thing I realized that I hadn't realized before is that you can take the top off, because I was trying to fit this in my suitcase in a little pouch and the whole thing was too big, so I could take it apart and I can put it back. I thought somebody

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

might benefit from knowing that. - I love that. Can I use your PITT pen, your black pen? - [Mou] Oh, absolutely. - [Courtney] Mine's like all the same color, so I've been watching Mou and she uses these PITT pens all the time and they're India ink, which means they're permanent once they dry, but when they're wet you can use a watercolor brush or any brush. - [Mou] Until the ink is not dry, you have a little flexibility with it, you could create the looks, make the looks softer, I'm sorry, I just-- - [Courtney] Oh, you're fine. - [Mou] Yeah, okay, so I'm gonna stop messing with that. - [Courtney] So you're using your whipped spackle to create more texture there? - [Mou] Yeah, I kind of wanted to give the, because the chipboard that I die cut the trophy out of, and if you do not have this die, just cut a trophy shape out. You can refer to google for images, and just make it, if you don't have it don't let that stop you. - [Courtney] Right, I love that. If you don't know what you're doing don't let it stop you, clearly. - [Mou] Well you do it and then you know it, right? - [Courtney] Yes, my background I think is a little, it's a little weak, it's very light, it's like all the same color on my thing. - [Mou] We'll build it in layers. - [Courtney] You do a lot of mark making too, lots and lots of stuff. - [Mou] I love mark making, it's great for filling up spaces. - [Courtney] How do you know when to keep going or like, when to stop, or when to take a break and walk away? - I don't, when I don't know what to do I stop, and if I have the time I just walk away, sometimes come back to it and look at it with fresh eyes. And sometimes it's just, doesn't wanna move forward. I'll set it aside, keep working on other things, maybe come back to it a few days later, who knows? - That's good advice. - And sometimes you just go beyond recovery point and that is that, it happens, forgive yourself for that. - [Courtney] I think we all know about that. - [Mou] It happens, it's okay, it's just paper. - [Courtney] I'm just using this black India ink because I've seen Mou use it, so I'm using it. - [Mou] I'm gonna go use some texture gems, because I want this gold to come out. - [Courtney] Tell us what those are, what is a texture-- - [Mou] A texture gem is, like the name suggests, it comes in beautiful metallic and pearlescent colors, and you can create texture because it has this fine little tip. - [Courtney] Is it like a puff pen or like a puff paint? - [Mou] Similar. - [Courtney] Kind of similar? - [Mou] Similar but, I don't know, this has, I can control it better. The puff paint if I squeeze it too hard then it's a blob. This is not a blob. - [Courtney] So it has like fine motor control. - [Mou] It is more forgiving, let's say. - [Courtney] I love that, I love the detail you can get. It's nice in your pieces too, let me actually show some of the pieces that Mou's been working on this week. Terran's gonna show us this. So, I love this, this is a piece that Mou did this week, and she has an image transfer in here, this is a transfer from one of your coloring book pages that you can find on Mou's website. This is a gel medium with glitter embedded in it, she's made all these really cool gel skins, those Gelato backgrounds like we saw and other Gelato skins, truly awesome, so that'll be in her daily challenge coming up. This is another piece she's made from the daily challenge. I love this, this is the whipped spackle. What did you use to draw that motif? - [Mou] When the whipped spackle is still wet you can draw into it, I think I used the back of the spatula to draw. You can doodle, you can write, I wrote that. - [Courtney] I love that, it's so cool. And just like all this cool texture, I love this whipped spackle, it's like frosting. - [Mou] I love the glitter in it too. - [Courtney] It's really fun. - [Mou] It's great to make your own texture. - [Courtney] Yeah, I love that, I was saying to Mou earlier in the week that it's really nice that I see her use store bought items, but she's really transforming them and making them her own, and then she also makes a ton of things from scratch, so it's cool to see how those can be combined to make a final piece. - [Mou] I think my favorite texture that I do right now is that eggshell. - [Courtney] Yeah! - [Mou] Oh my goodness, that was so much fun. - [Courtney] Mou's been grinding up little bits of eggshell and using them, incorporating them in with the whipped spackle and they create this amazing texture. And you say this in your class, you don't

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

have to go farther than your kitchen or your bathroom sometimes. - [Mou] No, sometimes it's in the laundry, sometimes it's in your medicine cabinet, it doesn't always mean that if you're making art you have to go to a fine art store. - [Courtney] I love that, so for people who can't find all the things, check your house out first. Okay so now you're starting to add some color. - [Mou] I'm starting to add some color, and I don't know where I'm going, but we will rescue it at some point, I'm sure. - [Courtney] I need something lighter. - [Mou] And you can also use the tea if you want, I don't know if it works for you. - [Courtney] I might be past the point of tea. You've been soaking this tea overnight, right, to give a really nice, strong color? - [Mou] Yes, it's just a black tea bag, so if you don't have all the colors and you want something to antique or just add a subtle layer of color, tea is great. So is coffee, bonus is coffee also smells really great. - [Courtney] Oh yeah, you were saying when you heat it up especially. - [Mou] Yeah. - [Courtney] And when we're coating things in gel medium I've noticed that you can wipe things off of it, which is nice, in case you hate anything. - [Mou] Yeah, that just creates, when you seal with a top coat of gel medium it creates a protection layer, so if you're adding and you make a mistake, you still have some open time to clear it up depending on what you are using. - [Courtney] Yeah, and then can you show that rubber stamp technique where you can use the PITT pen? - [Mou] Oh yeah, yeah, I'm gonna use that, because I was gonna use that anyway. - [Courtney] Perfect, so this is a PITT pen. - [Mou] This is a Stampers Big Brush pen, it is also a type of PITT pen but it is a special type of PITT pen. You can see it's so much bigger and you can write with this, it's wonderful for hand lettering, and I'm just using it to ink my stamp. The best part of using an ink like India ink is that it's permanent when dry, which means you can add wet layers on top and nothing will move, nothing will be messy. - [Courtney] So this is about texture, right, like visual texture? - [Mou] I am trying to add some visual texture. I am not trying to read what's written, but that little black starts to add some pop. - [Courtney] I love that, and I think it's like all these little moments that come together to make the pieces so interesting. - [Mou] Yeah, taken apart, nothing is really complex, but then when you look at them together you keep wondering oh, how did that happen? And these Stampers Big Brush pens they come in so many different colors, but again, it's good to stick to one color. - [Courtney] To start with one color. - [Mou] Yeah, because there's already enough going on. It doesn't have to be in the same direction everywhere either. Quick ways to cover a large space. - [Courtney] Do you make art every day? - [Mou] In some form, absolutely. - [Courtney] Yeah. - [Mou] Yeah. - You said if you're feeling really busy and it's just like, you know we have to make dinner for the kids, or they have soccer practice or dance or what have you, how do you find time to just, do you get into your studio, do you make a drawing, what do you do? - A studio is where you make it, really. - Anywhere. - Yeah, because I have a lot of waiting time, so I put on an audiobook, I have some stuff that I have about ready to leave, so I take it with me when I remember to, of course. And then when I am waiting I just make stuff. Instead of going in and gossiping, that's a much better use of time. - I love it, it's cool. - [Liana] We have some people who are very excited about your mixed media challenge. - Thank you, thank you, I hope you will enjoy it. - [Courtney] We hear you guys were super excited too, 31 days. When is that releasing, Liana? - [Liana] Next month. - Next month, you guys, you only have to wait until June. That's why we did 31 days, 31 day month. Okay, so now, what point are you at? - [Mou] I'm not at done point, yet. I'm just gonna keep building, but you get the basic idea. I mean, you could go to a trophy store and have those carved, like best mom, but if you make something even if you don't have the die cut, I think she's gonna think it's more special. - [Courtney] Oh for sure, for sure, it's so beautiful how it's coming together. Do you normally color the wood die cuts also, the laser cuts? - [Mou] Yes, I sometimes drop in inks, I'm just waiting because I have the whipped spackle, because I

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

embedded this one. - [Courtney] Yes, so that's drying. - [Mou] So that, it needs to dry because I do not want the moisture to lift the shape off. - [Courtney] Can I try the whipped spackle, do we have a little left? - [Mou] Oh, yeah yeah. You can clean that off, and remember to clean your tools and close your jar lids. Close your jars. - [Courtney] Yes, where is this? This is the gel medium, we need to close that. - Yeah, because there are spill happens and mediums dry. Once they dry there's nothing you can do. - Yes, and that's super sad. You also do a really good job of like, like you said earlier using everything and anything, so like this is a dryer sheet and then you dyed it. - Yes, yes, yes. - Which that's in one of Mou's earlier classes with us. And like this is paper towel. - That is just paper towel that I used, and then when I pulled it, you know how paper towels are two or three ply? So just pull them apart, use them on your project. - [Courtney] It's like Monet's garden, I feel like Liana needs to use this, she just went to Michael's. Look how pretty that is, and that's like all stuff that's functional in the moment 'cause you're using it to blot up you know, extra liquid and so forth. - [Mou] And drop it in some tea. - [Courtney] Oh, fun. - [Mou] And you may not be able to understand it right now till it's dry, but when it's dry you will see it. Everything that you add is gonna bear its footprint. - [Courtney] Oh I love that, that's a good thing, everything you add is going to bear its footprint. You're very wise, Mou, I feel like you're a very wise crafter. You have all these great bits of advice and kind of like attitudes toward crafting, I love it. - [Mou] Yeah, well you know, I grew up, I was born in India and that's where I grew up, and then I moved here and learning the culture, overcoming the culture shock, raising children in a different culture while still staying in touch with my parents, who see things and life with a very different set of eyes than I do. You have to learn and it kind of changes you. - [Courtney] You have to be flexible, huh? - [Mou] Yeah! - [Courtney] Especially with three kids. - [Mou] I think that's a nice way of putting it. - [Courtney] And you talk to your parents every week, right, is that what you said? - [Mou] Yes, I used to call my mom every morning. - [Courtney] Really? - [Mou] Yeah. - [Courtney] Oh, you're such a good daughter. - [Mou] Then my youngest started school, preschool, and now I have the morning open so I told my mom, can I just use that time because it's so precious to me. - [Courtney] I think that's interesting too. I have a friend who is a professional artist and educator and he said, he told me, this was like 15 years ago, he said you know, to be an artist you have to be selfish sometimes because you really need to take that time to dedicate to your practice even if it's like you said, just making one tiny thing, or getting in that daily drawing. Do you think that's true? - [Mou] Yeah, I guess, whether I'm selfish or not is something my family will tell me because obviously I don't see it with those eyes. - [Courtney] Right, right, right, from the outside it may appear selfish, but it's really about-- - [Mou] As long as there is a balance where everybody gets to be their own selfish, then it all works out. - [Courtney] Yeah, exactly. And the other thing that you said, you said this week, is that if you use something in one place you should spread it around the canvas, right? - [Mou] Yes, because that-- - [Courtney] My whipped spackle is in lots of places. - [Mou] That helps the eyes move around, because you look for common things when you look at a piece, oh I see it here, oh I see it here again. That just keeps your eyes moving and you're paying attention to every corner of the piece, and about three to five spots is enough, more than that might get a little busy. - [Courtney] Okay, yeah, and you've also talked about how you wanna add some but not too much. - [Mou] Yeah, because it's always easier to add than to take away, that's my experience. - [Courtney] Good to know, and you also, you never waste anything, you said you always have scrap paper in your bag? - [Mou] I do, it's like I look at things with different eyes at this point. Because you know, what everybody can buy at a store is not novel. It's necessity, of course, but found objects are so much more charming because everybody's is different and it means different things to you. I'm just adding

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026

a little black because I want that trophy to stand out a little bit more. Sometimes when you are using very light and pretty color scheme you may be afraid to add some black, but that black could just be the grounding factor to the whole piece. I could use the black Stampers Big Brush pen for this, but since the colors are still wet and we're trying to work fast I'm going in with India ink that's liquid. - [Courtney] And you're using a little eye dropper for that? - [Mou] Yeah, not too much, and you don't have to measure and move, let it take care of itself. Sometimes that letting go is the hardest part. When you do, you'll be amazed. - [Courtney] I love that. So now you're just kind of moving it around? - [Mou] Yeah, so that it's not just in splotches. My medium is still kind of wet, so I can only-- - [Courtney] Do you wanna dry it? - [Mou] Go very slow. No, I think I'm just too deep into it to bother about drying it. And if you don't like, if it's too much, I'm gonna take this. - [Courtney] Yeah, take it. - [Mou] This is just, I think this is a baby wipe, you could use a dry paper towel, blot some of it off. And if you have blotted off too much, add some more. - [Courtney] I love that, so this guy you would let it dry and then you would continue on adding? - [Mou] I think I'm gonna call it a day. - [Courtney] I think so, it's really cool. I love that, so you would recommend if you can, if you're a mixed media artist, think about what you might make for your mom for Mother's Day. And you add a lot of hand lettering to your pieces. - [Mou] I do, i do, I think I'm gonna add a little bit of pink here, because I wanted to show that you can color your laser cut wood pieces. When you, just knowing that you can alter even store bought ready made things, gives you the power that you can make something really grand without worrying if it's gonna match. If it's naked you can add the color, you have the power. - I love that, I know you're very clearly into color, I love this top you have on. - Oh, I love, love, love colors. - Like the most beautiful fuchsia magenta tone. - Thank you. - It's so cool, it matches your Gelato. - Ah, I didn't realize that. - Well thanks so much for being here this week, we're almost done filming your classes, we have her until Friday. - It's been so much fun. - Stay tuned for the daily challenge coming in June, and if you wanna check out Mou's other classes be sure to do so on CreativeBug.com. Thank you guys for joining us and we'll see you next Tuesday. (upbeat music)

© CBTV Live and Creativebug Inc., 2026