

**Lee Meredith 00:03**

Welcome to the Knit Picks Podcast. I'm the Knits Picks books graphic designer, and I'm here with Stacey.

**Stacey Winklepleck 00:12**

Hi, I'm Stacey. I'm the Outreach Director for Knits Picks, which means I generally just work with the designers.

**Lee Meredith 00:18**

So it's officially summer here, like officially it is. So today, we're gonna have a special interview with Knits Picks knit designer Felecia O'Connell about summer knitting. But first the other thing that's happening right now, this time of year is World UFO Day is coming up. So we're gonna talk about UFOs. Probably not the same kind of UFOs which that day is celebrating.

**Stacey Winklepleck 00:45**

Probably not, but it gives us a good excuse to lay bare our secrets. Our secret shame of the UFOs we have in our closets by saying, Yes, what is the UFO in craft terms? Yeah.

**Lee Meredith 01:04**

So for knitters, crocheters, and any the kind of crafters, a UFO is known as an UnFinished Object? Yes. So that's anything that you have begun, but that's still on the needles or on the hook or whatever, that you have not finished. And then the other term that you might be familiar with is WIP or WIP, which means work in progress. Stacey, how do you kind of use one versus the other of those two terms?

**Stacey Winklepleck 01:37**

To be honest, if I put it in a bag and put it in my little yarn closet, that means it's a UFO, if it is sitting by my couch still in my basket or in a bag by my couch? That is a WIP. So once it goes in the closet, it's in a black hole and you never see. Or for at least several years. How would you define it?

**Lee Meredith 02:04**

Yeah, pretty similarly. There's a lot of projects that will kind of go away for a couple months, and then come back and like I still consider them to be WIPs, even if I haven't touched them for three or four months. So yeah, and it's kind of- I don't, I don't have a closet, but I have a kind of tote bag system. And if the totebag isn't visible to me, and it's kind of out of the way then that's usually because it's a UFO and I'm kind of not gonna touch it for a while. Or eventually Frog it. Yeah, most of my projects in progress, I kind of still consider WIPs, even if I haven't touched them in a while, because I'm still like, I still think about them go, "Oh, yeah, I gotta, I gotta get back to that and finish it". But like, if I haven't thought about it even in months, then it's a UFO.

**Stacey Winklepleck 02:52**

Yeah, when we were preparing for this, I was kind of looking at some of my closet projects. And there's something there I hadn't thought about, I'm like, "Oh, yeah, I really liked knitting this, I should bring this

back out". But I have just so little space around, like, where I actually knit that I will clear it out every once in a while. And that's when they get thrown in the closet with the other yarn. So in a bag. Yeah, it's, it's, it's not something I'm proud of. I wish I could finish every single project I start, but...

**Lee Meredith** 03:31

It's a hobby, it's for fun. There's no shame in it. We all have our habits and our, you know, processes and stuff. And there's nothing to be ashamed about, I think.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

I think it's worst...

**Lee Meredith**

Like if anyone out there really feels ashamed about UFOs. Well consider frogging it and just using the yarn for something else, right. Like it doesn't have to be stressful.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

Yeah, we talked about that a couple weeks ago.

**Lee Meredith**

Yeah, we did.

**Stacey Winklepleck** 04:02

No, but I think you know, I was trying to explain it to someone, one of our co-workers, why I think you and I especially have it, the worst is because we see all these patterns. And we also play with all the yarns. So we see all the patterns really early. And we're always surrounded by patterns. And we're like, just oh, I want to cast on for that immediately. And I will say that's what 90% of the my works in progress (WIPs) and UFOs are projects from collections that I got really excited about. And they're not that they're bad projects, I just kind of like moved on to something else, to the next shiny thing I needed to grab.

**Lee Meredith** 04:42

Yeah. Now that makes sense, that does describe some of mine as well. Both the patterns and the yarn, like one that comes to mind was the pattern situation where it's like I'm obsessed with this pattern, like these are both ones I don't even consider UFOs, I still consider WIPs because they're kind of like on my couch. But one sweater in progress was a pattern that I was obsessed with. And the other sweater in progress is a yarn that I was obsessed with. I was like, I happened to make a sweater with that yarn. So yeah, they're both just kind of impulsive. Like must make this now and now they're kind of halfway done sitting around. Yeah.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

So what is your oldest UFO? Do you know offhand?

**Lee Meredith**

Oh, man. Okay, well, I dug through my notebook thing on Ravelry. And I found this. I called it my "turquoise cotton summer shirt". And the pattern is, it's from a book. It's from the book KnitKnit, which is a really cool book from 2007 that has a lot of like, really artful kinds of knitting.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

I remember that.

**Lee Meredith**

Yeah, and I think it only has a few actual patterns in it. It's mostly kind of like art projects and stuff. But it has this vest thing called I'm not sure how to pronounce it. But Ujein. Yeah. Because the designer, same as Eugene, but spelled like Eugene . So I think it's Ujein spelled differently. Ujein v-neck vest, and it's made out of strips of garter stitch that are all kind of wrapped diagonally, like around the body. And then it's seamed like a v-neck and it's all garter stitch strips anyway, it's really cool. I was looking at it now. Hey, I think I do want to actually finish this. Drumroll, April 13 2008.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

Oh, you beat me at least-. At least, from the WIPs I still have around.

**Lee Meredith**

Yeah, it's one of those that really got tucked far, far away. Like I don't even know where it is. And I think at some point, I decided I was never gonna finish it. And I was just gonna frog it. But I don't know I'm having second thoughts. Now. See, the problem with me is, I used to design knitting patterns for a living. So I really didn't knit for fun, like, at all, because I didn't have time as all of my knitting had to be for my design work. So like this project, and a couple other ones that are also very old, I want to knit something for fun for me from somebody else's pattern. And I pick something and cast it on and then just never finish it. Because I would be like, No, I have designed this pattern now and then put it down and think I was gonna pick it back up and not finish it. So now that I don't design for a living anymore, and I do it for fun, maybe I can finish some of those very, very, very old UFOs. Okay, what's your oldest?

**Stacey Winklepleck 07:29**

Well, mine is from a book that we produced. It's called the Sweater Book. It's by Hilary Smith Callis. I fell in love with it. It's basically; it's a really cool book. And I'm like, Oh, we should redo this book actually. But it's a kind of where you can interchange your sweater parts. Like you can do one stitch pattern on a vest or cardigan and blah, blah, blah. It's great. It's a really cool book. Check it out. But I cast on for what is the Moab vest, and it was just this really nice open vest, I did the open version. And I was really excited about it. Anyway, I did mine in Preciosa. And I loved it. And I don't know. I don't know why I set it down, mine is from 2015. So it's still six years, but I don't think I've worked on it in probably three or four years, because I still have it. And I still have all the Preciosa skeins or hanks waiting for me. But yeah, it's sad. I'm looking at it again. And I'm like, Oh man, I really need to work on this. I really love this pattern. It was just a nice textured pattern and an open vest that I like wearing sometimes.

**Lee Meredith**

I can't picture that one specifically, but I know that she has some really good vest patterns. I know, a different vest pattern by hers and my cue that's been Oh yeah, like 15 years, but she has some good stuff. Yeah.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

Yeah, my other one is probably not quite as old but it's also from one of our books. It's the Straight and Arrow Cardigan. It's from the Windward Collection and it was in 2018 I think, that's when the book came out. I think it was before he was doing the book, but it's a really cool texture pattern. It's my Stacey Gerbman. And, the reason I started this one, other than the fact I really love it, and I love that book, was because Provincial Tweed had just come out, and I'm like, I want a sweater and Provincial Tweed. And I started it in Provincial Tweed in 2018. And when it came out, and I still have not finished it. (Lee softly laughs) That one I think actually, one of the reasons I think I put this one away is it has to be seamed up and that's just the one thing I have a really hard time with. It's like, we were talking a couple weeks ago about your sock that you just kind of set aside and I do that with projects. I'm like, I still feel like doing this because I don't want to have to seam it up or do something or another. I know people who've put up socks because they didn't want to turn the heel or something, that's how things get put into bags. (laughing) But I think I'm probably making an error in it or something I don't know. Anyway, I still love that pattern, I still want to make it. I actually just want to make it now, the problem is I don't really want the color I chose. I don't remember what color it is. I kind of want it in the original color, because it's in Fjord Heather, which as you know, is my favorite yarn color. Stacey picked out colors here. It's in every book. Yeah

**Lee Meredith 10:39**

That's a good color. Yeah. So my other pretty old one that's not as old, was in our recent UFO blog posts, the KnitPicks blog. And it's actually one of my patterns. And what I did was I designed the pattern and released it and it was done. But then I had this yarn that I was like, "Oh man, this yarn would be perfect in this pattern". I could envision it, it looks so good. I'm gonna cast on another one. But then because the pattern had already been released, it wasn't a priority. So since it wasn't a priority, it got set aside, I never finished it. But um, so it's a mitten called Incenter. And the yarn is Infinite Twist Helix. And I had been given a pack of all these different colors of this yarn from the dyer to use for designs and stuff. And I had leftovers from another design I think I had, so I had like a bunch of different colors. And this pattern was kind of originally designed for three colors. So it's like an inside, a middle, and an outside color and these triangles. But I had this vision of using a different color for the outside, left and the outside, right and a different color for the front, middle and and center and the back, middle and center. And so it basically was going to use like, I don't know, like nine colors or something instead of three colors, which worked really well in this one that I almost finished. But I stopped at that kind of like you were talking about stopping at turning a heel or something like I got to I did the entire mitten. I have the stitches on the needle, for the thumb. And then I just never knit the thumb. But it's like, I know that the thumb won't take long. But when I finish it I have another entire mitten and go, Oh yeah, I just never finished with them so that I would never have done it. It's not like I didn't want to it's just you know, I got

distracted by other projects and I just never finished it. But I am looking at the pictures now. I love it and I want to finish it so I can wear it. So maybe, maybe after summer, I'll do it.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

The Single Sock Syndrome does not just apply to socks. It also applies to mittens.

**Lee Meredith**

Definitely -mittens and sleeves. If you're not doing two at a time

**Stacey Winklepleck**

Oh sleeves, it's...

**Lee Meredith**

I've gotten stuck there before where I'm kind of almost done with one sleeve but I'm like after I finished this one I have a whole other one to go and then I just like never finish, it takes forever.

**Stacey Winklepleck 13:01**

I do know that I started with, when we were talking about the Straight and Arrow pattern, I started with the sleeves. So I did both of them at the same time because the pattern is done in pieces. So I did that. I think I'm just stuck in the back now. Because I'm like, I'm not going to get caught in sleeve land this time. I'm gonna do the sleeves first. And it's also nice.

**Lee Meredith**

That's a good trick.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

Yeah, if it's if sweaters are in pieces, I will do the sleeves first. It's just also a nicer way to check gauge. Like because I'm... (sigh) Confession: I don't always do a gauge swatch. And this way, I'm not doing like an entire back of a sweater or whatever. I'm just doing a sleeve. And then I can rip it out if it's really not work if it's not the right size. So yeah, helpful trick. Yeah. Another way that we put aside UFOs, at least for me, is because I do sweaters and I don't finish them in time. And then the weather gets hot. Yeah, so now you cast-on for a summer knit.

**Lee Meredith 14:08**

Yeah, that's definitely happened to me right now. There are like multiple sweaters that I was like, Oh, I could finish them in the spring and still get to where I'm a little bit during the transitional months. Yeah, cuz here in Portland, so usually all the way through June, we have cold cold days and hot days.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

June Gloom

**Lee Meredith**

Yeah, June gloom. Like, historically, we usually Summer doesn't start until the Fourth of July. Here. That's not the case this year. But so usually if I were to finish these sweaters by like May, I could still wear them a few times before Summer starts. But I didn't do that. I didn't finish them. So I'm probably gonna be losing motivation. Pick them up until like September now.

**Stacey Winklepleck 14:52**

Yep, same and now I just want to like cast on for what I usually get in the summer. Other than socks. Which I've talked about many times here. I really like doing little t-shirts. And like, I like doing t-shirts in Hawthorne, I was just kind of looking through because when we're talking about the subject today, I was looking through my Ravelry notebook. And I'm like, Oh yeah, I did all these Hawthorne t-shirts and I really loved them. And when was the Elfe shirt from Astrid Schramm. Sorry, I apologize. But it's in Hawthorne and it's striped. And I really love it. And I actually wore it a couple of times. I think I wore it actually on my interview with Felecia when I was interviewing Felecia, because it's really nice, even though it's Hawthorne and it's wool, it's not overly hot when you wear it. So I mean, I'm not gonna wear it in 100 degree temperatures but you know, in like 80 degrees, it's not super warm where I'm roasting in it. So what are some of your favorite summer projects?

**Lee Meredith 15:57**

Yeah, I definitely have been thinking about casting on another pair of socks because that one that we were talking about in a previous episode I still have on the needles but it's like it's ribbed and it's one at a time and it's like a little bit slower but I kind of want to just cast on it two at a time. Basic stockinette and have like a fun yarn that like a fun stripy or thinking maybe like a gradient yarn or something. Because I know, I like socks because they don't keep your lap warm. That kind of thing.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

Yep. oh-

**Lee Meredith**

Yeah, and like hats for the same reason. Like hats I am not gonna wear until Fall but at least like it's a small project that doesn't warm your lap up. So maybe another hat.

**Stacey Winklepleck 16:35**

So another... Another pattern I like... er, I really like to knit is a tank sometimes. It kind of goes with Tee's. Everyone knows my sock obsession. So I was trying to bring up some other things I like to knit. I like this one by Erica Jackofsky called Pretty Polly that I really love. I knit it in--I think the original was in a yarn is Simply Cotton. But it was back when we had colors. That's how old the pattern is. But I think I did mine in Shine. And it's a really nice cool top to wear around when it's hot. Or you know, when it's a little chilly. You can put a cardigan on in the office or whatever. So that's another one of my favorite kind of projects, just knitting with cotton. And not like heavy cotton. But Shine is a good one because it's got that modal in it and it kind of makes it feel a little bit cooler when you're knitting.

**Lee Meredith**

Also Cotlin is a good one, Cotlin is a cotton linen blend.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

Cotlin. I don't know if it's just me projecting that it's not as hot to knit with. And it really is, but it feels like it.

**Lee Meredith 17:37**

I haven't actually knit a garment from Shine yet, but I have a garment in Cotlin. And it was really good summer knitting. I liked it a lot.

**Stacey Winklepleck 17:47**

Yeah, no, I mean, I definitely knit a lot less in the summer. But I do enjoy knitting smaller projects or a lightweight projects. It makes it feel like, summer, I guess.

**Lee Meredith 18:03**

So speaking of Summertime knits, Stacey had the pleasure of interviewing Felecia O'Connell, who is a knit designer who we've worked with before. And who knits a lot of great designs for Summer. So I hope you're not as hot where you are as we are here. But we'll get through this together by knitting with cotton and knitting small projects like socks and hang in there everybody. (Stacey laughing) Fall will come!

[music]

**Heather Mann 18:34**

Heather here. Hey, producer Sarah, have you heard about the Summer Sale?

**Producer Sarah 18:38**

Oh, I love sales! Where?

**Heather Mann 18:40**

The Summer Sale at Knitpicks.com and Crochet.com, save up to 60% off on yarn. And it's fun because each week different yarn weights are on sale.

**Producer Sarah 18:49**

Sounds like a good time to stock up on yarn. Oh, wait, what about tools?

**Heather Mann 18:53**

And you can save up to 40% on tools

**Producer Sarah 18:55**

Now would be a good time to stock up on supplies for holiday crafting.

**Heather Mann**

Oh, and each week there are different deals and freebies with purchase.

**Producer Sarah** 19:02

Oh and love free stuff.

**Heather Mann** 19:04

Check Knitpicks.com and Crochet.com to find out all about the Summer Sale.

**Producer Sarah** 19:08

It looks like I'm going to Knitpicks.com and Crochet.com to stock up and save. The sale goes through July 18 2021.

[music ends]

**Stacey Winklepleck** 19:21

Hi, this is Stacey and I'm here talking to Felecia O'Connell. Hi, Felecia.

**Felecia O'Connell**

Hey, Stacey.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

How are you doing?

**Felecia O'Connell**

Good. It's nice to be here. It's nice to be with you guys. It's so wonderful to talk to you again.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

Felecia has been on the podcast before, I actually met her at Vogue Knitting New York several years ago, I guess four years ago now. Like we determined three or four years ago. And then she actually worked at one of our events at Stitches, and worked the booth with us and that was super fun. It was pretty quiet there. But it was a very fun experience. So I am super happy to be talking to her again. So Felecia, you've done a couple of designs with us, you want to talk a little bit about them? I think my favorite is the Cloverleaf Top. But that's probably your more popular, most popular design on our site.

**Felecia O'Connell** 20:20

Yeah, I'm really, really flattered that people like it so much. I like it. Because it was, for me, it was fun to swatch, I mean, my criteria for like any of my knitting, or all of my knitting, is it's got to be kind of fun, I'm like a swatch-driven person. So I love swatching. (Stacey softly laughs) And if I enjoy making a swatch, then I want to make something out of whatever it was, I just did-- that yarn and that stitch pattern. And it has to be something. And for that top, it was just so... I didn't want anything to interrupt the flow of that

stitch pattern. So I really just wanted a sheet of that fabric and took a sheet of that digit pattern, like covering my body just the way that I did.

**Stacey Winklepleck 21:06**

It's got a really great easy finishing. It's not complicated, and it just looks so beautiful. And it's such a perfect top for summer.

**Felecia O'Connell 21:17**

Yeah, yeah, I'm so glad that people like it again, I'm really flattered by that. Because like I you know, I mean, I do have a little bit of designer imposter syndrome, because I don't feel like I'm, I feel like I'm a good knitter, I'm in some ways, an advanced knitter only in that I can, I can achieve a number of things with my knitting. But when I go to pick up some knitting, or especially when I'm designing something, I always keep it really simple. I never want it to be particularly complicated. It always makes me feel like, you know, I see some of these designs that are just unbelievably intricate. And part of me says, Oh, I wish I could design like that. But you know, I like design like I do. That's just me.

**Stacey Winklepleck 22:05**

So that's smart. I mean, yeah, I can admire these beautiful, intricate designs. But if I'm going to be honest, when I want to knit something for myself, I'm going to honestly probably go with something like Cloverleaf or your Easy Layering Tank, which was another one you had early on, they're just really simple. And I just really want to wear the garment. (laughs)

**Felecia O'Connell 22:31**

Yeah, I mean, I like, for me designing is like... I started out as a sewist, I know, people don't call themselves sewers anymore. It looks like sewers.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

Sewers

**Felecia O'Connell**

So I started as a sewist. And, I think like, when I started sewing, I was really young. I was like, in eighth grade. And I started and I really never looked back. And from sewing all the time, I just got this kind of crazy idea that I like clothes to look exactly like I want them to. They should be the exact color I want them to be, they should fit me exactly like I want them to, they should be the exact length I want them. And you know, it's just, you know, with commercial patterns, at some point I got, you know, not afraid to alter them and to combine them. And I was knitting a little bit as a teenager, but I was always really afraid at that point, to try to create a knitting pattern because, you know, with knitting, you're making the fabric and the shape of it all at the same time. It seems so daunting.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

Yep.

**Felecia O'Connell**

You know, but once I started knitting more, which was not until years and years later, like I was a full fledged grown up by the time I started really leading a lot, I started to see that, like, I got the same idea. Like I would follow a pattern. But I started to really get that feeling like I don't really want it to be like that. I want it to be a little bit like this or that. And I started to see how knitting is also really endlessly adaptable. So, it's easy to, in some ways, alter and then start designing your own things.

**Stacey Winklepleck 24:04**

So I agree with you there. It's funny, I went from being a knitter, to sewing, and then going back to knitting. I mean, I do both. But like after I learned to sew, I'm like, now I know how clothes should fit; it was just an interesting process. Like it was kind of the opposite of what your experience is. But it was really fun. I just, I love sewing and I like to sew all of my clothes. It's much quicker than knitting.

**Felecia O'Connell 24:29**

Yeah. I mean, it's so much faster than it is. But I mean, I think just generally speaking, the idea is like it's so nice to be so much a part of what you wear, because you know, when you have to go shopping for stuff, you just become aware of all these things that maybe that you're not like you started saying like well, you know, my waist to hip proportions not like that or you know, my bust isn't big enough to wear that or, but when you're making your own stuff and you get used to making your own stuff you don't even think about that kind of stuff, it's just your body is your body and you're making things that work with it. You know?

**Stacey Winklepleck 25:07**

Right, exactly why I started doing that, because I have that same issue. I hate clothes shopping. So I knit sweaters for the winter, and I sew tops and dresses for the Summer. And it works. It's been working out well for me the last couple of years. And it's for that reason, I don't like going to a shop and like trying on clothes and seeing how they look in there. It's too tight here and too loose here. And, you know, commercial products are really hard to alter sometimes, especially like, yeah, ready to wear stuff. It's, it's, it's fun. Anyway, I guess that was kind of a little bit of a diversion.

**Felecia O'Connell 25:45**

But it actually is, it's just so much of like, how I think design is really like, you know, what do I want to wear? And how quickly can I can I get it because, you know, often I'm like, I would love to have a fill in the blank for whatever this thing is I'm going to, and I don't have it, so I'm going to have to make it you know, rather than try to shop for it.

**Stacey Winklepleck 26:09**

So what would you call your design speciality?

**Felecia O'Connell 26:14**

Really simple, easy garments, and accessories. I try to make things that will be quick. Because, you know, many people don't have much time, like my attention span sometimes doesn't. I have like, concurrently a few projects, of course, like the things that I know are gonna take me a while. And then I've got things that like, I just need to feed that need for "made for completion". So my specialty is really coming up with things that can be completed quickly. And that you can really grab and go. Like, I like things that if you walk out your door, and you realize you don't have the pattern itself with you, you can probably figure out what you have to do next Anyway, you know, the stitch patterns memorizable and the instructions are not difficult, you know, or they're either intuitive or, or it's like a large swath of a repeating thing.

**Stacey Winklepleck 27:11**

That's why you're one of my favorite designers because I do the same thing. Like, I love your talking. I think it was off air. But we were talking about stitch patterns being your thing you love. And that is exactly what I love. Like just having something that's repeatable, you don't have to carry a chart to honestly, for me carrying a chart can just kind of do it on the go. Or when I'm in a meeting or when I'm just like watching TV even just kind of not wanting to pay attention. So yeah.

**Felecia O'Connell 27:40**

Yeah, I feel like with my designs after you left, when you first started in the cast on. After about 10 rows, you could start watching a movie, you know, and like, you can have a conversation with someone who's asking you a billion questions, you know, you can, you know, probably deal with your cat.

**Stacey Winklepleck 28:04**

So we were talking earlier that it was very hot out there. It's summertime, we're talking about summer knits on this episode. What's your favorite thing to knit when it's hot out?

**Felecia O'Connell 28:16**

Okay, I've got like two favorite things. One is tank tops. And one is sort of shells like not so much sweaters but shells. And that's because certainly in New York and probably any place where it gets really hot outside, of course, you go inside, and it's the exact opposite. So like here, you know, go to the subway, it's like 400 degrees, you go into your office, it's like 40 degrees. And so you have to have your office shawl, for your office weather. And also like, you know, you just want to have like things that you can carry with you that aren't going to have you so laden down with yarn, you know, you want something that's like the yarn is a light enough weight that even if you have a few skeins on you, it's not like heavy, you know? So you know that's why I'm like I actually was rooting through my stash and I came across these six balls of Lindy Chain and I'm like, I gotta make this so looking forward to seeing that.

**Stacey Winklepleck 29:14**

yeah, I would say that like for fabric to knit in the Summertime. For me. It's something like Lindy Chain something cotton, but lightweight. Cuz yeah, it's a little sticky.

**Felecia O'Connell 29:27**

We'll get sticky and sometimes cotton gets a little dense, which I why I really like linen. I like silk, it softens and is also nice, I do like cotton, but it has to be lightweight because yeah, sometimes it's heavy.

**Stacey Winklepleck 29:39**

So for summertime tops, what would be some of your favorite design elements?

**Felecia O'Connell 29:45**

I'm a bit of a neckline person I like you know, I really like bento necks, and they're sort of straight across and I like sort of shaped v-necks not just like a straight v but like a kind of curved V and I like these tops with low back necklines. So I'm kind of trying to figure out some things to do. I actually, I have two of my kids are twins. And they're girls. And they're really alike in many ways, but they're really different in other ways. So I'm trying to come up with a few designs that I can use, like the same essentially fabric, but like, like one of them really like small clump kind of things. And the other one is sort of more like loose kind of stuff. So I'm sorry, what was it? What was the actual question? All right, I just asked what some of your favorite design elements. Oh, my favorite. But what you're talking about is perfectly fine, too. Okay, yeah. So like, you know, sleeveless stuff, but mostly like neckline treatments. I just feel like they make such a statement. You know, that, you know, you don't really have to do a whole lot else, you know, if you do something funky with the neckline. Hmm.

**Stacey Winklepleck 30:56**

So you're saying you're knitting stuff for your daughters designing stuff for you, with your daughters in mind?

**Felecia O'Connell 31:03**

Yeah, I'm working on that. Like, it's a little tough. Like, it's really strange, because I think that they're, in so many ways, their aesthetic is the same, like they like the same kind of prints or the same kind of colors. But then the styles are so different. So it's sort of making me think, more like, you know, what I said initially about how one of the things I liked about sewing was, it made me realize, like, any garment can look exactly like I want. I'm thinking like, if my girls never dressed like they were, never those kind of twins. But I could also maybe make something that is sort of similar but different enough, that might appeal to the two of them. So only one of them is in it. Well, you know, they both have done some knitting, but one of them has actually started to really be a knitter. And the other one is just a dabbler. Yeah, that is kind of awesome.

**Stacey Winklepleck 31:57**

That's, that's just always really fun. I'm not sure how old are they again?

**Felecia O'Connell 32:02**

They are 18. Okay. Yeah, I think when I met you, they were still kind of like children. Oh, likewise, the oldest is my son. And he's 21, which is kind of a shocker because it was when he was a toddler when I

switched from being a seller to a knitter because I couldn't keep my sewing machine out. He was one of these turn and push a button kind of kids. And I just was always finding my sewing machine in some form of dismantled state. And so I just put it away. And I started to do more knitting. And it was, that was really what made me start that, and I can barely believe that was like 20 years ago.

**Stacey Winklepleck 32:52**

As we were saying earlier, time just has no meaning right now.

**Felecia O'Connell**

Now, it's just crazy.

**Stacey Winklepleck**

So you're the design you're talking about for your daughters. Is it something that can be customizable, like a crop or like a longer, longer length?

**Felecia O'Connell 33:08**

Yeah, I mean, that's exactly what I'm hoping to do. And it's-- so I'm saying like, it's sort of for my daughters, but then I also noticed that there have been times that like... Now that my daughters are in college, like I forget where this was, oh, I don't know, they have they, they're like, sort of young adult type. So they have kind of different lives. And I met up with one of my daughters, and I hadn't seen her earlier in the day, and we were wearing really similar things. And I thought, Oh, how funny then she was like, Look, mommy rich morning. And I thought, you know, there should be a way that like, you know, if she has a best that I really like that I wouldn't wear the same type of that, that she would because she again, she's the one who likes cropped small things. And I would I'm just not my thing. So I would much prefer something that's like a bit looser. And so I'm working on some designs that are absolutely customizable, not just like, between people in the same generation, but perhaps even people of different generations. Now, just because I feel like, you know, we're all in some ways, similar, you know, we all look, look out there and see, like, these colors look so nice together. You know, we all have some affinity for maybe similar types of trends. You know, everyone's wearing vests these days. But we don't all want the same vest, you know, we don't all want, you know, like sort of, you know, the grandpa style. But maybe we like those colors in the grandpa style like that looks like sort of Harris tweed or something. But maybe we can use those colors in a different way for a different person. And then it's sort of you know, because my girls, like I said, They're twins, but they're so different. I like the idea of working on something that is using so much of the same things, but using it in a different enough way that would appeal to both individual people.

**Stacey Winklepleck 34:53**

I think that's wonderful. Actually. I'm sitting here thinking I'm like, Yeah, like one of my best friends like we have different stuff, tastes and styles. And this would be like a really cute little project for us to both wear, I mean, not wearing the same Yeah, because I still just like, if it's a if it's a pattern, I really like being able to adapt it for her who has a different style than me. So I think it's, I think it's fabulous. I'm so glad you've been designing again, it was really wonderful. I was just a side note, like, a few weeks ago,

when you had submitted something for a collection, it didn't quite fit the collection, or we couldn't fit it in. But it was just like, oh, you're designing again. I hadn't seen anything yet. So long.

**Felecia O'Connell 35:33**

Yeah, I took a break. I don't even know why I think it you know, it was a whole bunch of I guess, like, you know, kids going off to college, because my kids are all similar ages, they're two years apart my son, and then my daughter's kids going off to college, and then the pandemic and well, you know, so it's just and my work is like, my day job gets very busy sometimes. And I think I just sort of like, somehow I was doing a bunch of knitting on my own, but I wasn't, I just couldn't muster up the wherewithal to, like, you know, get a design together. And I also feel very sketching challenge. So I'm always a little nervous about, you know, trying to sketch whether what I think my design is gonna look like I was listening to the, to the podcast episode where you interviewed Tian, and, and she was sort of encouraging people to, like, get over that fear of submitting designs. And you know, and I totally agreed with her because I know it is very scary. Because if, because you're really putting yourself out there, but at the, you know, at the same, you know, the same time, it's really not like, it's the kind of fear that's totally conquerable just, you know, just put it it was more, put it in the envelope and send it but just like just hit send, just hit send, and people will give you feedback. And you'll find out you know how you do and you might find that you really enjoy it. So, you know, that's sort of how I discovered that I actually really liked design.

**Stacey Winklepleck 36:58**

Yeah, that's thank you for repeating that because I keep wanting to tell people that I'm like, I'm sorry, we can't take everything but please do submit it's not that we hate it. It's just it won't work for that particular collection, but it could work for a different collection or it could work for a single pattern. But anyway, sure. So where can people find you online

**Felecia O'Connell 37:18**

Everywhere I am fleecier. f l e e c i e r. Then everywhere for me is literally just Ravelry and Instagram as of now I just I'm not that social media tied in but yeah, that's that's where I am and I try to post to Instagram, you know, I have it goes in fits and starts I try to post to Instagram periodically. And, and and likewise. Ravelry I just Ravelry I pop in and out of really sporadically. So but yeah, if anyone wants to wants to find find any of my stuff, that's where they'll see it.

**Stacey Winklepleck 37:52**

Yep. And you can find Felecia O'Connells patterns on our site, as well as on Ravelry. So, thank you so much for talking to me today. Felecia, it was wonderful to see you and hear you again.

**Felecia O'Connell 38:05**

Thank you so much for inviting me onto your podcast. Stacey. It's been really great to see you again and to talk to you guys. It's really been fun and really My pleasure.

**Lee Meredith 38:18**

This podcast was originally created by **Kelley Petkun**

**Stacey Winklepleck 38:22**

It is produced and hosted by me Stacey Winklepleck and Lee Meredith

**Lee Meredith 38:26**

with additional content from Felecia O'Connell.

**Stacey Winklepleck 38:30**

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**Lee Meredith 38:33**

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**Stacey Winklepleck 38:37**

Transcripts by Michele Fitzgerald.

**Lee Meredith 38:39**

We've recorded this episode in Portland, Oregon, where we are currently melting.

**Stacey Winklepleck 38:44**

A big thank you to our friends over at Connecting Threads Podcast and WeCrochet Podcast where we're all keeping the craft in crafting.

**Lee Meredith 38:51**

And From everyone here at Knit Picks. Thank you for joining us.

**Stacey Winklepleck 38:55**

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**Lee Meredith 39:06**

All the yarn tools and patterns mentioned in this episode, along with all the inspiration and editor could need can be found on our website at [knitpicks.com](http://knitpicks.com).

**Stacey Winklepleck 39:17**

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**Lee Meredith 39:37**

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