

Crazy Cat Artists



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMI4Qs7it2Q> (22 Cat Crazy Artists)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ir0V1O2VhvY> (Use first)

History of Cats in Art

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnvyPkMfhKY> (5.37)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwK5ukue0Pw> (23 mins. Cats at the MET)

Ancient Egyptian Cats

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Di8noAqEQKg>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTnNIKJNyeU&t=29s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flkCmQvjgZ0> (14:30)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7H32ycNHno> (Bastet)

Nazca Cat

A new discovery on the side of the Mirador Natural Hill in Peru reveals that common feline activities—namely sprawling out in the most comfortable position—have remained relatively stable throughout the last 2,000 years. This week, archaeologists unearthed a 120-foot-wide etching of a cat at the [Nazca Lines](#) site in Peru, which is home to a series of geoglyphs depicting a spider, monkey, hummingbird, whale, and fish. The feline rendering dates back to the Late Paracas period between 200-100 BC, making it the oldest in the area.

With bulbous eyes and a striped tail, the now-faded creature was created by stripping the top layers of soil to reveal the lighter-colored bedrock beneath, with lines ranging from 12 to 16 inches thick. “The figure was barely visible and was about to disappear due to its location on a fairly steep slope and the effects of natural erosion,” the Peruvian Ministry of Culture said in [a release](#).

The area is located in the Nazca Desert, which is about 250 miles south of Lima, and is recognized as [a UNESCO World Heritage site](#). Although the cat predates Nazca culture—according to the ministry, feline renderings were common in [Paracus society](#) and found on textiles, ceramics, and other iconographic objects—similar prehistoric drawings influenced many of the geoglyphs found at the Nazca Lines site. (via [Gizmodo](#))

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sBT0im8_2g&t=2s



Cats in Medieval Art

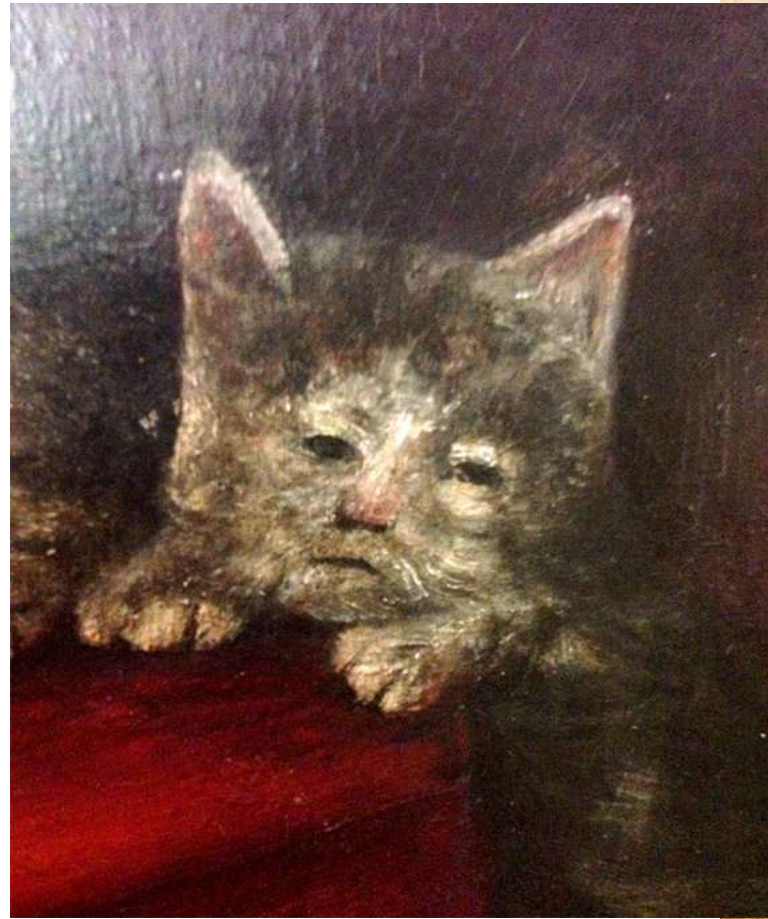
The ancient Egyptians saw cats as sacred animals and incorporated their likeness into relief carvings, papyrus paintings, and tomb decorations. During the Middle Ages, however, the Catholic Church had a [less favorable view of cats](#), due to their association with paganism and witchcraft. As a result, cats were warded off from cities and even tortured.

Despite their bad reputation, cats were still part of Medieval life in Europe—mostly providing pest control for urban centers—and they permeated much of the art created during this period. However, these portrayals aren't known for their accuracy. Instead, paintings of **cats in Medieval art** are known for their humorously strange appearances, which is perhaps tied to their poor standing in European society in the Middle Ages. These illustrations vary from kitties with human-like faces to cats walking on their hindlegs to lions that don't look very catlike at all.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ny-ujkmMnil>







Japanese Lucky Cat (*Maneki-neko*)

It is commonly believed that *maneki-neko* originated in [Tokyo](#) (then named [Edo](#)), while some insist it was [Kyoto](#).

The most famous folklore concerns [Ii Naotaka](#) during the [Kan'ei era](#) (1622-1624) of the Edo period. On their way back from the falconry, Naotaka's party stopped at [Gōtoku-ji](#) Temple to rest after being beckoned by a cat at the temple gate. A violent thunderstorm soon followed, and they marvelled at the cat's good fortune and thanked the temple priest for his hospitality. As a result, Gōtoku-ji became the family temple of the [Ii clan](#), and the temple prospered under their patronage. In honour of the cat that brought prosperity to the temple, *maneki-neko* was created in later generations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXX79eaZsOg&t=9s>



Utagawa Kuniyoshi

Fifty-five cats appear in this triptych print by the Japanese illustrator [Utagawa Kuniyoshi](#) (1797–1861). One of them crawls out of a basket; a few catch rats; others eat fish. They look terrific but is there a reason behind the illustration? To my eye, the image is clearly more than just a series of sketches. It makes me wonder do their actions carry some kind of meaning, or are they simply the work of a man who loved cats? To answer these questions, it's best to travel back to a time long before the print was made and discover where this obsession with cats all began.

In the sixth century, Buddhist monks travelled from China to Japan. On these journeys, they brought scriptures, drawings, and relics – items that they hoped would help them introduce the teachings of Buddhism to the large island nation. They also had something else on board that would leave a lasting impression; to guard over their possessions, they travelled with domesticated cats. They believed that these creatures could bring good luck and that they would be able to guard the sacred texts from the hungry mice that had stowed on board their ships. While the lasting influence of Buddhism was certainly something that the monks had hoped for, it is unlikely that any of them could have imagined just how big an impression their feline companions would also make on the country.

<https://illustrationchronicles.com/obsessed-with-cats-the-ukiyo-e-prints-of-utagawa-kuniyoshi>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJNA2LVXRCY>

市村羽衣

いさむし

一丁半



泉市

猫石の怪屋上五郎



泉市

一丁半

白瀬源十郎
二杯源節



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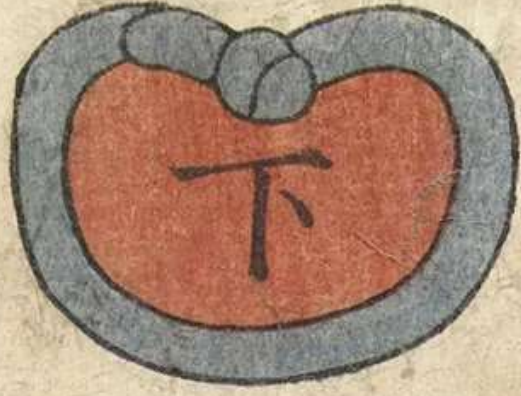
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Suzanne Valadon

[Suzanne Valadon](#) was a French painter and model of artists. In 1894 she became the first woman painter admitted to the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts. Valadon painted still lifes, portraits, flowers, and landscapes that are noted for their strong composition and vibrant colors. She was, however, best known for her candid female nudes that depict women's bodies from a woman's perspective. She was also a cat lover and often painted her cats, especially her favorite, the chubby Raminou.

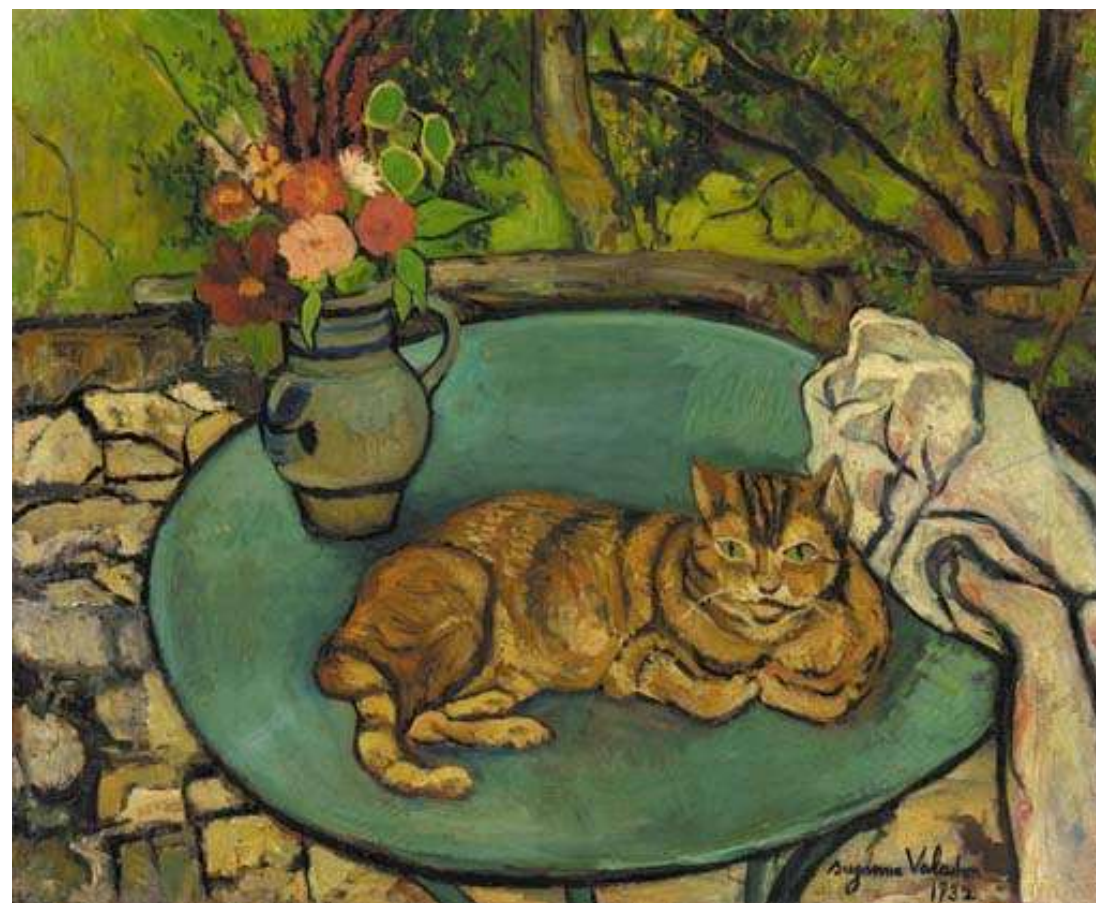
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPAxOxEwkRk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lL0wWXteaU&t=151s>

<https://awarewomenartists.com/en/decouvrir/lhistoire-de-suzanne-valadon/>







Pierre Bonnard

Here, Bonnard uses distortion to create a humorous image of this cat arching its back. A strange animal, exaggeratedly arched on its paws, with its head drawn down into its shoulders, eyes like slits and a cunning expression. It seems both tame and wild.

The painter spent a long time deciding on the shape and the position of the paws, as can be seen in the preparatory drawings. The x-ray of this work also reveals many changes, some of which are actually visible to the naked eye. "Art is not nature" he used to say, to the extent that his **White Cat** has become almost a caricature, "a comical and humorous image created through the genius of its master who observed and understood it so well" (Elisabeth Foucart-Walter).

<https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/bonnard/>

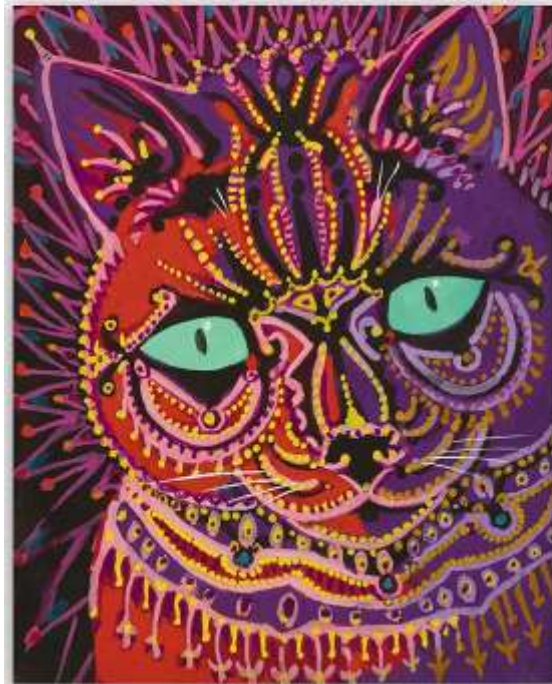


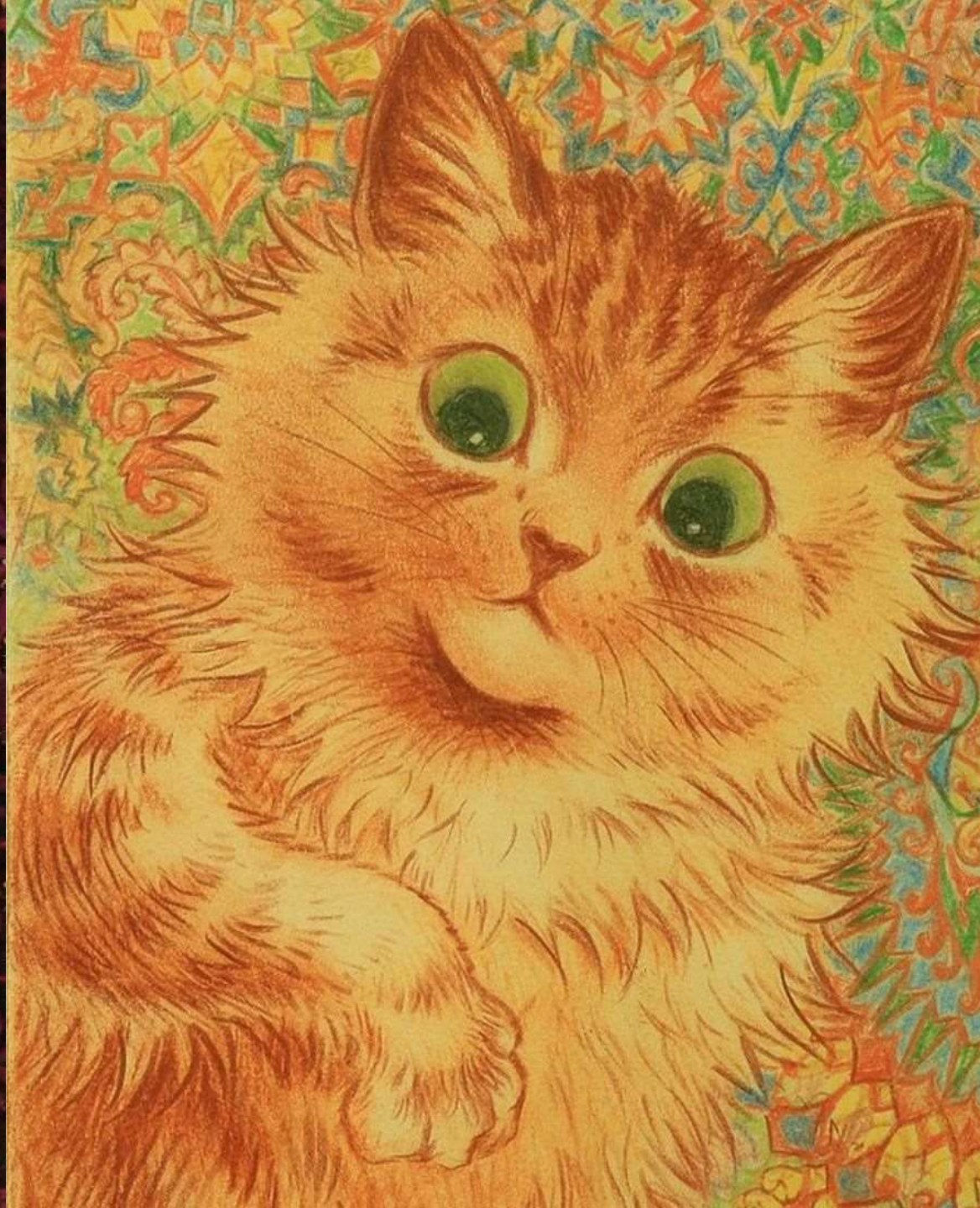


Louis Wain

Louis William Wain was an English artist best known for his drawings of anthropomorphised large-eyed cats and kittens. Wain was born in Clerkenwell, London. In 1881 he sold his first drawing and the following year gave up his teaching position to become a full-time illustrator.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtfaK1QBF44>











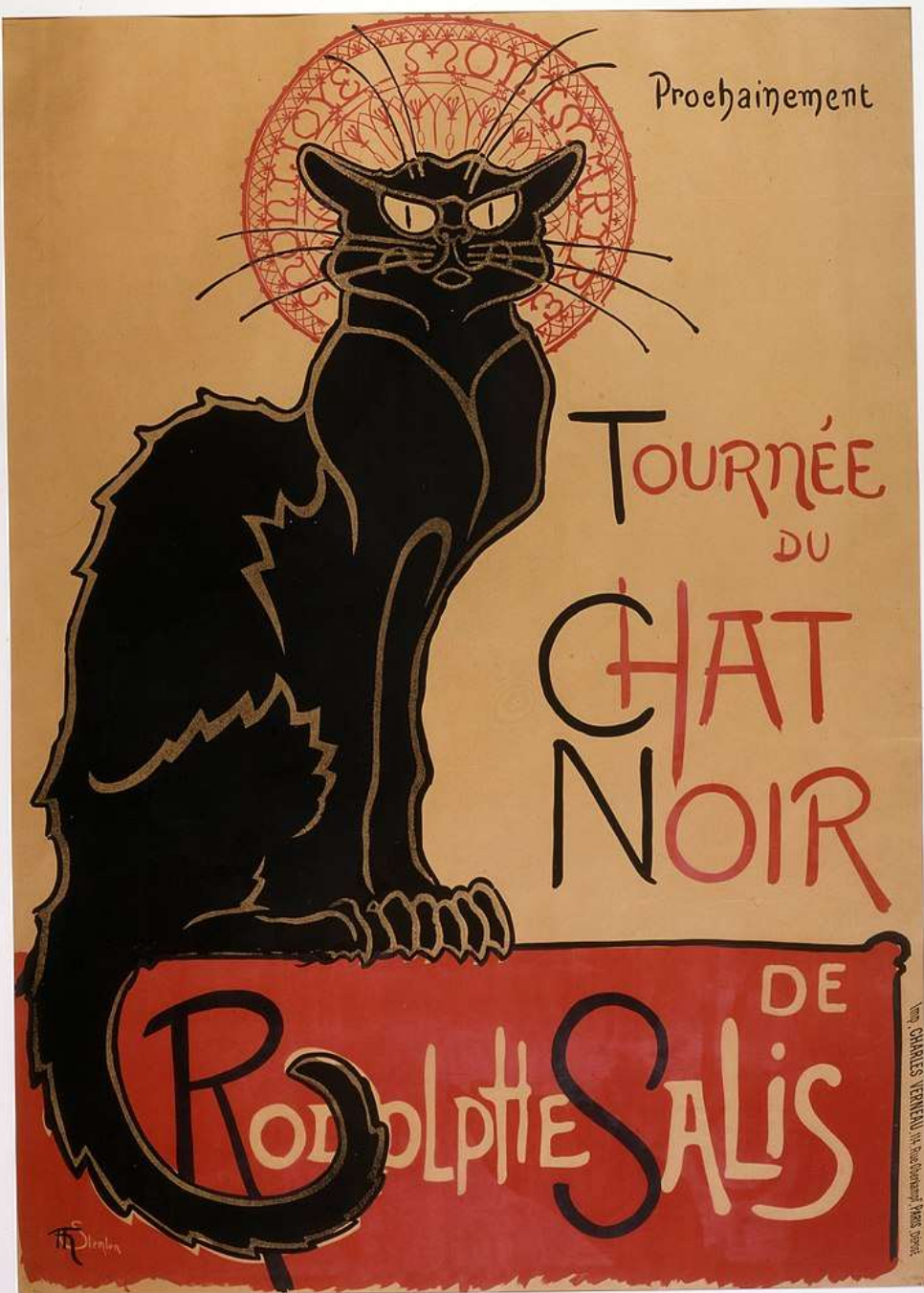
Theophile Steinlen

Théophile Alexandre Steinlen (November 10, 1859 – December 13, 1923), was a [Swiss](#)-born [French Art Nouveau](#) painter and printmaker. He was politically engaged and collaborated with anarchist and socialist press.

Born in [Lausanne](#), Switzerland,^[2] Steinlen studied at the [University of Lausanne](#) before taking a job as a designer trainee at a textile mill in [Mulhouse](#) in eastern France. In his early twenties he was still developing his skills as a painter when he and his wife Emilie were encouraged by the painter [François Bocion](#) to move to the artistic community in the [Montmartre Quarter](#) of [Paris](#).^[3] Once there, Steinlen was befriended by the painter [Adolphe Willette](#) who introduced him to the artistic crowd at [Le Chat Noir](#) that led to his commissions to do [poster art](#) for the cabaret owner/entertainer, [Aristide Bruant](#) and other commercial enterprises.

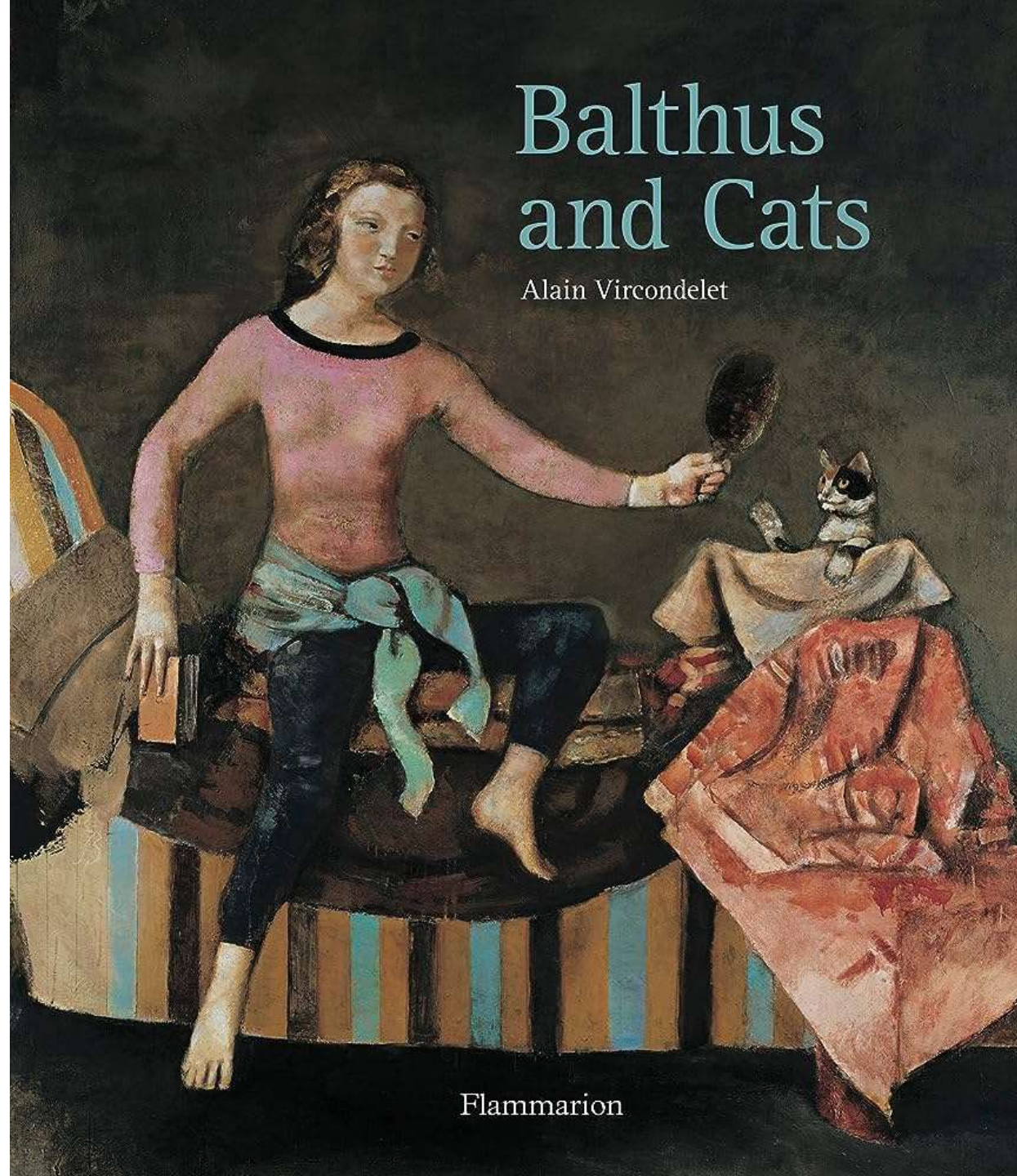
<https://www.pbs.org/video/antiques-roadshow-appraisal-1909-theophile-steinlen-summer-cat-lithograph/>





Balthus

Balthasar Klossowski de Rola, known as Balthus, was a Polish-French modern artist. He is known for his erotically charged images of pubescent girls, but also for the refined, dreamlike quality of his imagery. Throughout his career, Balthus rejected the usual conventions of the art world.









Takahashi Hiroaki

Takahashi Shōtei, born Hiroaki was a 20th-century Japanese woodblock artist in the shinsaku-hanga and later shin-hanga art movements







Henriette Ronner Knip

Henriëtte Ronner-Knip was a Dutch-Belgian artist chiefly in the Romantic style who is best known for her animal paintings; especially cats.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GHWxkKIsXk&t=18s>







Carl Kahler

Kahler was born in [Linz](#). From 19 October 1874 he studied at the [Academy of Fine Arts, Munich](#), with [Ludwig von Löfftz](#) and [Wilhelm Lindenschmit the Younger](#). After the end of his studies at the academy, he spent some time studying in Paris, before settling in [Munich](#).

Between 1881 and 1888 he exhibited his works in [Berlin](#), Munich and [Vienna](#). In 1885 he emigrated to Australia, and worked until 1890 in [Melbourne](#), where he painted three pictures of the [Melbourne Cup](#). In one of these paintings, *The Betting Ring*, every person in the crowd is an individual portrait.^[1]

He later emigrated to the United States. In 1891, commissioned by Kate Birdsall Johnson, he painted the picture [My Wife's Lovers](#) depicting 42 cats, which became extremely well known as a published print.^[2] From the time of this work he became increasingly known for his paintings of cats.

<https://www.sothebys.com/en/videos/first-look-carl-kahler-my-wifes-lovers>





Gertrude Abercrombie

Gertrude Abercrombie was an American painter based in Chicago. Called "the queen of the bohemian artists", Abercrombie was involved in the Chicago jazz scene and was friends with musicians such as Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, and Sarah Vaughan, whose music inspired her own creative work.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwgbscC950M&t=4s>











Abercrombie '56

Leonard Tsuguharu Foujita

Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita (藤田 嗣治, *Fujita Tsuguharu*, November 27, 1886 – January 29, 1968) was a Japanese–French painter. After having studied Western-style painting in Japan, Foujita traveled to [Paris](#), where he encountered the international modern art scene of the [Montparnasse](#) neighborhood and developed an eclectic style that borrowed from both Japanese and European artistic traditions.

Foujita reached the height of his fame in Paris in the 1920s. His watercolor and oil works of nudes, [still lifes](#), and self-portraits were a commercial success and he became a notable figure in the Parisian art scene.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4z3Z-mKHYg&t=15s>







Dali

Inspired by Salvador Dalí's painting, this photograph by Philippe Halsman has changed portrait photography. In a world before Photoshop, it took the ingenuity of Salvador Dali and photographer Philippe Halsman—plus some deft cat-throwing—to produce this gravity-defying scene.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbi94KWIDwQ>

Leonor Fini

Leonor Fini was an Argentine-Italian surrealist painter, designer, illustrator, and author, known for her depictions of powerful and erotic women.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhlGbQ_SH78&t=8s
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR-ERiBewEc>







1/24

Long film



Leon Fui



Leon Fui

Tomoo Inagaki

Tomoo Inagaki was born in 1902 in Tokyo. As a high school student and later as an employee of a steel company he dabbled as a self-taught artist in oil painting and in printmaking. [Koshiro Onchi](#) had published an art magazine about poetry and prints, called *Poems and Hanga*. The young **Tomoo Inagaki** was impressed by the modern prints published in this magazine - many by Koshiro Onchi and [Unichi Hiratsuka](#). It gave him the last kick to make a decision for an artist career. He quit his job at the steel company and attended a commercial art class for two years.

As a graduate of a commercial high school, Inagaki had a natural sense for the financial aspects of life. He decided to go into commercial arts instead of becoming a fine but starving artist. He soon established his own commercial art studio in Tokyo.

Inagaki could make a living with his commercial design studio. This enabled him to continue to work as a print maker. But World War II put an end to his design studio.

Tomoo Inagaki died in 1980 in Tokyo.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=tEzMO8M-X-E>







Andy Warhol

25 Cats Named Sam and One Blue Pussy by Andy Warhol

In the 1950s, Andy Warhol worked as a freelance children's-book illustrator while sharing a Lexington Avenue apartment with his mother and 25 cats. He apparently never intended to host an entire cat colony in his apartment, but the head count continued to grow after he decided to find a companion for his first cat, Hester.

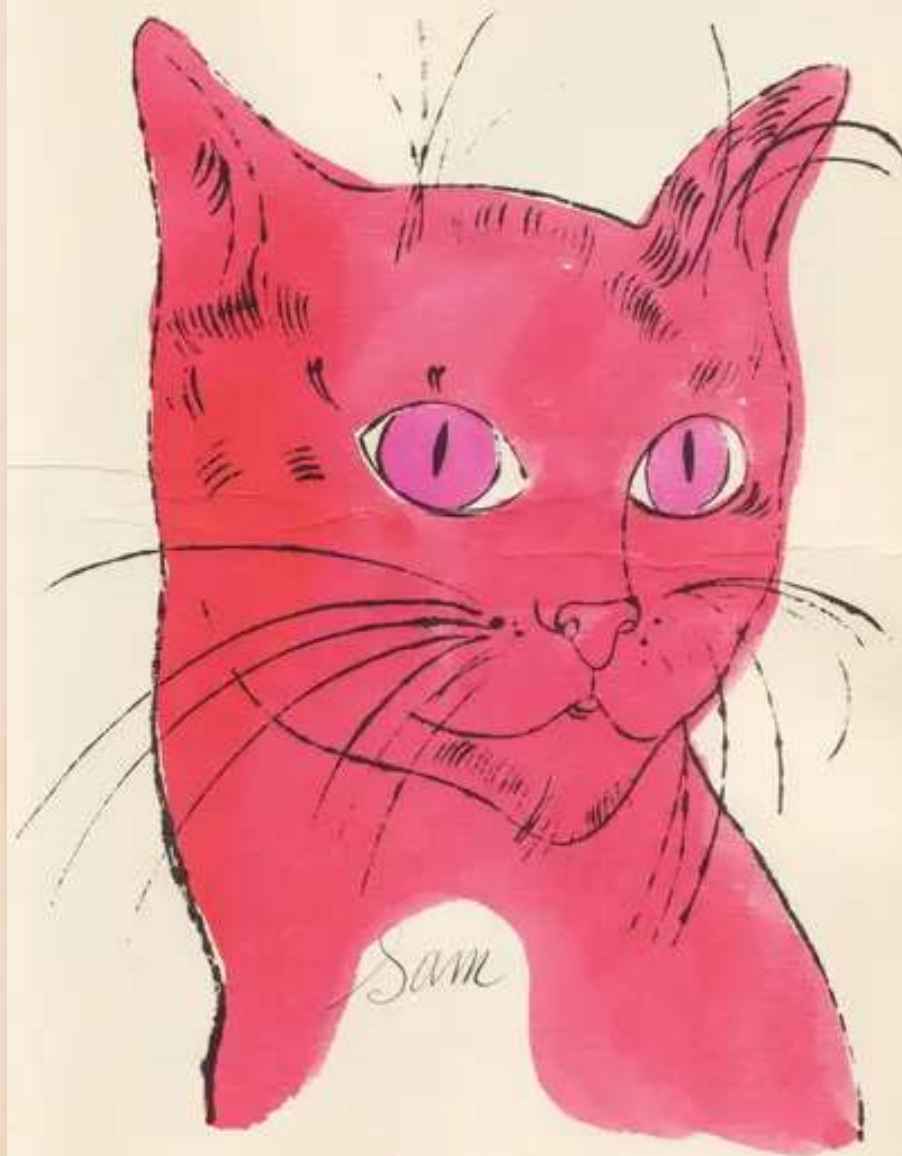
Warhol created colorful lithographs of the felines in his spare time. In 1954, the artist released the drawings, accompanied by his mother's calligraphy, in the limited-edition book ***25 Cats Name Sam and One Blue Pussy***. While original copies of the book are hard to come by — Christie's once estimated one copy at \$40,000 to \$60,000 — a reprint of a 1987 edition is available from AbeBooks, along with a small number of offset lithographs.

Untrue to its grammatically flawed title, *25 Cats* features prints of only 16 different cats. Except for the cat named Blue Pussy, each one is named Sam, after the first cat Warhol bought to keep Hester company.

<https://www.abebooks.com/art/andy-warhol-cats/>



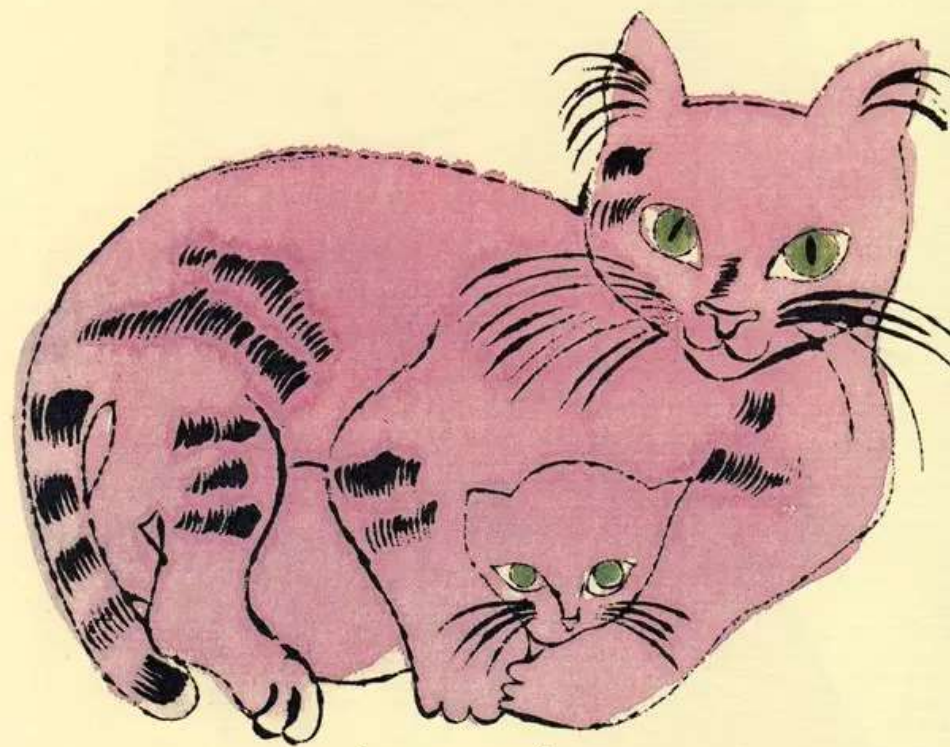
Sam



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Sam



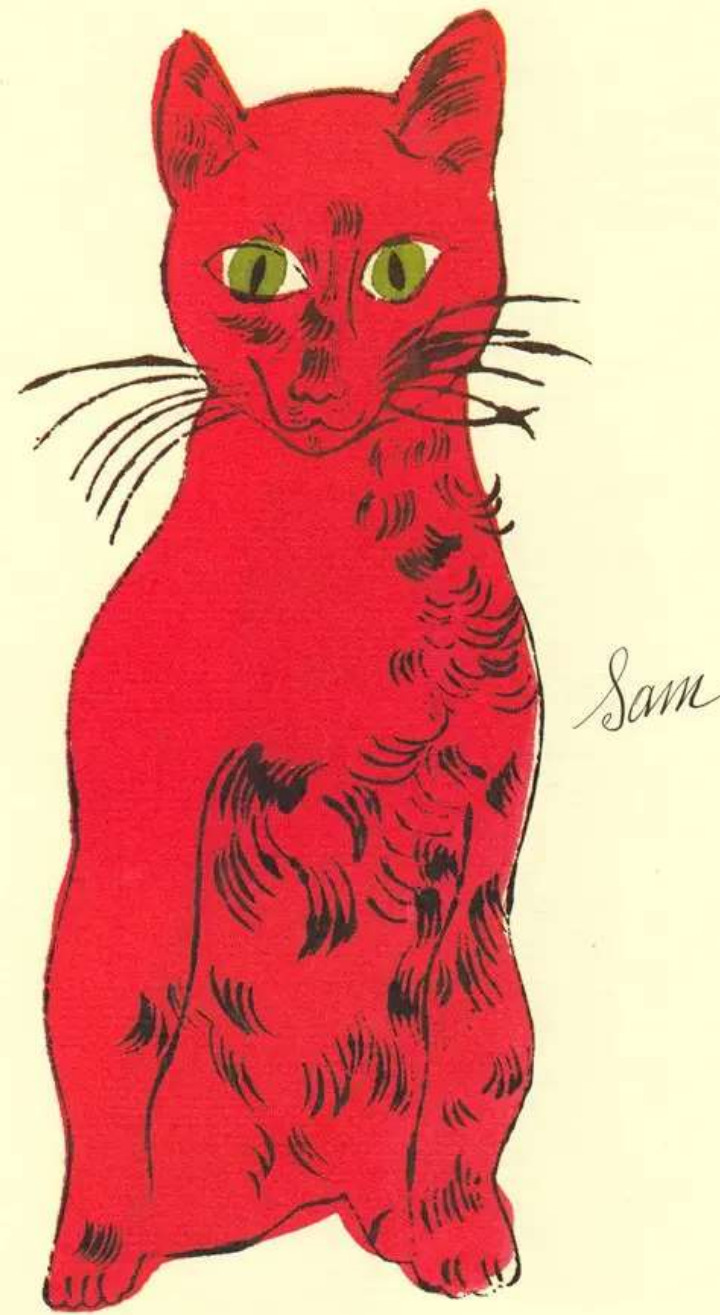
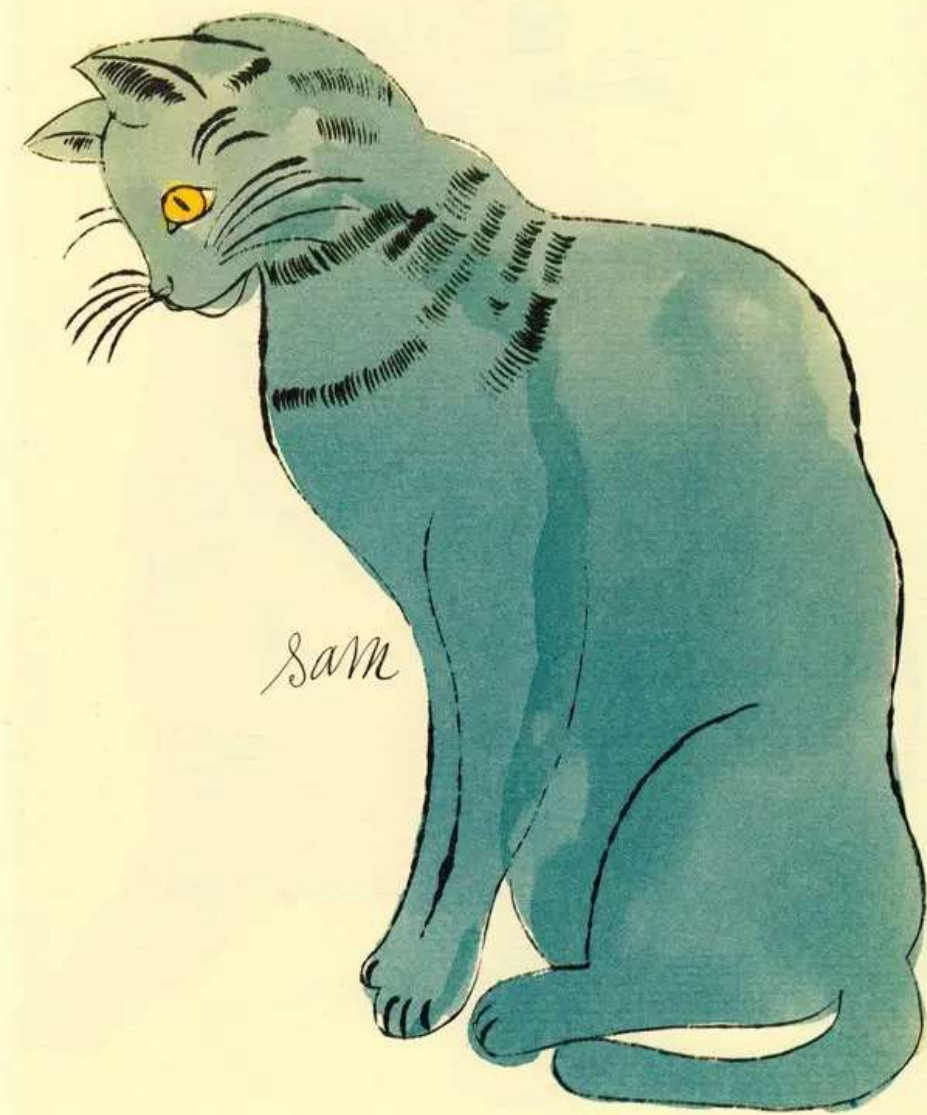
Sam Sam



Sam



Sam



Walasse Ting

Walasse Ting was a Chinese-American visual artist and poet. His colorful paintings have attracted critical admiration and a popular following. Common subjects include nude women and cats, birds and other animals.

<https://delaive.com/artists/walasse-ting/> (Dutch/English)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBExyOTiRos&t=14s> (use this)

採花大盜



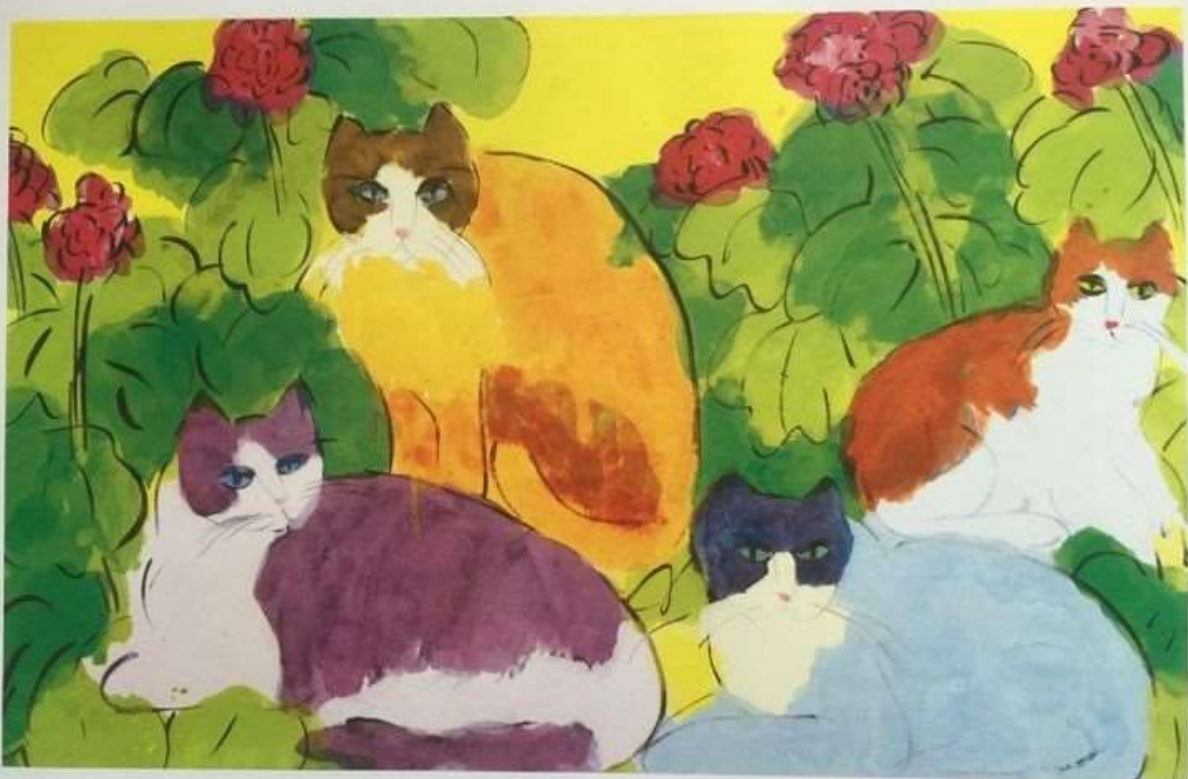


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Artist Proof June 85-

Shag

Josh Agle was born August 31, 1962, the first of nine children in [Sierra Madre, California](#). He spent his early childhood in [Hawaii](#), and later moved with his family to [Los Angeles](#). While Agle was attending high school, his family moved to [Utah](#). In the mid-1980s, he returned to [California](#), to study economics and architecture at [California State University, Long Beach](#).^[1]

He changed his major to graphic design and achieved his first successes as an illustrator while in college, with work for the magazines [Forbes](#), [Time](#) and [Entertainment Weekly](#). Also, he designed record covers for bands in the area. When he designed a cover for his own band, the [Swamp Zombies](#), he first used the pseudonym Shag, composed of the last two letters of his first name and the first two letters of his surname, so as not to make it look as if the cover artist was merely a band member, but that the band was successful enough to hire a graphic designer.^[1]

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvOuPQ8Ve7Y> (4 mins)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Fhqw_3MXhE&t=161s (18 mins)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXE7H1bby0U>













Totoro

The iconic round-bellied [Totoro](#) of [Studio Ghibli](#)'s ([previously](#)) *My Neighbor Totoro* stars as part of a broad array of new collectible ephemera paying homage to the anime icon. Created by teams of craftspeople connected to [Nakagawa Masashichi Shoten](#), the series translates the fluffy, two-dimensional character into adorable wooden sculptures made of camphor, the tree Totoro occupies in the film. Paired with textiles, ceramic works, and paper boxes all featuring the character, the collection follows [the highly anticipated opening](#) of [Ghibli Park](#) late last year, giving fans of Hayao Miyazaki another opportunity to enjoy his beloved animations.

The Totoro objects will be available through a lottery opening on March 1—find details on how to join on [the Nakagawa Masashichi Shoten site](#). Watch [the video](#) below and visit [Spoon & Tamago](#) for more insight into the process behind the collection and an upcoming opportunity to view a live demonstration.

<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/tags/japan/page/2/>



Japan's Cat Islands

Aoshima, also known as Cat Island, is an island in Ehime Prefecture, Japan, known for its large number of feline residents and small number of human residents.

There is a tiny fishing village off Japan's west coast, where humans are outnumbered by a burgeoning population of felines. The locals call it Cat Island. Seth Doane reports on the scenic spot where scores of cats are proving to be a potent tourist draw.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGrIf8ww0cA&t=30s> (use this)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVz4JVPp3-4&t=5s>
- <https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2022/12/masayuki-oki-cats/> Photographer





Nicolas Party

Nicolas Party is a Swiss visual artist living and working in New York City and Brussels. He is known for his multi-media interdisciplinary immersive exhibitions. He received his BFA from the Lausanne School of Art in 2004 and his MFA from the Glasgow School of Art, in Glasgow, Scotland in 2009.

<https://hirshhorn.si.edu/exhibitions/nicolas-party-draw-the-curtain/>

<https://www.hauserwirth.com/ursula/38409-nicolas-party-pastel/>





C215

Born in 1973 as Christian Guémy, the Paris-based French street artist known as C215 has swiftly moved in to being one of the top stencil artists in the world. He is considered one of the top veterans still in the game, with his moniker derived from a prison cell in which he was once locked away.

[C215](#) has been creating street art for about 20 years. He paints, draws, and makes stencils, and he truly enjoys painting in the streets. The stencils make it possible to paint beautiful street art portraits in unauthorized locations. They are often enhanced through the use of graffiti markers. C215 also began using spray painting techniques in 2005. He believes that graffiti is focusing on a name by marking a territory and street art is placing art in the perfect location.

As he travels the world with spray cans in hand, C215 depicts what he describes as “things and people that society aims at keeping hidden.” Homeless people, street kids, smokers, and refugees are all muses for his unique brand of intricate stencil work that reduce his subject’s faces into sinewy outlines. One of his favorite things to depict are the faces of friendly felines that peer out from walls or on the sides of trash bins, oddly perfect and regal despite their rugged urban surroundings. Collected here are some of our favorite cats from the last two years or so, but you can see more up-to-date works on both [Flickr](#) and [Facebook](#).

- <https://www.streetartbio.com/artists/c215/>



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KORN M5K





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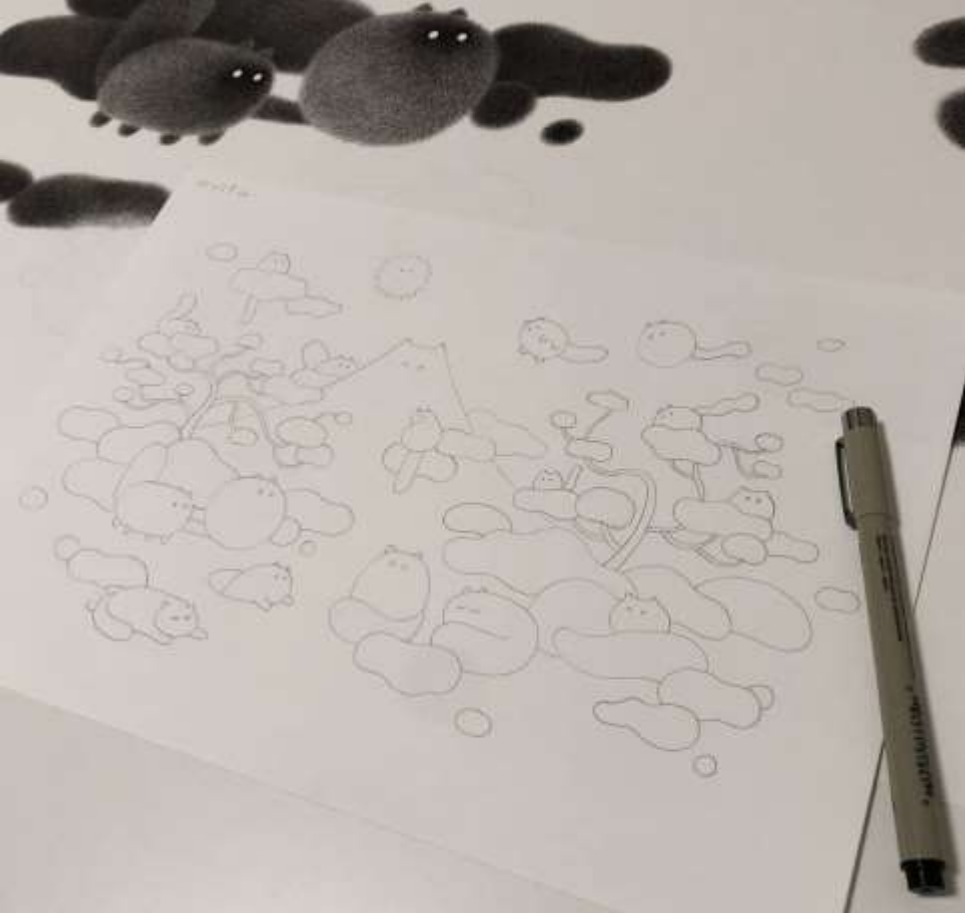


Kamwei Fong

According to long-held superstitions, a horde of black cats certainly indicates impending misfortune, but for [Kamwei Fong](#), a mass of the furry creatures is actually a fluffy utopia. Containing felines in various emotional and physical states—drowsy, peeved, and deep in slumber—“Wonderfurryland” features a diverse kitty population defined by their rotund bodies, splayed limbs, and puffed tails. Fong even inked cat-shaped environmental fixtures, like a moon, sun, and mountain, into the black-and-white landscape.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hna8tVcyv9w&t=38s>





Architects for Animals

[Architects for Animals](#) celebrated its 10th edition last month, inviting local architects and designers to build functional cat dwellings in response to the city's homeless cat population. The homes were auctioned off to benefit LA-based non-profit [FixNation](#), a charity organization that provides free spay/neuter services to stray, abandoned, and feral cats. Designs ranged from a modern kitty disco to a roller-coaster like structure, each placing a creative twist on feline shelters with a variety of different cat-safe materials.

More designs from previous Architects for Animals can be found on their [website](#). (via [Design Milk](#))

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6t2aRaIUXDY>



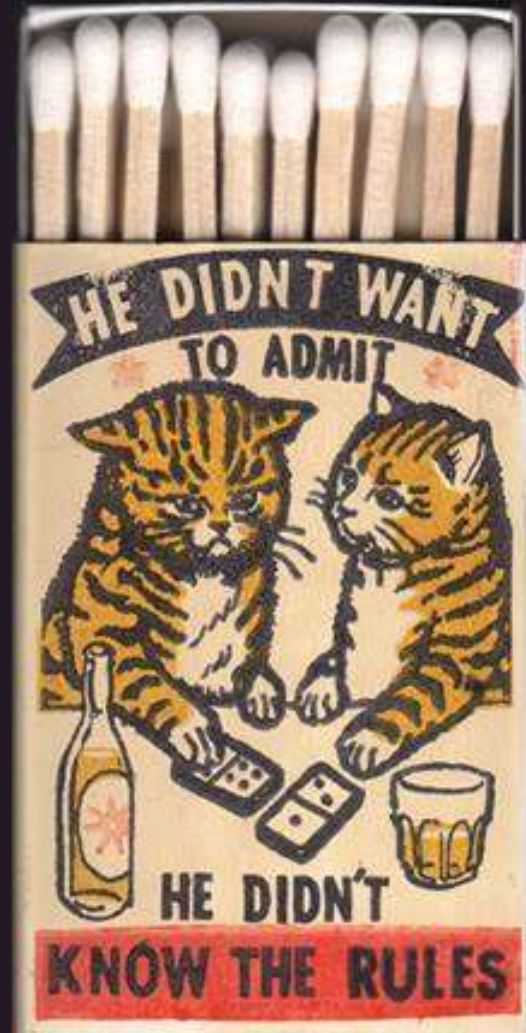


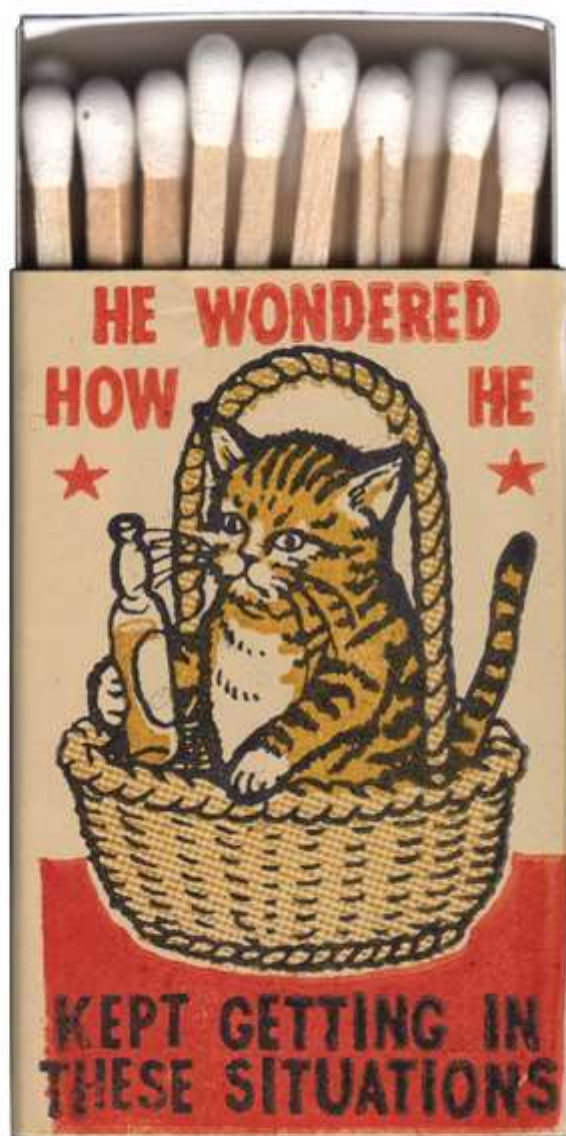


Arna Miller

Colorado-based artist Arna Miller uses vintage-style packaging, advertising, and illustrations as inspiration for her goofy creations. The serious historical aesthetic and matter-of-fact text subtly ridiculous, finding humor in imagining animals experiencing human emotions, ambitions, and failures.

The matchbox series “Strike Your Fancy,” which Miller made in collaboration with her husband [Ravi Zupa](#), shows cats staying out late and making dicey decisions. The series is on view at [Abstract](#) in Denver through June 30, 2018. Matchboxes are also for sale in [Miller](#) and [Zupa’s](#) online stores. You can see more of Miller’s clever artwork on her [website](#) and [Instagram](#).





Assignment Suggestions...

- Abstract your cat (or your neighbor's cat)
- Create a cat-motif inspired pattern or print