

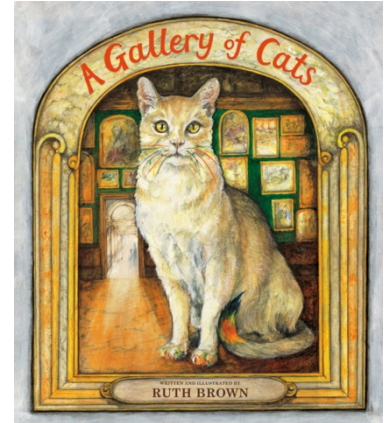
Make your own Gallery of Cats!

A GALLERY OF CATS is a unique, playful and sophisticated picture book by Ruth Brown which will appeal to children and adults. In it, Ruth showcases 13 famous painters, each with a very different style, and gets us interested in who they were. These notes show how you can use the book as a starting point to try out different art techniques and build a whole art project.

Ruth Brown attended the Royal College of Art and has been drawing and painting for over 40 years using traditional materials. In this book she uses oils, gouache, charcoal, water colour, pastels and a variety of papers to achieve a different style for each of the paintings.

'Brown, whose exceptional draughtsmanship makes all her books a feast, visits a gallery with a difference in this picture book about cats and artists. A book to lead readers to 13 painters from Mondrian to Munch and Kahlo to Klimt.' **Sunday Times Culture Magazine**

'What a lovely and memorable way to be introduced to the world of art inside the classroom or out of it.' **Books for Keeps**



Hardback: 978-1-912650-17-0

Paperback: 978-1-912650-45-3



Scallywag Press

Start off by sharing the book with your students.

This project can be for very young children or adapted for use right up to adults!

First of all, just read the book through and enjoy the fun of the verbal and visual jokes. Then:

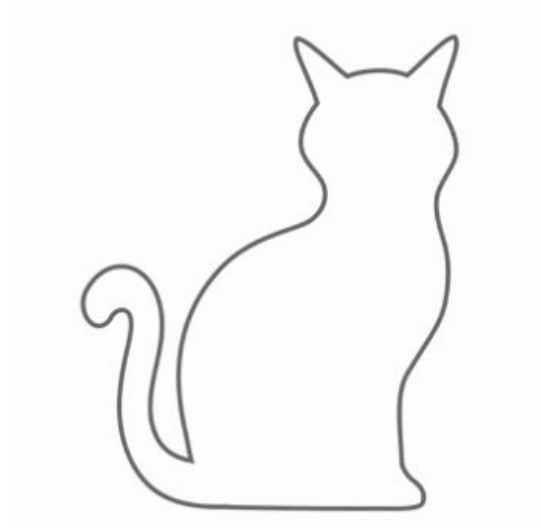
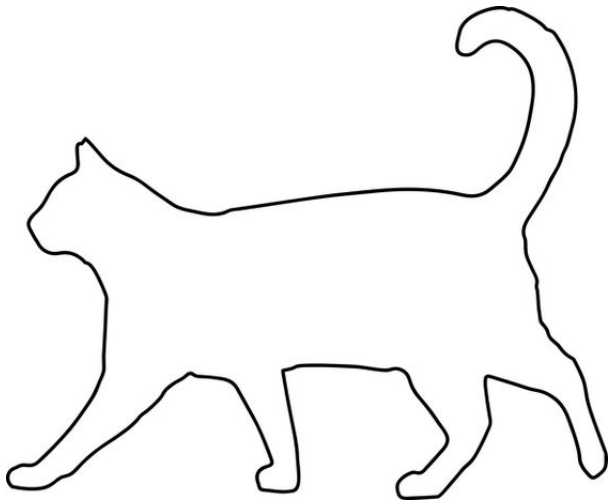
- Do they recognise the pictures alluded to?
- Have they heard of the painters?
- Do they know any facts about the painters – there are hints in the text. Perhaps they can find out more and write down 3 or more facts about each?
- What nationality were they, when did they live and where?
- Where are the pictures currently? Have they been to an art gallery?
- What art materials have been used to create each?
- What effect, mood, emotion is achieved in each painting and how do the different media help achieve that effect?

Now you're ready to begin the project!

You're going to make your own cats and decorate them in different styles, frame your creations and curate your own art exhibition.

First make the cat

- What you need:
 - Cat template printed or drawn onto paper
 - Scissors
- Instructions:
 - First print out the cat template or draw your cat on if you don't have a printer
 - Next, cut out the cat
 - Finally, paint it in the style of one of the artists from A Gallery of Cats



Now make your different styles of cat art!

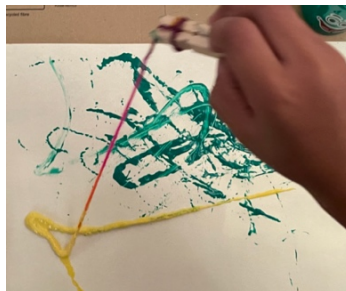
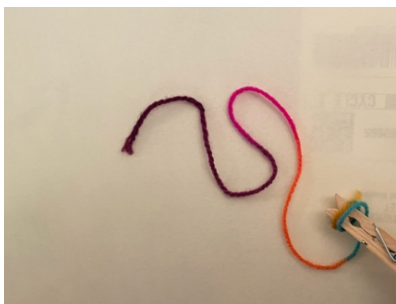
- **Jackson Pollock Cat**
Splatter painting

- What you need:

- Cat template printed onto white A4 paper
- Scissors
- Poster / liquid paints in a range of colours
- A palette, pot or small tray to put the paint in
- A piece of string approximately 8 inches long
- A clothes peg

- Instructions:

- Pour the paints into the palette
- Hold the string using the clothes peg
- Dip the string into one of the colours of paints
- Holding on to the clothes peg (so your hands don't get dirty!) drag and splash the string across the page
- Repeat doing the same with a different colour
- If you don't have string or a clothes peg, you can just splash the paint over the paper
- Your Pollock is purrrrrfect!



- **Gustav Klimt Cat**
Metallic patterns

- What you need:

- Cat template printed onto A4 paper (preferably black or brown paper so the paint shows up more clearly)
- Scissors
- Metallic paints or pens
- Optional: gold glitter paint or glue

- Instructions:

- Use your metallic paints or pens to get creative and decorate your cat template using different kinds of patterns similar to the ones in the Gustav Klimt painting in the book, for example:
 - Swirly patterns
 - Checkerboard squares
 - Circles and rectangles
 - Doodles
 - Say guten tag to Gustav!



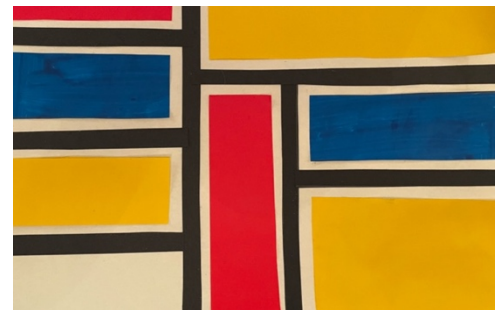
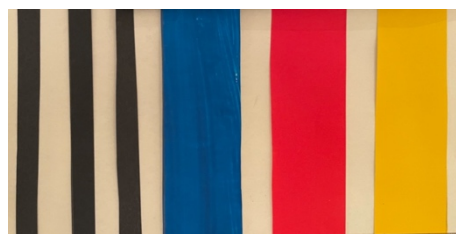
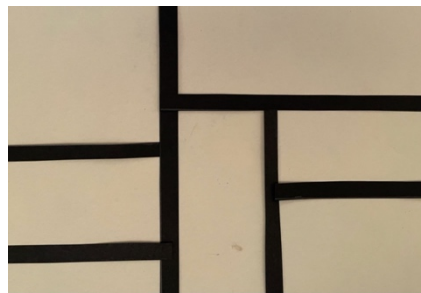
- **Mondrian Cat**
Collage

- What you need:

- Black, red, blue and yellow paper or card
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Cat template printed onto white A4 paper

- Instructions:

- Cut your black card /paper into thin strips about 1 or 2 cms thick and of varying lengths
- Arrange them by laying them out on top of your cat template in a pattern similar to the Mondrian painting in the book
- When you are happy with the design, glue the strips to the paper cat
- Next cut out your red, blue and yellow papers into rectangular and square shapes to fit inside the pattern of black strips you have stuck down
- When you are happy with the way you have laid them out, stick them down too
- Zeigo! You have your very own Mondrian inspired cat!



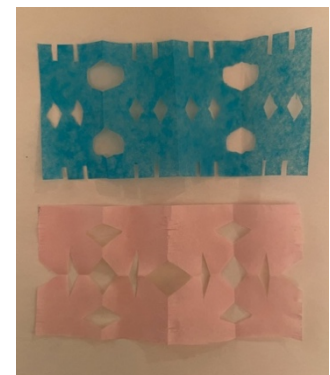
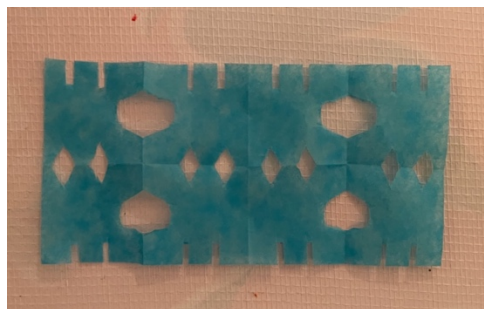
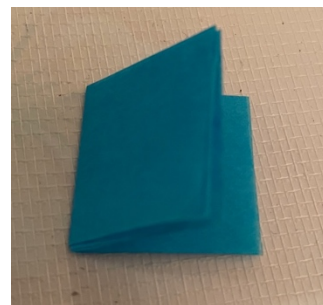
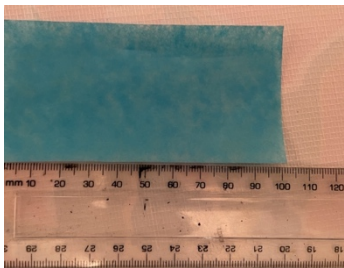
- **Frida Kahlo Cat**
Paper cutting / Papel Picado

- What you need:

- Cat template printed onto white A4 paper
- Tissue paper in a range of bright colours
- Scissors
- Glue or tape

- Instructions:

- Cut a piece of tissue paper in to a rectangle measuring approximately 10cms x 5cms (but can be slightly bigger or smaller than this and a range of sizes so long as it's a rectangle at will fit inside your cat template)
- Fold the paper into quarters, then fold it into half
- Next snip the edges to make your designs
- Then unfold your tissue paper
- When you have finished cutting out all your papel picados, use the glue to stick them along their top edges all over your cat template, lining them up so they appear to be hanging across the cat, like bunting
- Miaow Frida! You have your Mexican fiesta inspired cat!



- **Rene Magritte Cat**
Little fluffy clouds

- What you need:

- Cat template printed onto white A4 paper
- Scissors
- Blue paint
- Cotton wool (balls or roll)
- Glue

- Instructions:

- First paint your cat blue
- Wait for the paint to dry
- Next, pull apart your cotton wool to make different sized clouds
- Finally stick them on your blue cat, spacing them out all over the cat
- Voila, you have your little fluffy cat!



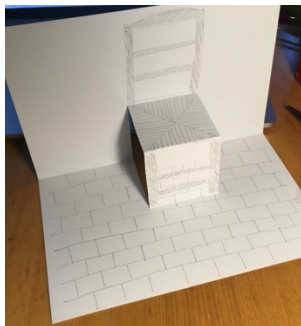
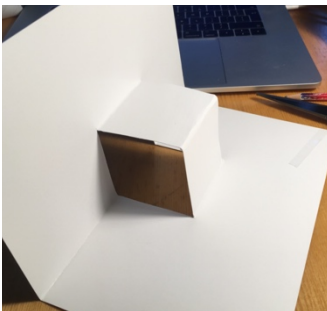
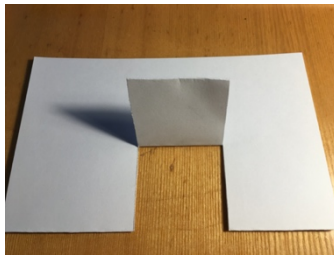
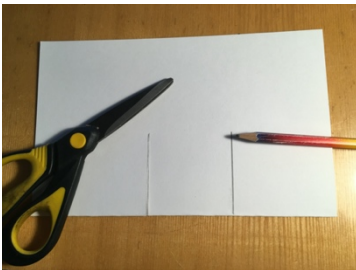
- **Vincent Van Gogh Cat**
Pop-up 3D art

- What you need:

- Two sheets of A4 white paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Coloured pencils

○ Instructions:

- First you are going to make the 3D chair using your A4 white sheet of paper....
- Place your paper in a portrait position and fold it in half
- Next draw two lines on it on the folded edge, to form the edges of the chair
- Cut along the lines so that you have a flap you can lift in the middle and fold it up
- Then open up the paper and the seat of your chair should pop up!
- Next open up your paper and lay it flat and use your coloured pencils to draw on the chair, floor tiles and colour in the wall at the back
- Make sure that you draw the floor tiles on the lower half of the chair too to make it look like you can see the floor tiles through the chair
- After that open up the card so the bottom half is resting on a table and the top part should stand upright, this is your Van Gough picture!
- Now for the cat....
- Draw the outline of a cat sitting upright on your second piece of paper
- Add an extra tab at the bottom so that once you cut your cat out, you can fold over a tab at the lower edge and this can stick to the chair
- Then cut out your cat and tab on it's lower edge and colour in your cat with your colouring pencils
- Finally, fold over the tab at the lower edge of the cat and stick it on to the seat of the chair so the cat is sitting upright (don't forget to tear off a little bit of his ear just like Van Gough and the cat in the painting!)
- *Le chat est assis sur la chaise!*



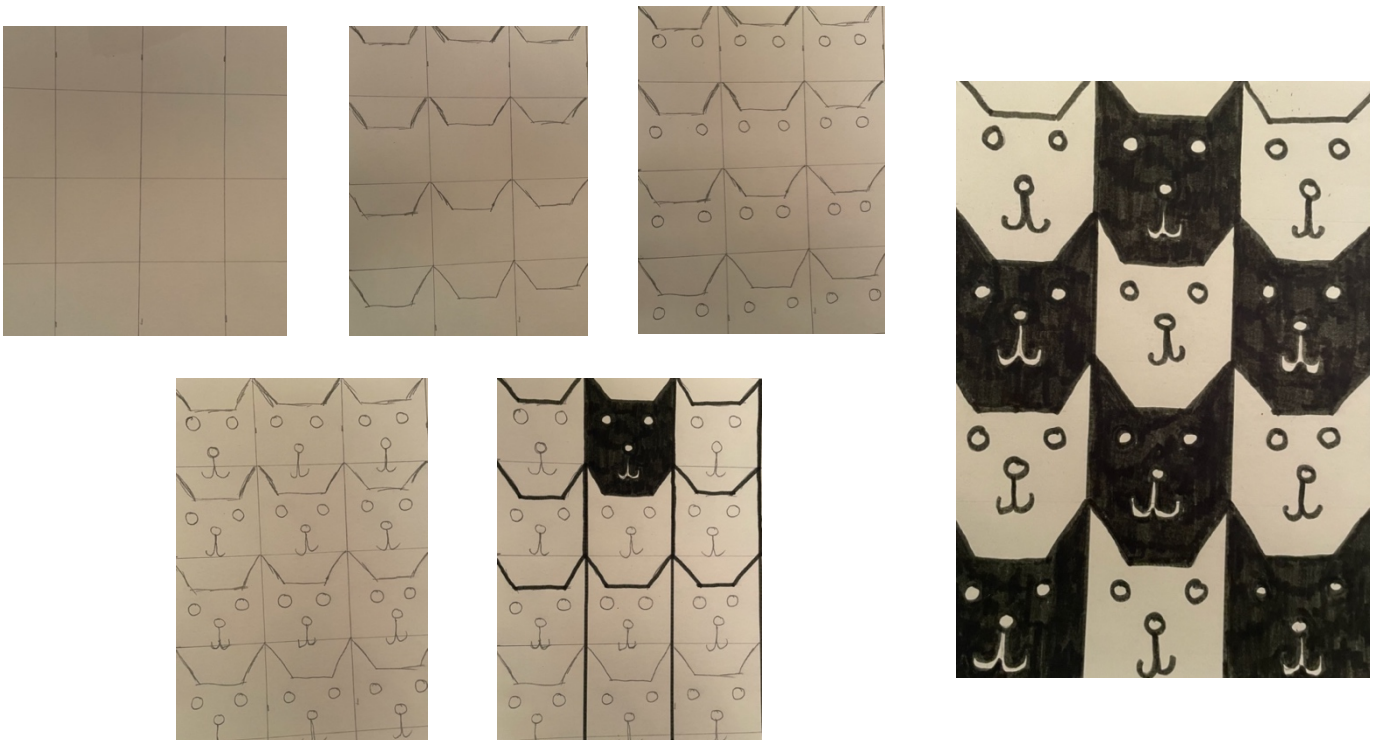
- **Cornelis Escher Cat**
Geometric art

- What you need:

- Cat template printed onto white A4 paper
- Pencil
- Black felt tip pen
- A piece of scrap paper to practice on
- A rubber
- A ruler

- Instructions:

- Escher is famous for making black and white pictures of different tessellating shapes (that means shapes that fit together)
- Have a look at the examples of the different tessellating cats and practice drawing them onto your scrap piece of paper with your pencil and ruler
- When you have worked out which cat you would like to draw and you are happy that they are fitting together, have a go at drawing them onto your big cat template, using your rubber if you need to
- Once you have drawn them all over your cat template, use your black felt tip pen to colour in every other cat
- What a terrific tessellating cat!



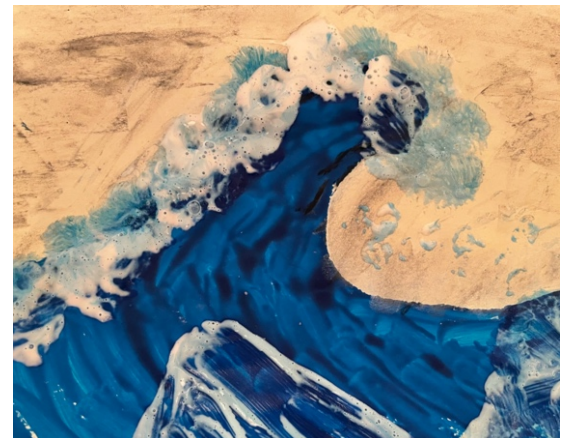
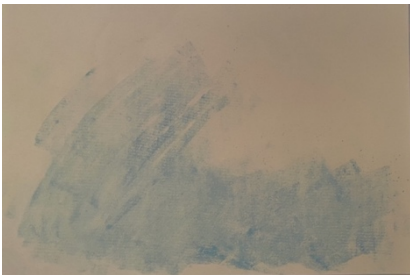
- **Hokusai Cat**
Great wave painting

- What you need:

- Cat template printed or drawn onto cream A4 paper
- Scissors
- Grey pastels or chalks
- Thick paints like poster paints or tempura paints in shades of blue and white
- Paint brushes
- A thick bristle brush like a shaving foam brush, a tooth brush, a pastry brush or a very big paint brush that is clean and that you have permission to use!

- Instructions:

- First decide where you want to draw your big wave on your cat
- Use your calks or pastels to rub and smudge onto the paper the first layer of the big wave shape – don't worry about being too neat with this
- Now you have the shape of the wave, next paint a layer of dark blue paint (again it's ok be messy, remember it's supposed to be water!)
- Once that is dry, add another layer using a lighter blue
- Once that is dry, get your white paint and paint the top of your wave to create the foam, then get you big bristly brush and dip it in the white paint and splodge it onto the blue water to create the frothy, foamy water
- Finally, give your great wave cat a big wave!



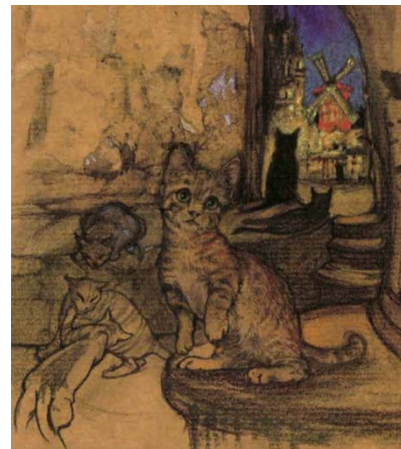
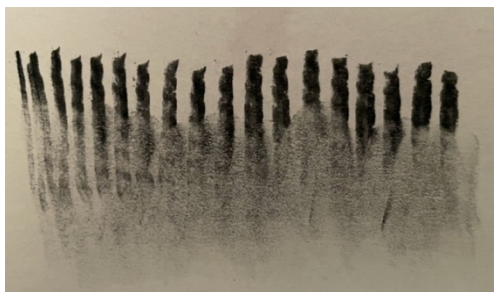
- **Toulouse-Lautrec Cat**
Charcoal

- What you need:

- Cat template printed or drawn onto cream or light brown A4 paper
- Scissors
- Charcoal or black pastels
- Your fingers!

- Instructions:

- Print out or draw your cat template
- We are going to make a cat that looks like the cat in Toulouse-Lautrec's picture in The Gallery of Cats
- Use your charcoal or black pastels to create fur on the cat
- You can use the long edge (rather than the pointed end) to smudge on the charcoal or pastels then use your fingers to rub it around. This will help to make it look like soft, strokable cat fur
- You can use the pointed edge gently to create little lines of fur and then smudge them in with your fingers
- When you have finished making the fur, use the pointed end of the charcoal or pastel to draw on the cat's eyes, nose, mouth and whiskers
- Bonjour Petit Bijou!



- **Edvard Munch Cat**
Swirly pastels

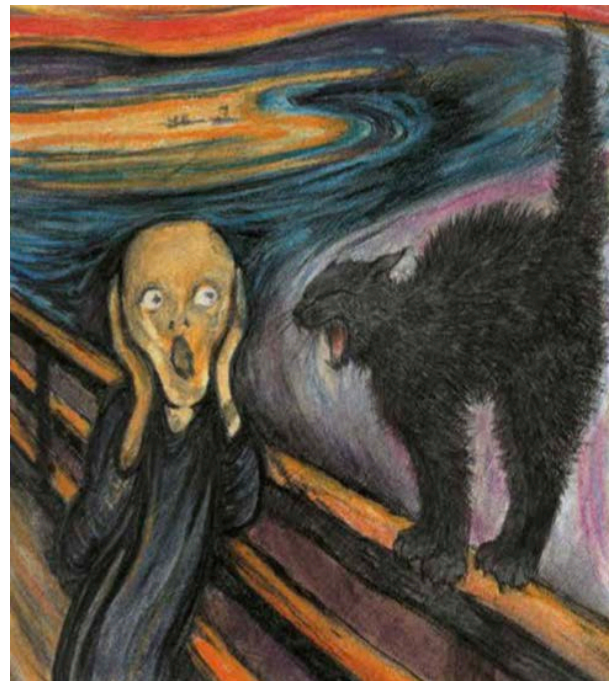
- What you need:

- Cat template printed or drawn onto cream or light brown A4 paper
- Scissors
- Pastels in a range of colours similar to the Munch painting (oranges, reds, yellows, blues)
- Your fingers!

- Instructions:

-

- You are going to create the fur of your cat to look like the background sky and water in Munch's painting The Scream
- Choose similar colours (oranges, reds, yellows, blues) and draw wavy lines all over your cat, that look similar to the sky in the painting
- Smudge and smooth the colours into each other using your fingers
- What a screamingly good cat!



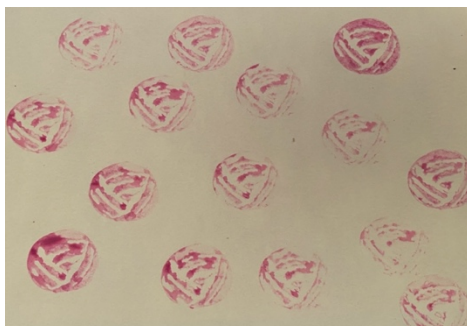
- **William Morris Cat**
Flower potato printing

- What you need:

- Cat template printed or drawn onto white A4 paper
- Scissors
- 2 potatoes
- A sharp knife (to be used by a grown-up)
- Thick poster paints (preferably red)
- Small shallow tray or dish

- Instructions:

- You are going to create a cat with beautiful flowers printed all over it, like the flowers in the William Morris painting in The Gallery of Cats and also like William Morris wallpaper
- Ask your adult to help you cut a potato in half and then cut out a flower shape
- Put the red paint into your tray or dish (or any other paint colour you like) and dip your potato flower into the paint
- Next print this onto your cat in any pattern you like, using the William Morris wallpaper as inspiration
- Finally, here is you beautiful English rose cat!



- **Samuel Palmer Cat**

Dark and brooding waxy, watercolour

- What you need:
 - Cat template drawn onto thick watercolour paper and then cut out
 - Watercolour paints
 - Scissors
 - A jar or pot for water
 - Paint brushes
 - A white wax candle
- Instructions:
 - You will be painting a cat in the style of the tabby cat in the Samuel Palmer painting in The Gallery of Cats book
 - First cut out your cat template
 - Next, we are going to put wax onto your cat so that once you paint over the wax it will repel the watercolour paint, this will help to create some texture in the cat's fur
 - So, use your wax candle to draw on a little bit of (invisible!) fur
 - Don't cover the whole cat in with the wax, just do tufts of fur in little places
 - Then use your dark watercolour paints (browns and black) to paint the rest of the fur on the cat, including over the top of the wax
 - Say "ta-da!" to Samuel your Tabby



- **Henri Rousseau Cat**
Crayon drawing

- What you need:

- Cat template drawn or printed onto white A4 paper and then cut out
- Orange, black and white crayons
- Scissors
- PVA glue
- 10 strands of dried spaghetti

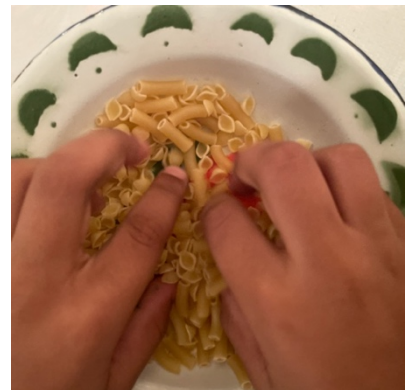
- Instructions:

- Cut out your cat template
- Use your crayons to colour in your cat like a tiger, inspired by the tiger in Henri Rousseau's painting in The Gallery of Cats
- Next we are going to make the whiskers. When the paint is dry, break your spaghetti into smaller sizes (approximately 5cms) and stick them onto your tiger-cats face to make his whiskers
- You now have a roaringly brilliant tiger-cat!



How to make your frames

- What you need:
 - Recycled cardboard (bigger than the cat template)
 - Different kinds of dried pasta shapes / buttons
 - PVA glue
 - Gold paint
 - Scissors
 - Ruler
 - A4 sheet of paper
- Instructions:
 - Lay your cat template on top of the cardboard
 - Cut the cardboard about 2 inches bigger than the cat template in a rectangular shape, this will be the outside of your frame
 - Remove the cat template from the top of the cardboard
 - Get a ruler and measure 1 inch from the outside of the cardboard in towards the middle of the cardboard
 - Do this all the way around the edge of the cardboard to create the frame
 - Ask a grown-up to help you cut out the frame
 - Next, choose a range of dried pasta shapes / buttons and using the PVA glue, stick them all over the front of the frame
 - Once the glue is dry, paint the front of your frame, including the pasta or buttons, with the gold paint
 - Let this dry
 - After that, stick your decorated cat template onto the A4 sheet of paper
 - Finally, stick the A4 sheet of paper to the back of the frame so that your cat picture can be viewed from the front of the frame
 - Hey presto, you have your very own cat work of art!
 - Now you can cut out some more cat templates and decorate them in the different styles of each of the artists to make your own art collection





How to be a Curator!

- Find a suitable place to hang your cat pictures in a gallery!
- You could lay them on a table, prop them up against a wall, stick them to a wall (inside or outside) with blue-tack (make sure to ask an adult first!)
- Next you will need to make labels for your gallery
- What does a label need?
 - **Title of the artwork**
 - **Name of the artist**
 - **Medium (what you used to make it)**
 - **Date it was made**
- Here is an example of a label:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Frida Kahlo Cat○ By (your name)○ Tissue paper and glue○ 2021 |
|---|

- Write your labels on small rectangular bits of paper
- Next stick or lay them underneath your artworks
- Well done, you are now a fully fledged artist and curator of A Gallery of Cats!

Notes written by Daisy Diarra, who has over 20 years combined experience of primary school teaching and working in the museums and arts sectors. She loves children, art and cats!

Suitable for EYFS, KS1 or KS2.