## ArtRishi.com Project: Cat Portrait, Advanced

For: Upper Elementary and Middle School: grades 5, 6, 7, and up

# Suggested Media & Paper:

Watercolor paper - size 9"x12"
HB graphite pencil
kneaded rubber eraser
Watercolor pencil set
1" flat hake brush for background
#10 round watercolor brush
Misc. watercolors

### **Steps to Success:**

- 1. Prepare the "ground" prepare the watercolor paper with a wet-on-wet glaze of watercolor paint. Start with wet paper and brush on very light very pale shades of color. It is important that the color is light and soft so that it does not compete with the portrait. See Cat—Step 1.
- 2. Provide students with a photocopy of the basic line drawing of the cat and a photocopy of the painted portrait each student should have this by his/her workspace.
- 3. Plan the composition. Encourage students to draw a large cat face so most of the focus is on the face and the body drifts off the side and bottom of the paper. How many faces will you draw just one or how about two cat faces with a slight overlap?
- 4. When paper is dry, lightly sketch in the cat face using the HB pencil and follow drawing directions using the provided art map that details line-drawing sequence. When finished with the basic line drawing, draw the outline shape of each stripe on the face and body.

#### How to use watercolor pencils:

- 5. Get to know the medium. Give each student a scrap piece of watercolor paper for experimentation and practice using watercolor pencils. Note that you can apply a strip of watercolor pencil to the edge of a shape and then use a wet brush to pull the color out into the shape. In other words let the pencil and water work together no need to entirely "color-in" a shape. Encourage students to select a color palette before beginning the painting. Suggested colors: Black, Gray, White, and Tuscan Red or Burnt Sienna for fur, Pink for nose, Yellow/ Green for eyes.
- 6. Painting the portrait. See figure 2—Cat step 2. Start with eyes and nose and establish light washes of color throughout the portrait. Be patient the portrait will not look complete until just before the very end.
- 7. Last of all paint the stripes, the fine details and finally, just draw the whiskers without wetting them.

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### Additional Resources to enhance your advanced Cat project:

(Since the internet is always changing, we cannot guarantee that the following links will always be available)

The collection of poetry dedicated to cats by T.S. Elliot - "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats": <a href="http://coral.lili.uni-bielefeld.de/Classes/Summer97/SemGS/WebLex/">http://coral.lili.uni-bielefeld.de/Classes/Summer97/SemGS/WebLex/</a>OldPossum/oldpossumlex/oldpossumlex.html

http://animal.discovery.com/breedselector/catselectorindex.do

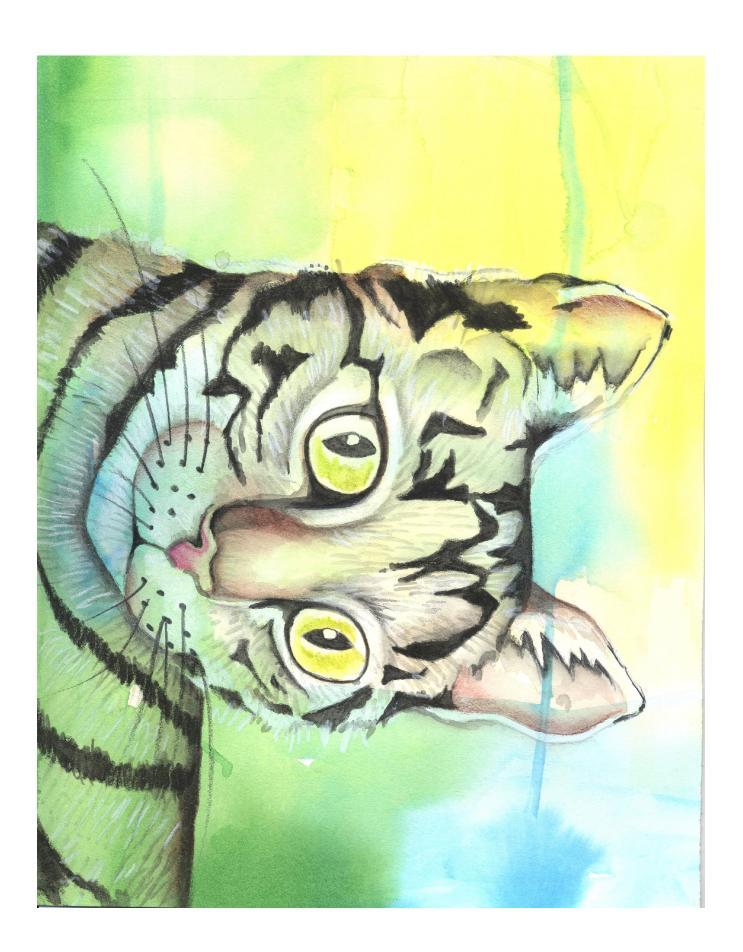
### **Books for Purchase:**

Warriors-New-Prophecy

Ultimate-Encyclopedia-Cats-Breeds-Care

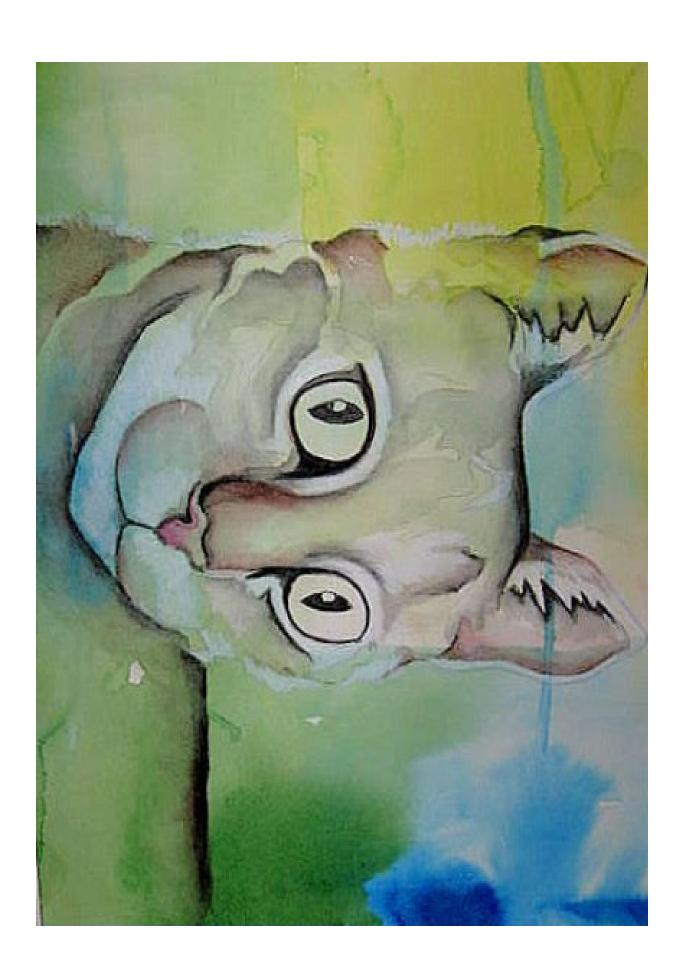
Drawing-Cats-Books-Stuff-Bratun

Possums-Book-Practical-Cats-Illustrated









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