

ArtRishi.com Project: Beginning Cat - Look at That!

For: ages 5, 6 and 7

This kitty cat collage project can be a spring-board for a young artist's imagination. The cat and flowers are drawn, painted, and then cut-out and pasted to a background. Of course, this project is not limited to flowers - young artists may want to draw, cut & paste: small fish, little birdies, a 2nd cat, etc.

Suggested Media & Paper:

Many of the art supplies below may be easily ordered through the ArtRishi.com "Art Supply" page

8"x 11" watercolor paper for cat drawing (cat will be cut out)
9" x 12" (or a bit larger) colored paper for background
smaller pieces of watercolor paper for flowers (these will also be cut out)
green construction paper for flower stems and leaves
any color construction paper for "ground" or lower part of cat collage
drawing tool: waterproof fine-tipped, felt-pen marker
scissors
glue-stick
watercolor paint set or watercolor markers
brushes - two sizes: #2 round hog bristle brush and #10 round watercolor brushes

Steps to Success!



Step 1 - Talk about cats. Who has a cat? Do all cats look the same? Do all cats behave the same (shy cats, precocious cats, secretive cats, proud cats, etc.)

Step 2 - Plan the composition. This cat is wearing glasses - will your cat wear glasses as well? What shape - round, rectangular, star-shaped, etc.? You can tip or lean the cat head to the right or left, you can curl the tail under the body, off the page, shape into a spiral curve within the body, etc. Will your cat be striped, or have patches, or just be a single color? What will be in the picture with your cat? Where is your cat (inside, outside, etc)?

Step 3 - Follow drawing directions using the provided art map that details line-drawing sequence.

Step 4 - Draw the cat on the 8"x11" watercolor paper. Encourage children to draw quite large, so their cat takes up the paper in its entirety. Paint the cat, dry, and cut-out carefully.

Step 5 - Draw other objects to paint and cut-out: flowers or fish or birdies, etc. After drawing, paint with watercolor, dry, and cut-out carefully. If you draw flowers - just use green construction paper for cutting out stem shapes and leaf shapes.

Step 6 - Arrange the composition before pasting on with glue-sticks. Finally, paste on the shapes. Enhance the cat's glasses with glitter, rhinestones, etc.

Step 7 - Sign your name - the artist signature is traditionally placed near the lower right corner of the work using small letters. Take the time to talk about this fact, so that enthusiastic young artists don't write their names in the middle of the art work.

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Online Resources -

because the internet is ever-changing, we cannot guarantee online links will always be available:

The collection of poetry dedicated to cats by T.S. Elliot - "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats":

<http://coral.lili.uni-bielefeld.de/Classes/Summer97/SemGS/WebLex/OldPossum/oldpossumlex/oldpossumlex.html>

Books to Purchase to enhance your lesson -

books below may easily be ordered through the ArtRishi.com "Books and Resources" page:

Henry the Sailor Cat by Mary Calhoun

The New Encyclopedia of the Cat by Bruce Fogel

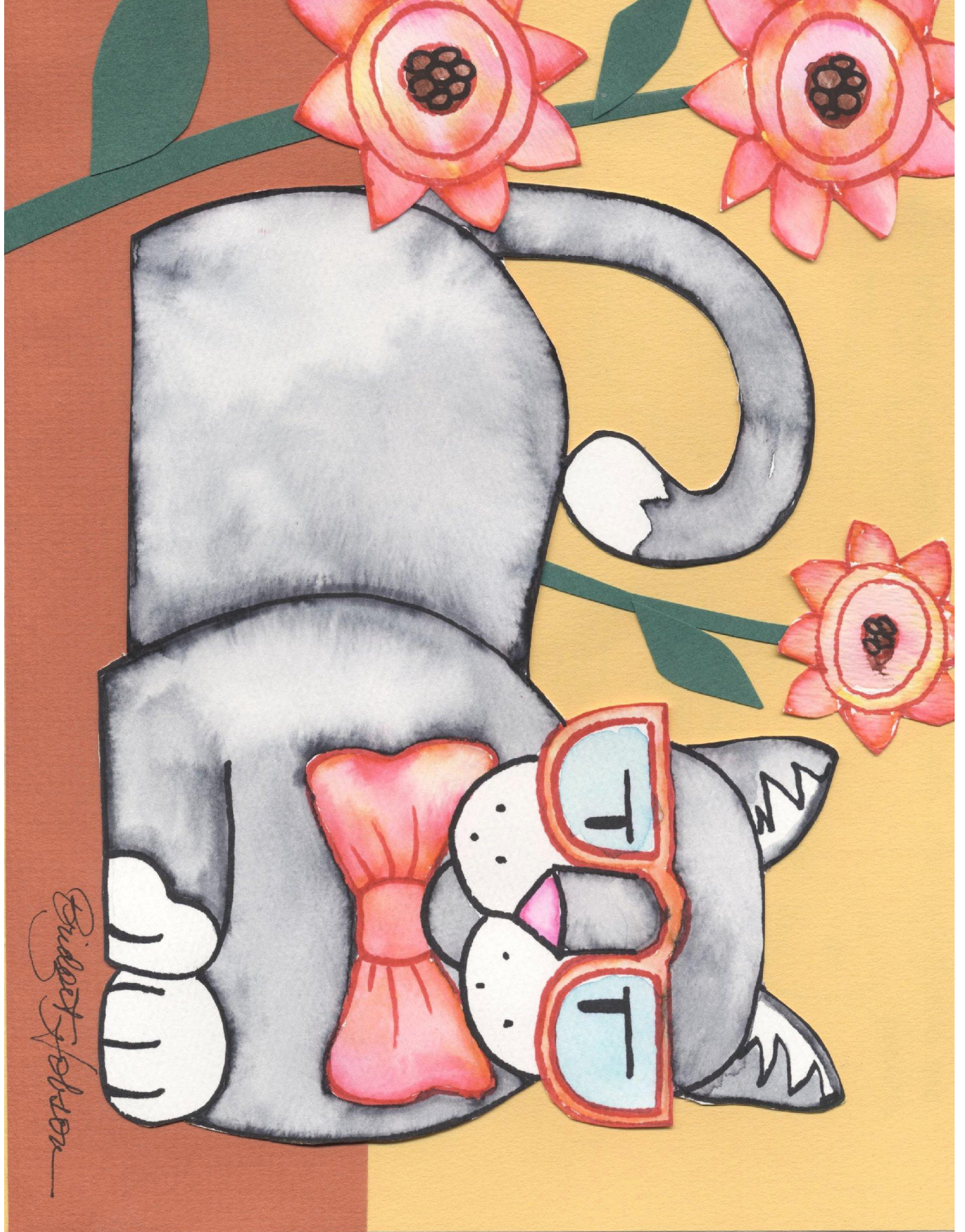
Madeline and the Cats of Rome by John Bemelmans Marciano

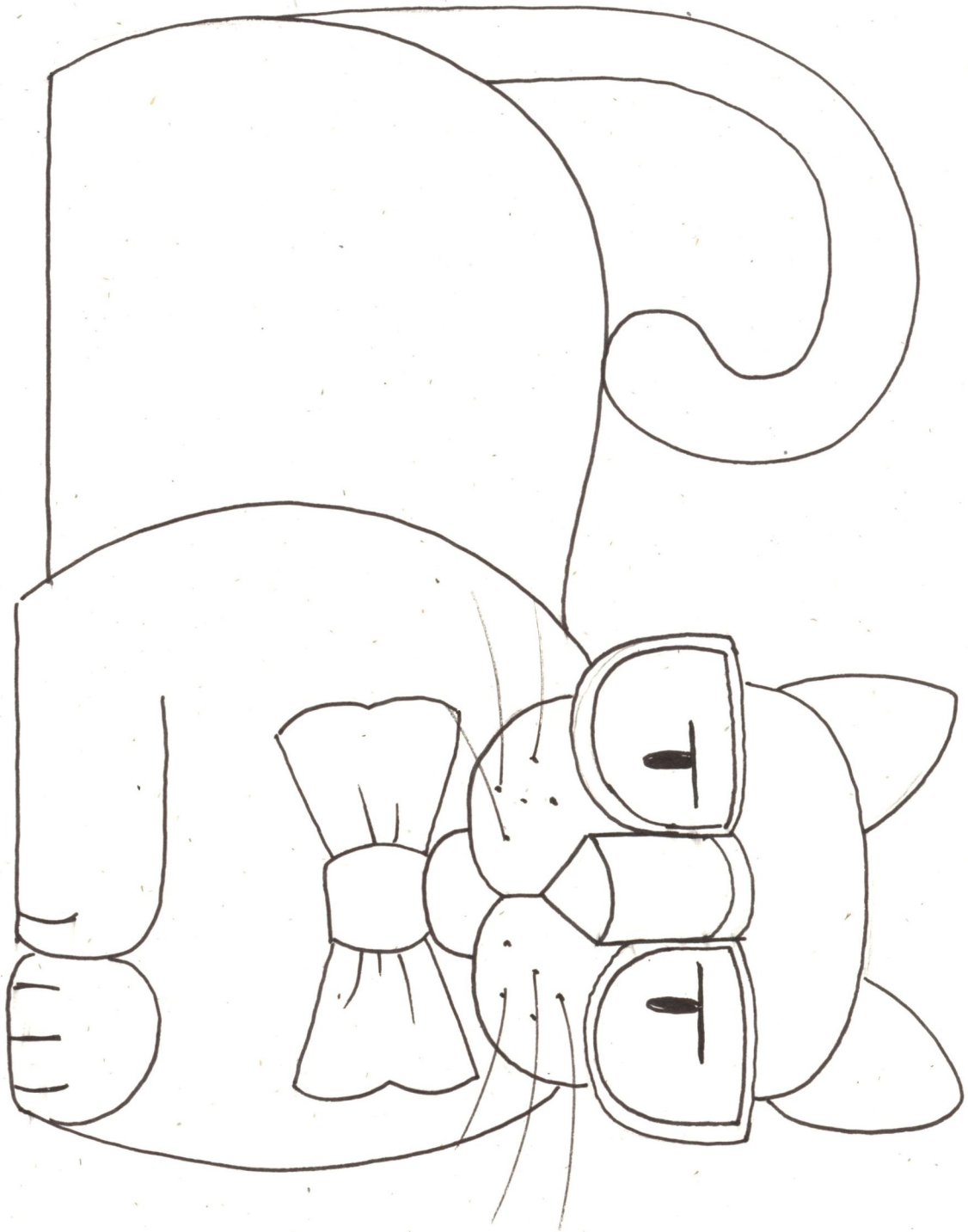
M is For Meow: A Cat Alphabet by Helen L. Wilbur

Splat the Cat by Rob Scotton

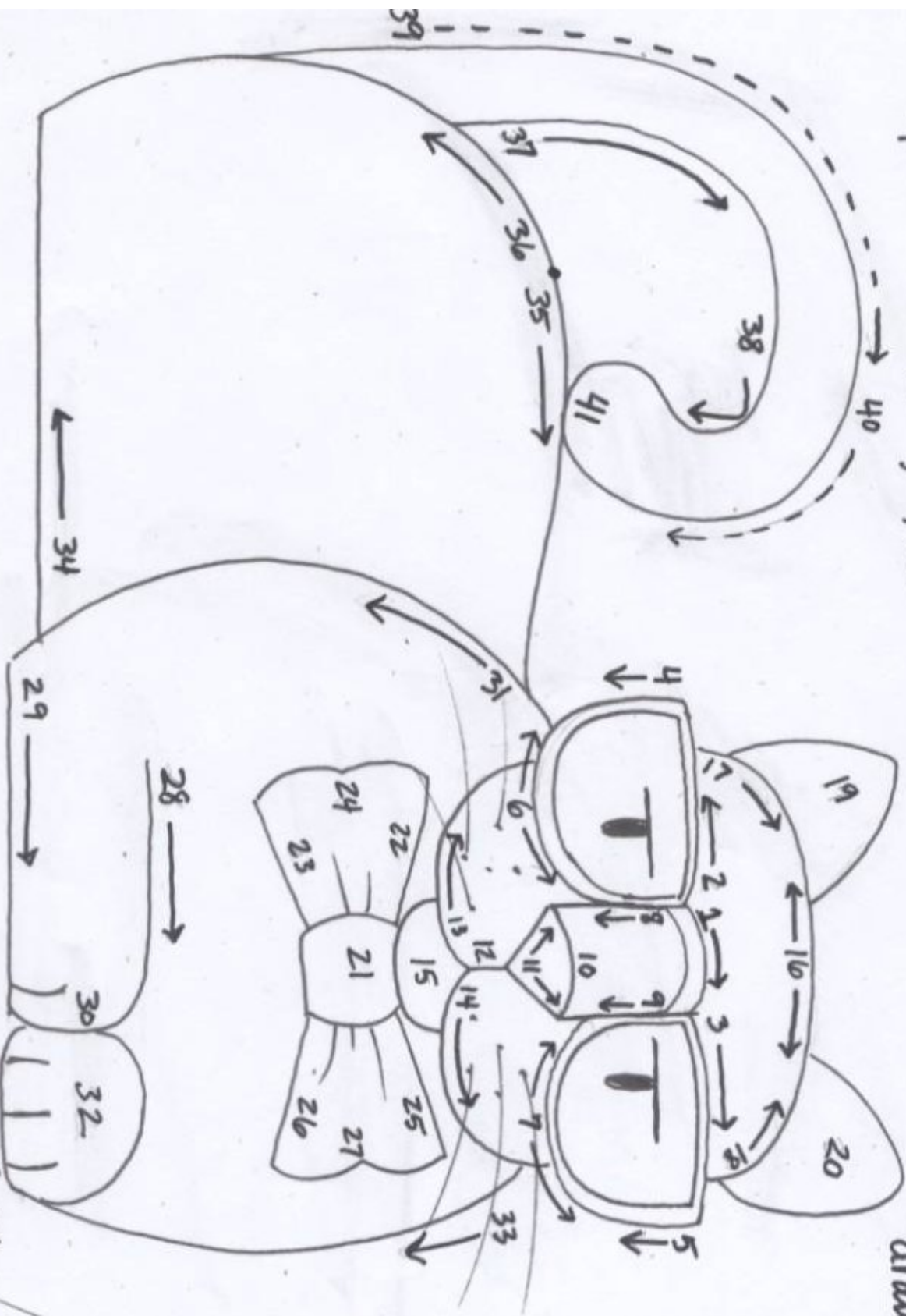
Have You Seen My Cat - by Eric Carle

A Very Smart Cat / Una Gata Muy Inteligente by Mario Picayo





Spart with bridge of eye glasses - draw eyeballs after eye glasses are drawn



Erudite Johnson