

Title: My Cat World

Objectives:

- Art History: The works of Laurel Burch
- Element: Organic and Geometric Shapes
- Colour Theory: Warm, Cool, and Complementary Colours
- Principle of Design: Overlapping shapes to imply depth and distance on a 2D surface

Media: Can be completed with: Tempera/Acrylic Paint

Black & Metallic oil-based Sharpies

Watercolour Paint

Markers

Steps:

1. Introduce the works of Laurel Burch and discuss the ways in which she uses imagination, patterns, and bright colours to bring her cats to life on her canvas. Discuss the difference between cat shapes belonging to nature (organic shapes) vs. the geometric shapes seen in Ms. Burch's cats.
2. Introduce the ways in which we can show distance and depth in our art by overlapping shapes – making items in our art appear to be in-front or behind one another. Artists will quickly realize that items that appear closer to the viewer's eye (appearing in front of other items) are larger in size, while those that are farther from the viewer's eye (behind other items in our paintings) will seem smaller.
3. Family members will sketch their Cat Scene - using their imagination and adding two or more cats to imply depth and distance. Once their cats are drawn, they will add the horizon line - this can be a line that separates the floor from the wall or a line that separates the ground from the sky. Artists will then add details to the background which can include a mat, bed, table, window, a tree, flowers, hills, or anything that heart desires. By overlapping these added details, artists will be able to continue to imply depth in their drawing - for example, a flower can be drawn in front of a tree; a tree can be drawn behind the window-sills, or the couch can be drawn in front of the table.
4. When the sketch is complete, each artist will distinguish their cats from one another by adding different patterns and decorations. This is especially important because their cats will have at least one part overlapping (a leg, a tail, or even part of their body). The viewer will then rely on different shapes and colour choices to be able to distinguish between the cats.
5. Begin painting the foreground, paying close attention to precision of pattern and colour choices. Review colour theory and encourage artists to choose colours that would compliment one another as opposed to colours that would compete or be camouflaged by one another. When the foreground is complete, move on to painting the background, using cohesion of colours to ensure that the scene is unified.
6. Once the art is painted and dry, artists can use sharpies to outline and bring back the sharpness of their patterns within their composition.

Book Recommendation:

→ "If I Were a Cat I Would Sit in a Tree" by Ebbitt Cutler

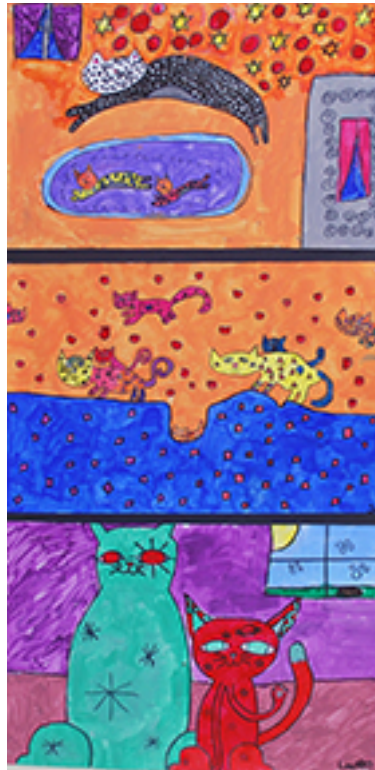
→ "The Cat's Meow" by Warren Kimble

Variation for older artists: *Older artists* can create their indoor or outdoor scene with an added focus on One-Point or 2-Point Perspective and may wish to vary their animals to include cats, dogs, mice, or beavers.

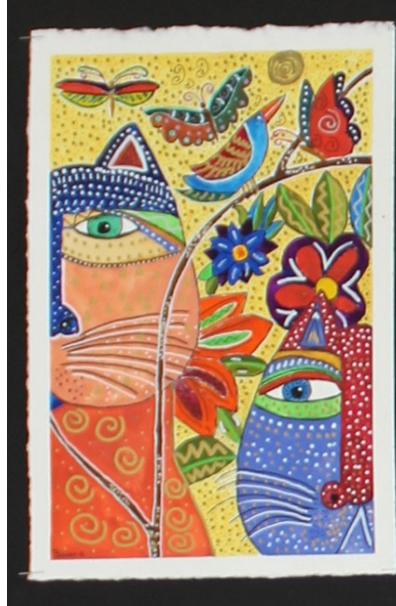
Project Extension: Taking a 2D image and transferring into a 3D sculpture by choosing one favourite cat and creating a clay relief of their Burch-Inspired Cat.

Cross-Subject Connections: Math – patterns, designs, geometric shapes
Science – nature and the animal kingdom

SAMPLES OF WORK CREATED BY ARTVENTURE STUDENTS



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Original Source: Laurel Burch

