

## Tip #75

### Cats II

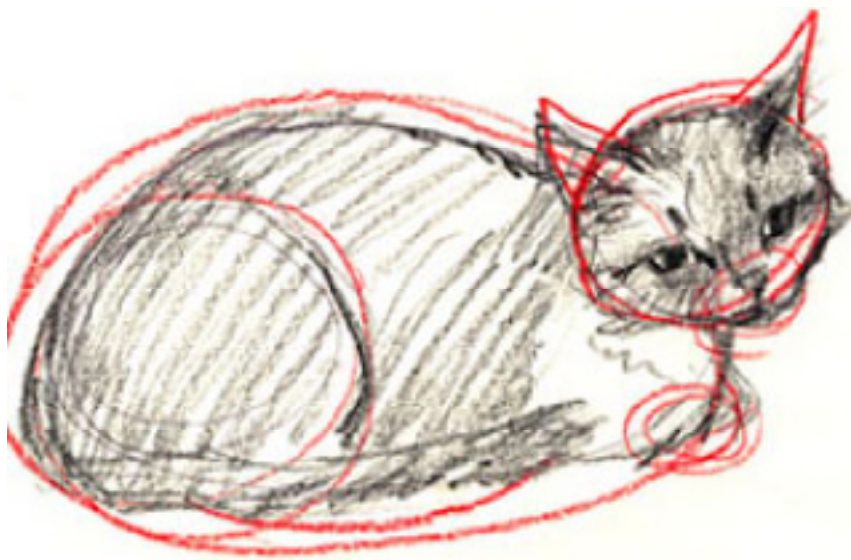
Continuing the feline theme from last time, if you live with cats you know how often they move -- even in their sleep! This gives us many terrific opportunities to practice quick gesture sketches and memory drawings. As you become more familiar with paying attention to their shapes and anatomy, you'll be able to complete even a rough sketch in a believable fashion.

#### Art 75-1, Moving fast!

When they're not sound asleep, kittens seem constantly on the move. Try a quick sketch of the basic shape, then finish up a longer drawing working from your sketch. Here, I worked with pen and ink and watercolor to finish the impression of the "Alpha Kitten."



Art 75-1



Art 75-2

#### Art 75-2, Geometric shapes

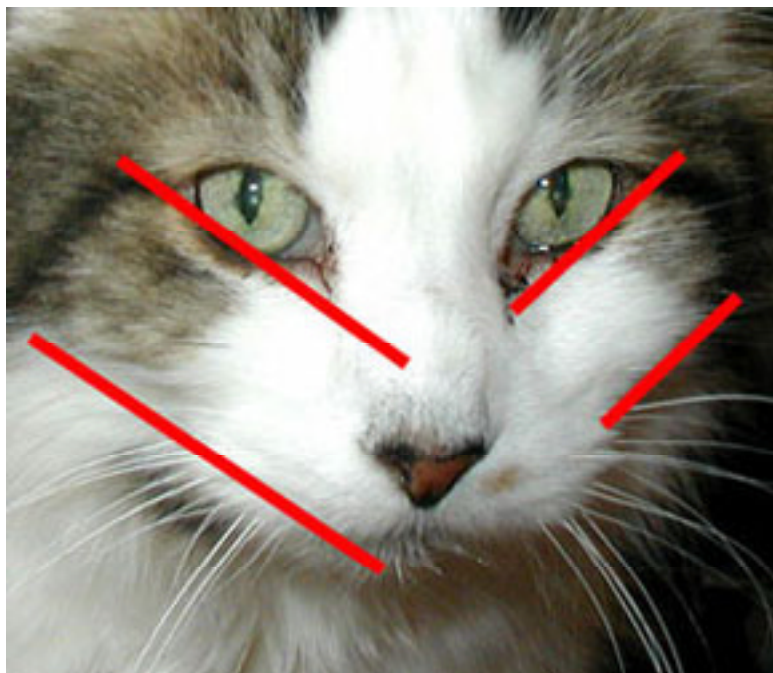
Like most things, cats can be fitted within a series of roughly geometric shapes -- again handy if your subject is likely to move quickly. Here, ovals and triangles, shown in red for clarity, contain the shape of this curled-up kitty. (As noted, you can use this technique to sketch anything from cats to cathedrals--simplifying the shapes helps you to see what's in front of you.)

### Art 75-3, Pay attention to relationships

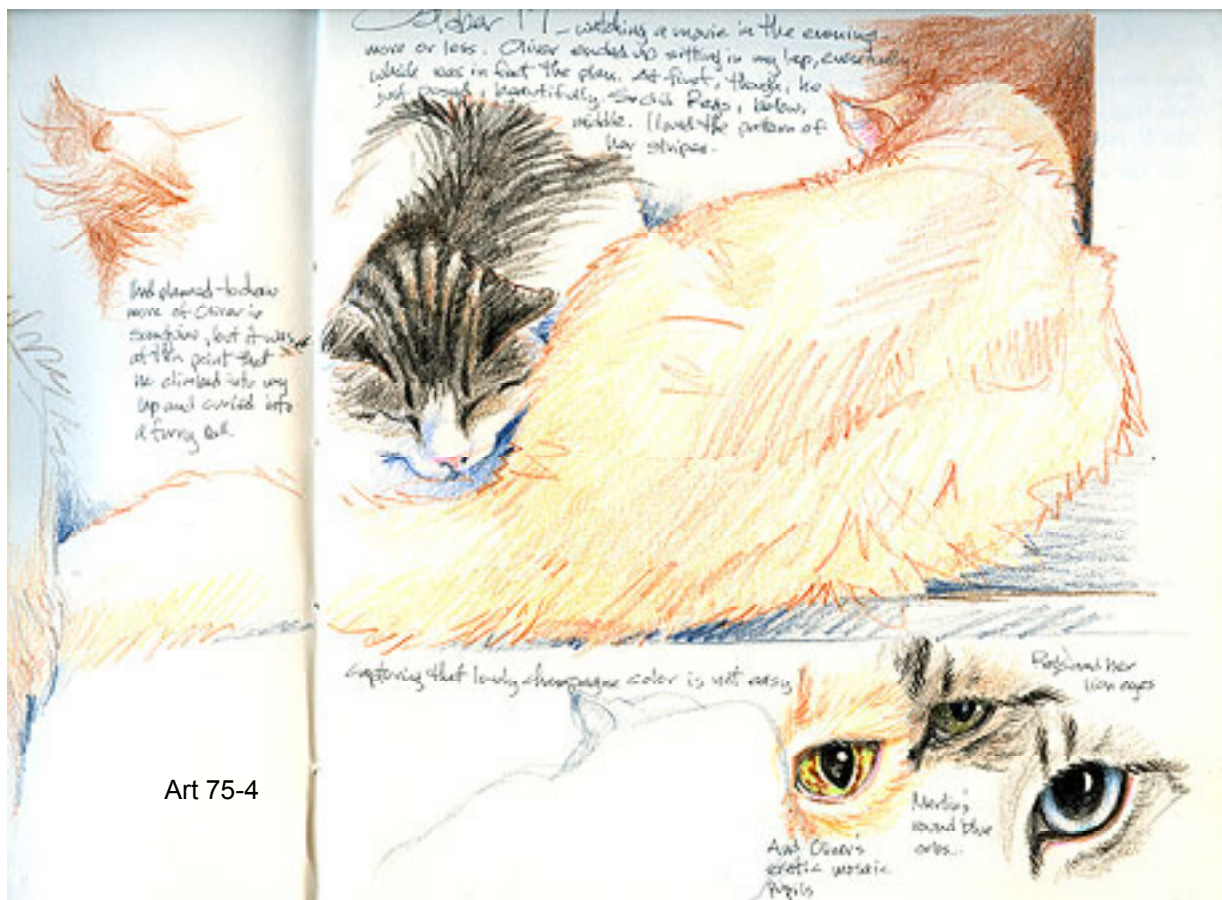
Notice the relationship between shapes or lines -- my cat drawings become more accurate once I noticed that the cheek and the angle of the lower eye often mirror each other.

### Art 75-4, Zero in on details, if you like ... study the shape and color of the nose or the eyes.

Of course each animal is different -- if you don't want to end up with a generic cat, pay special attention to details that make them who they are, as I did in my journal on October 17 -- these are the eyes of my three current cat family members -- very different and very much themselves. This is almost a field sketch of very specific cat eyes!



Art 75-3



Art 75-4

You'll find much more on capturing the reality of animals in my North Light book, *Drawing and Painting Animals* at <http://www.cathyjohnson.info/bookpages/animals-pop.html> or at Amazon or your favorite bookstore.

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