

That Cat!

Quick Sketching



I found this wee fella on the internet. I liked the way he sits in the space, so I thought we could draw him.

Or, If you have your own cat, draw that!!





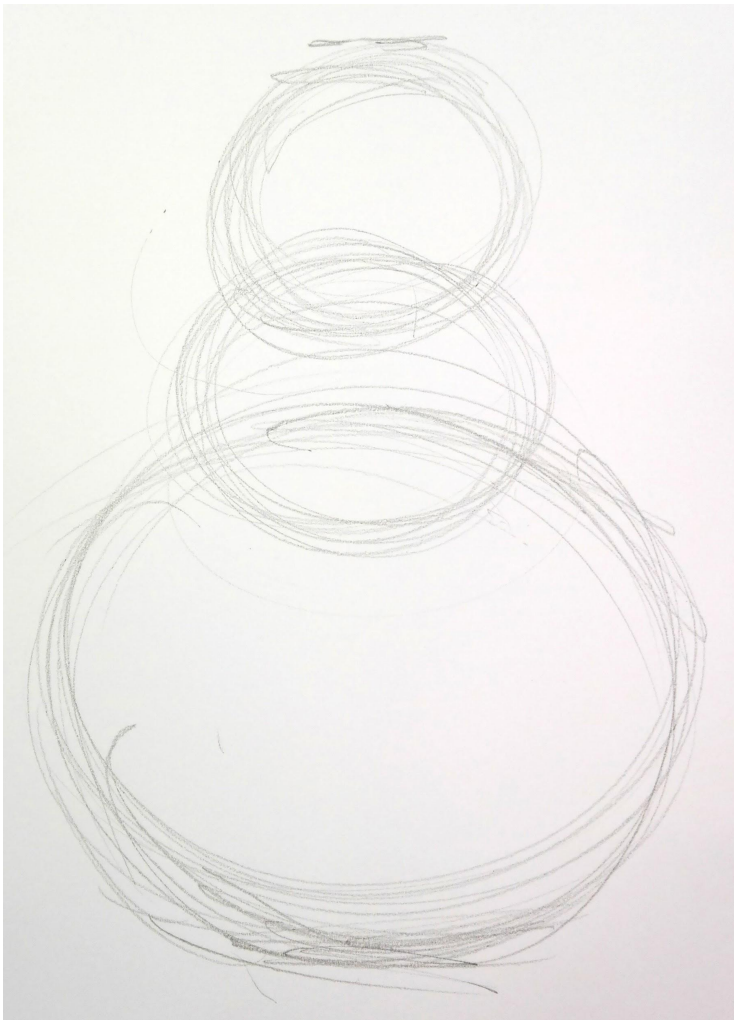
I'm thinking about him as having three basic shapes in this pose:

Head

Chest / Shoulders

Bulk of body/ haunches.

If you look closely on the original image, you'll see the subtle divisions of light and shade that helped me make this decision.



I start by giving the drawing a rough scale. In this case, my hand. I'm bound to go over it, but it gives me a sense of where it will sit on the paper from the very beginning.

Using gestural drawing (your whole arm from the shoulder and elbow make the mark - Imagine polishing a window) I map out the rough circles.

Note how many times I've gone over them. Do loads until it looks kind of right!



I'm starting to make some early decisions here about his overall shape. Keeping light and simple,

I think about the way the outline relates to my structure below. Once I think it's close enough, I add rough triangles for the ears.

I've added some guidelines for the side of his face too.



Next, I'm thinking about his nose and mouth.

I started to think about the muzzle as a big circle, but then changed my mind to look at it as three oval shapes.

Looking at my second body shape (the blue one on slide 3), I make a decision on where his chest and shoulders might be on the drawing.

There's no need to be too fussy about this just now - they're only guidelines.

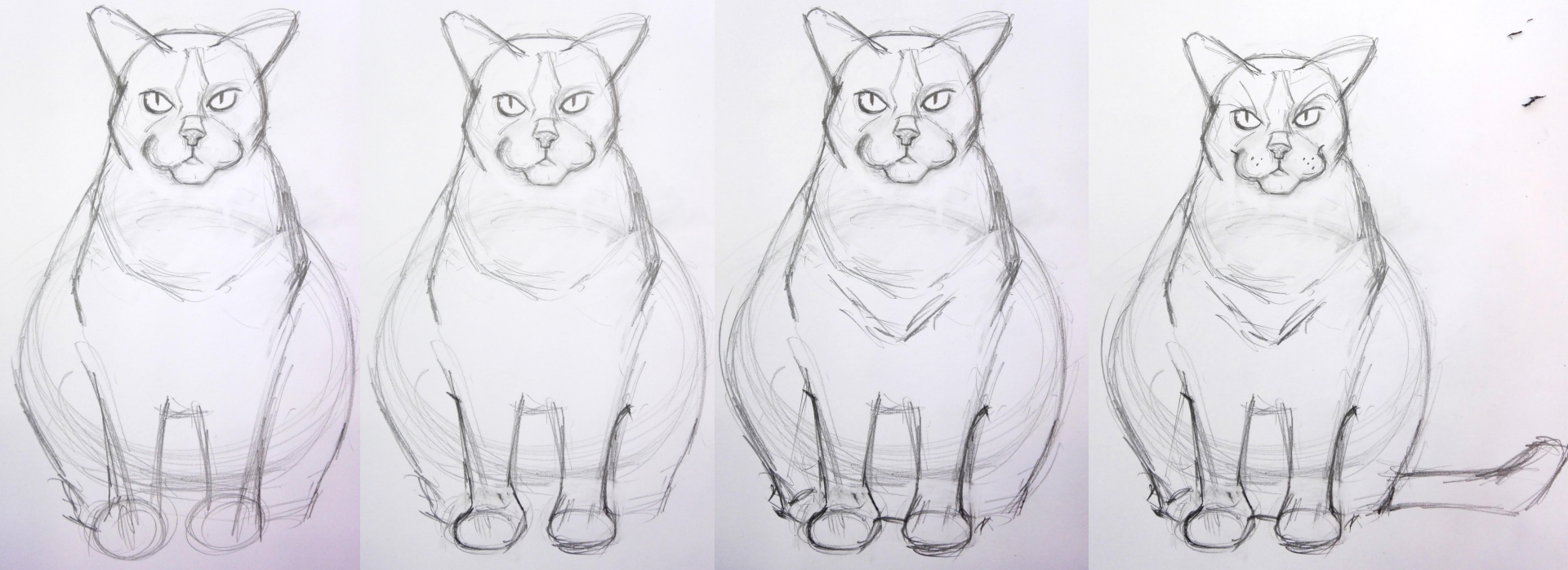




In this sequence, I'm starting to think about the features.

I've established the eyes as circles, made more decisions about the mouth area and I've added some of the top of the nose up to the forehead.

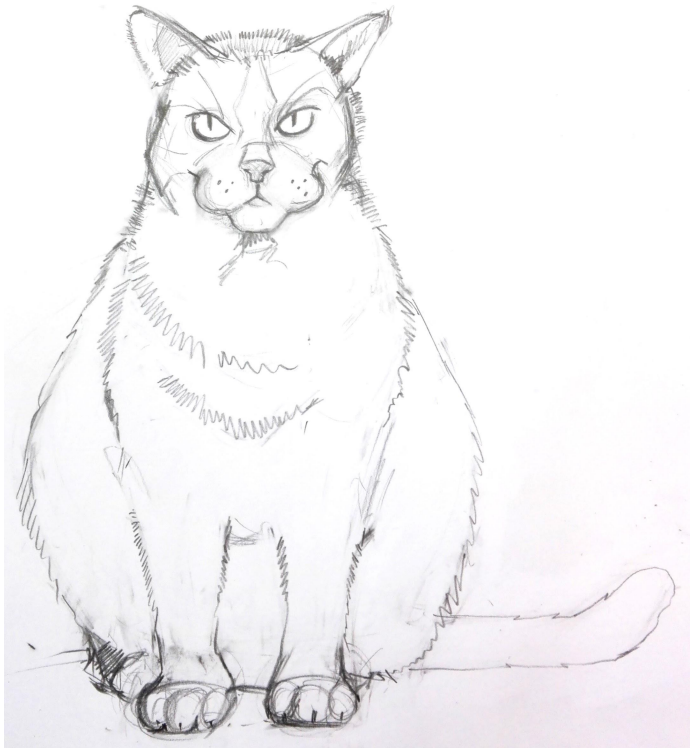
It's all pretty messy, though! We'll tidy that up later.



Gradually, I'm working my way down the page. My first marks are always just placeholder shapes that I'll gradually refine by adding wee bits of character. I flatten out the circles for the paws, thinking about them as ovals, but also as little furry cubes. I've added some small touches at the top of the legs, cheeks and whiskers. And the tail, of course.



As you can see, I've started to rub out my early structural shapes. I'm also replacing the placeholder drawing with lines that I think are more representative of the fur. I've made those spiky and squiggly lines drawing from my wrist and fingers to make the marks..



I've done a wee bit more thinking around his feet now and I've started to add a bit of colour and shadow for how his markings might be.

He looks like he's up to no good this cat! Maybe that's because mine threw up on the carpet this morning.

I'll leave him here for now, but it could go further, with his patterning or maybe some of the background context. Happy Drawing!