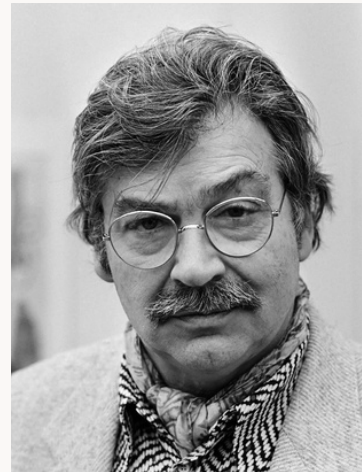


CREATE-At-Home Art Activities for Kids & Families

“Miaou, Meow!”



Miaou, Karel Appel, 1969, color lithograph (edition of 110),
Huntsville Museum of Art Collection



Karel Appel, April 25, 1991 - May 3, 2006;
Dutch painter, sculptor and poet

About the Artist

During WWII, Artist Karel Appel left his home in Amsterdam to avoid the war. He soon aligned himself with a group of like-minded artists who rejected many of the established art traditions striving instead to "start afresh like a child..." echoing the direction of Picasso, Matisse and Jean Dubuffet. Appel said "Through play, we renew contact with childhood – My art is childlike."

In this work titled **Miaou**, which is Dutch for "meow," you can see Appel incorporates this child-like process with his spontaneous use of color and shape. His unsophisticated rendering of a cat is no family cat, unsettling yet appealing. Always willing to push artistic limits, Appel uses vaguely representational images in brightly colored shapes with bold outlines.

Questions

- Would you like to pet this cat?
- How different would this piece be if it was done in just black and white?

Using supplies found around your house, learn a different way to draw a cat! In this At-Home Art Activity for Kids & Families, we'll go step-by-step on how to create a chalk pastel cat inspired by the painting *Miaou* by Karel Appel in the Huntsville Museum of Art's collection.



Let's begin!

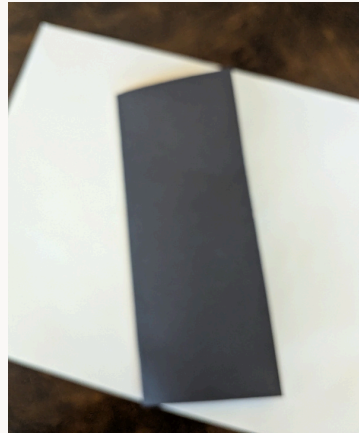
Materials:

Black (or a dark color) construction paper - size 8 x 11
chalk pastels

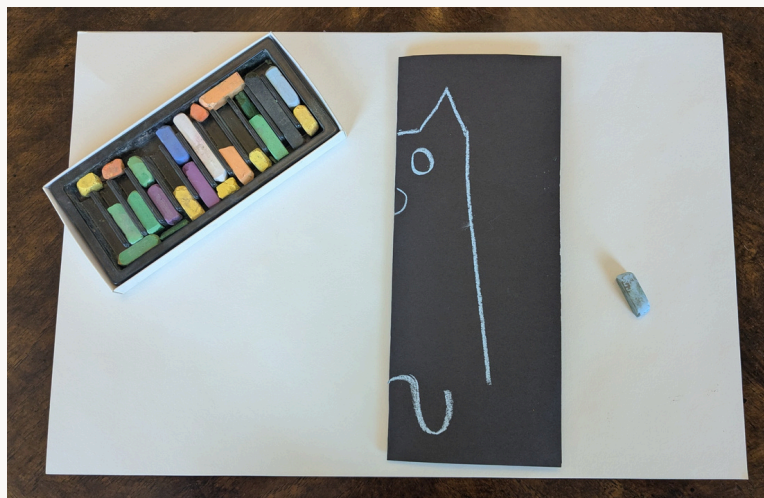


Art Activity Instructions:

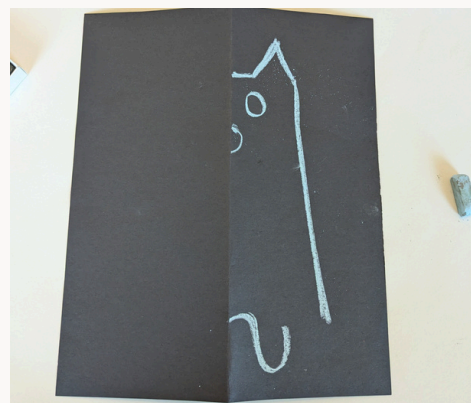
1. Take your black paper and fold it long ways.



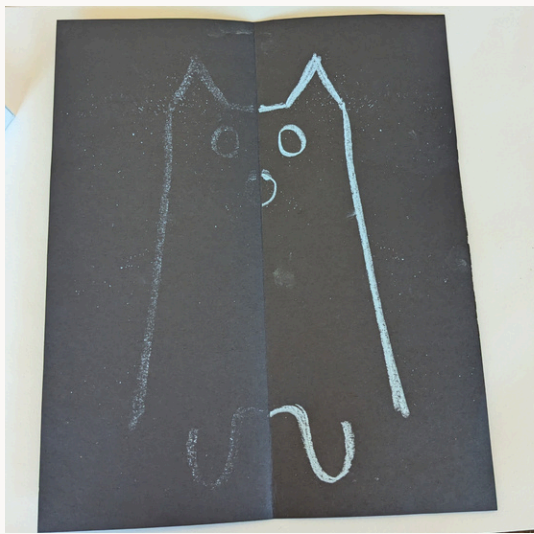
2. We are going to draw **half of a cat** on this side of the paper. Using a piece of chalk pastel, draw half a cat head, 1 ear, half the cat body, and 1 leg. Leave a spot open on the bottom part of the cat body – later we will add the tail there, but not at this step. Add in an eye and half the cat nose. *Use shapes, like circles for your eyes and nose, in your drawing like Appel did in his artwork.



3. Unfold your paper now. Take the blank side of your paper and now fold it over your chalk pastel drawing. Press down and rub all over the folded paper so that the chalk drawing transfers over to the blank side of the paper.



4. Open the paper and now you will see your full cat image. Go over the outline with chalk pastel to darken the lines.



5. Draw your cat's tail and complete the outline of your cat!



6. Now is the fun part! Finish your cat's face with a mouth and whiskers. Use shapes to add in designs to your cat's coat. Color in your designs with chalk pastels to give it more color and texture.