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editorial notes

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How Long Has Pet Art Been Around?

The heart-warming history of pet art

Animals and people have always been connected, even back when people used BC to calculate years. They've been with us from hunting to sitting on us while we're asleep, it was only so long until we became friends and even family... And who wouldn't want a memento of their most loyal family member?

The oldest paintings of animals go waaay back (19000 years back!) and were actually found in multiple different caves. But the first pet art comes from Babylonia, 3500 BC (5,500 years for all you counting) and were paintings of people with their goats and horses. Speaking of old times, did you know there's an about 9500 year old grave of a cat and a person being buried together? That's how I'd want to go out personally.

Cats live like they're above everyone else and we mostly have the Egyptians to blame for that attitude. Back then only the Pharaoh could own a cat and the rest could only appreciate their beauty by making art of them. They were also worshipped as deities such as Bastet which, once again, does not help the ego problem. Egyptians also loved dogs too, they were connected to the deity Anubis after all.

The Greeks also appreciated dogs in a similar fashion,

making thousands of sculptures, mosaics and pottery featuring them. They saw dogs as intelligent, Socrates calling them "true philosophers".

Rome even went a step further as this was the era people finally started taking care of their pets! Their dogs also helped them in wars, which... Maybe they didn't care for them too well. But they still loved them though, the famous Cave Canem (Beware of Dog) mosaic is from this era.



In both the Middle Ages and the Renaissance era, noblewomen and upperclassmen had many portraits of dogs on their laps. Cats were also beloved and drawn in Asian countries such as Korea, China, India and Japan all the way back in the 1700s. Because Victorians finally had cameras, having photos of pets became much more common.

Nowadays you'd have to struggle to not find a pet around. The internet has

always had a home for pet photos, images and yes even art. Some draw parodies of other famous art like the Mona Lisa, while others draw animals in their natural state of being adorable. There are many different ways to appreciate pets, so no wonder arts become one of them.



Fantelle

Fantelle is an illustrator and a self described “2D Generalist”. You can catch her on her Instagram [@fantellerhur](#).

How long have you been doing art online?

I started posting my art online around 2013 (at the age of 13), right after I bought my first digital drawing tablet. Photoshop was provided by the school I went to at the time, so that’s also the program I’ve been using since the very beginning!

What’s your favourite thing to draw?

I really enjoy doing portraits! I have no preference for human or animal portraits, but definitely a preference for anything bust-up. With humans especially, there seems to be so much character in faces that is lost when you zoom out.

What’s your least favourite?

I generally have no interest in painting inanimate man-made objects, such as furniture, cars, buildings etc. But more than that, I don’t like grimey, dark, or moody themes. I could see myself painting a car if it’s colorful enough, haha.

What are your main inspirations for art?

If we’re talking classical inspirations, I’m very inspired by the colors and compositions of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, and the brushstrokes of J.C. Leyendecker. But I think artists draw inspiration out of everything they consume, and for me that’s also lots of fashion content (going all the way back to Bratz dolls), graphical printing techniques, movies (favourites being Grease and Spirit), and creature collection games.

Do you think your background has ever been incorporated into your art? How so

I went to an art high school that was very focused on traditional art techniques, and my art definitely changed a lot during that time! I would’ve never experimented with certain techniques if it weren’t for them being mandatory at school. The main change in my art was a shift to a more graphical look, motivated by doing a ton of lithography.

Do you have any pets of your own?

Yes! I have two cats (Kiwi and Harry) and a dog (Moshpit). I’ve also always been around horses, but never owned one.

What was the first pet you’ve drawn?

I’ve been drawing pets for too long to remember, but it may have been Otje, my first dog. I did a lot traditional sketches of him, dating back to 2013. He was an incredibly sweet golden retriever, and a great subject to draw since he took a lot of naps. :)



Abbsterism

Abbsterism is a freelancer illustrator, animator and graphic designer in art school. Her Instagram is @abbsterism.



Do you prefer drawing digitally or traditionally? Traditionally! It's much nicer being able to feel the materials I'm working with.

What's your favourite thing to draw? Expressions!

What's your least favourite? I'd say shoes but I'm trying my best to get better at it.

When did you first get into art? In middle school I began to draw a bit more but I've been surrounded by the arts for a large part of my life.

When did you realise you wanted to do this as a career? A lot of the online artists I followed had a big impact on my interest in perusing the arts as a career! I still look up to many of them to this day.

What would you say your main inspirations are? Art house films from different parts of the world and illustration projects from the 2000's.

Have there been times where you've put your background into your art? A few times! I don't usually focus on myself when I draw though. Art for me is almost like a lens that I use to show how I see the world around me.

Do you have any tips for anyone who'd want to be a freelancer illustrator or animator? Yes! Explore your options. Don't stay focused in one box in terms of styles, mediums and references. My work started to get a lot better when I started to consume different types of media outside of animated films.

animation v illustration

Emily Zullo

Emily Zullo is an independent animator,
she also sells comics on her store
<https://emilyzullo.bigcartel.com/>.

generative art

Nora Zhao

Nora Zhao is a graphic designer who's worked in all kinds of projects. For a real surprise go to norazhao.com.

costume design

Lynsey Moore

Lynsey Moore is a costume designer who works in TV shows. Check out her closet of work at <https://www.lynseymoore.co.uk/>.

hobby

Alexander Stan

Fantelle is an illustrator and a self described “2D Generalist”, you can catch her on her Instagram [@fantellerhur](#)





