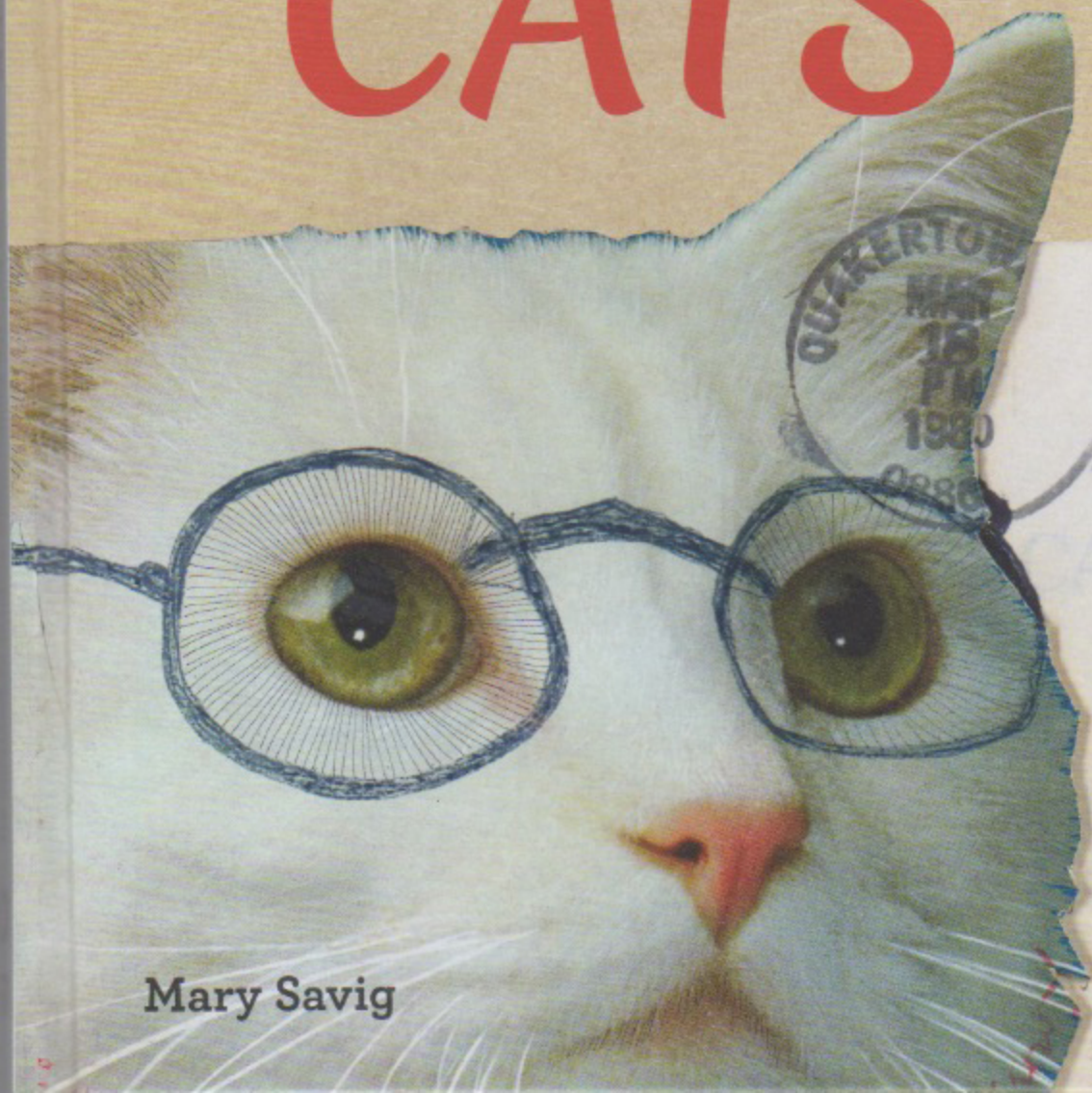


Discoveries from the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art

Artful CATS



Mary Savig

m. Charles
Schooley's
N. J. 07

LT

3. Jasper, ca. 1985

Photocopy of a photograph by

Cyrilla Mozenter (b. 1947)

11½ x 8¾ in.

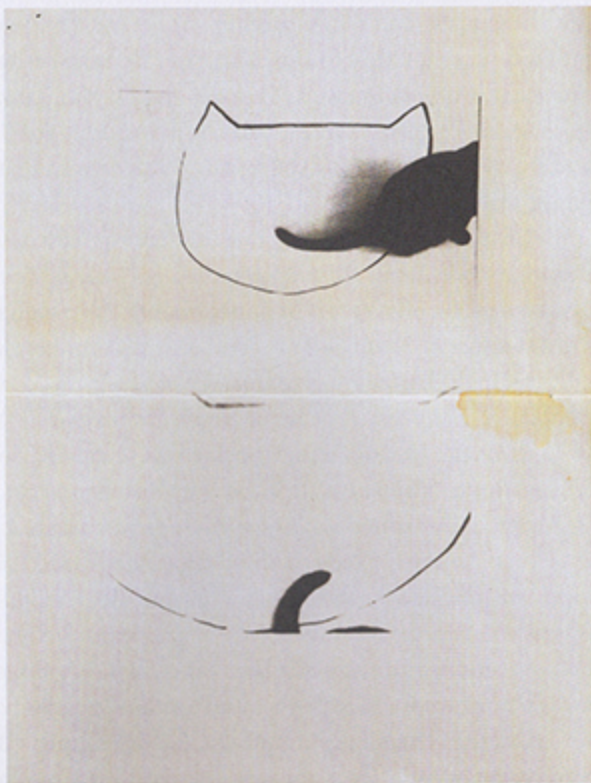
Anne Arnold papers

4. Romare Bearden (1911–1988),

drawing and notes, ca. 1965

3¾ x 6 in.

Romare Bearden papers



Cyrilla Mozenter, "Jasper, Adored and Feisty Cat"

1985

11½ x 8¼ in.

Anne Arnold papers

Artist Cyrilla Mozenter wrote this memorial essay and poem about her cat Jasper. Jasper came into the world on the first floor of a Brooklyn brownstone as the unmanageable outlier of the litter. After the rest of his siblings were placed, he was deposited at Mozenter's apartment on the top floor. He stayed. Though Jasper was a terror, Mozenter found pleasure in his devilish ways. Mozenter distributed the posthumous tribute "Jasper, Adored and Feisty Cat" at her first one-person exhibition at 55 Mercer Gallery in New York in 1985 and also sent this copy to her friend the sculptor Anne Arnold.

J A S P E R

adored and feisty cat

of

CYRILLA MOZENTER

November 30, 1970 - February 9, 1985



Jasper is a black cat who is part Siamese and therefore is both very smart and very much a pain in the ass. We've been together for about 11 years. Sometimes I call him "Zip." Jasper is extremely sociable, but mainly likes to be the center of attention. If he's not, he manages to change the situation in a hurry. Jasper eats with his paws when he is feeling jaunty. He sighs and exhales loudly when pleased. Jasper is equipped with fangs due to an overbite. These, coupled with his habit of staring and penchant for power-tripping, lend him a demonic air which gives me a vicarious thrill. Jasper delights in off-beat pleasures; he enjoys having his tail pulled and explodes into purrs when I touch the end of his nose. I wrote a poem about Jasper:

Sometimes I'm blue,
but Jasper is
always
black

1982