

A Plethora of Possibilities. A Plethora of Achievements.

A PLETHORA OF CATS STUDY


the Art of Dr. Seuss
COLLECTION

IT ALL STARTED WITH A SKETCH



SPONTANEITY TAKES PLANNING
IN LIFE WE OFTEN
MAKE A PLAN,
SKETCH IT OUT,
THEN GO FOR IT.



**THE SAME WAS TRUE
THROUGHOUT TED GEISEL'S
(AKA DR. SEUSS'S) CAREER.**

In fact, it was an unknown concept drawing that paved the way for one of his most famous and sought after Secret Art paintings. Hidden away for years, *A Plethora of Cats - Study* marks the first-ever Secret Art concept work released in the Art of Dr. Seuss Collection.

THE ROAD TO 392 CATS

When I first met Audrey Geisel in 1996, she told me about the canvas Ted kept on his easel for several years. *A Plethora of Cats* was his creative sanctuary, a work he would turn to at night after shutting down his children's book studio for the day. She remembers him contemplatively standing at the easel, rocking back and forth and adding cat's in what appeared to be an almost meditative exercise. Ted ultimately ended the painting with 392 technicolor cats. Paint, rock-back, step-in and repeat.

I was under the impression this was a spontaneous act of creativity, and that somehow he managed to turn it into one of the most complex paintings he ever made. It struck me as perhaps the finest and most iconic painting in the entire collection, so Audrey and I decided it would accompany *The Indistinct Cat* as the first release in The Art of Dr. Seuss Collection.

However, nearly 10 years after my first meeting with Audrey, I was rummaging through his now famous hidden closet of rare hats and artwork and found an additional collection of artworks I had never seen. In stunned silence, I found myself face-to-face with the concept drawing that started it all – the original incarnation of *A Plethora of Cats*.

ROBERT CHASE, JR.

Publisher, The Art of Dr. Seuss Collection



ORGANIZED CHAOS. SERIOUS FUN. COMPLEX SIMPLICITY.

"Nearly 10 years after first meeting Audrey Geisel (Ted Geisel's wife), I was rummaging through Ted's now famous hidden closet of rare hats and artwork and found an additional collection of artwork I had never seen. In stunned silence, I found myself face-to-face with the concept drawing that started it all – the original incarnation of A Plethora of Cats." – Robert Chase, Jr.

I thought the Plethora of Cats painting had been done spontaneously. It turns out I had been wrong – he planned it out all along. The concept drawing for the painting contained all of the complexity of the final image, but in this work I found something charged with a chaotic energy and whimsy that launched this milestone image.

A PLETHORA OF CATS - STUDY



Mixed media print on paper 40 x 20 in Limited Edition of 850 Arabic Numbers, 99 Patrons' Collection, 155 Collaborators' Proofs, 5 Hors d'Commerce, 2 Printer's Proofs



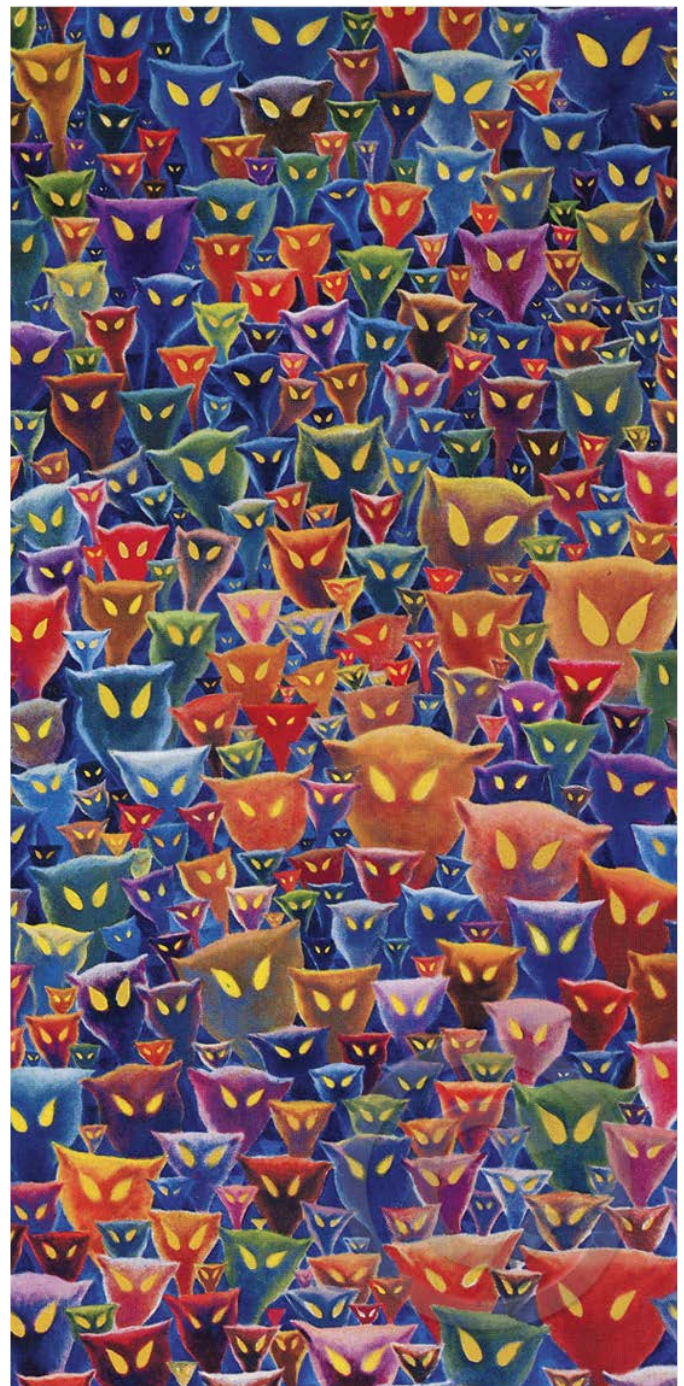
THE CATS HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

When *A Plethora of Cats* was originally released and launched the Art of Dr. Seuss Collection, it was the first chance for the world to see behind the scenes of this American icon. It was released together with *The Indistinct Cat with Cigar* and both made an indelible impact on the artworld. Robert Chase, Jr., Publisher of the Art of Dr. Seuss Collection, recalls:

“I remember United Airline’s calling to ask if they could put *A Plethora of Cats* on the cover of Hemisphere’s Magazine, their inflight magazine which was distributed (quite literally) around the entire world. We enthusiastically agreed... I came into my office the day after the magazine’s release with a full (and subsequently broken) answering machine, with phones ringing off the hook. We couldn’t handle the call volume and sold the work out in very short order.

It was amazing to see artworks that had lived in total obscurity suddenly launched into the world in front of millions of people, allowing them behind-the-scenes access to this iconic man.

People are generally curious. This project has continued to show that when we encounter extraordinary talent, we want to peer behind the curtain and learn more. There is no better example than *A Plethora of Cats - Study*. And like the final painting, I expect this one won’t last long.”



The original *Plethora of Cats* painting

Left Cambridge - lived on father's estate -
Classics - Mathematics - Music.

L'Allegro - Il Penseroso -
Comus - Lycidas

L'Allegro = parallel structure with Il Penseroso.
Sense of sound.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR ART CONSULTANT FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO ACQUIRE THIS RARE ARTWORK

L'Allegro
Il Penseroso
Cold Blooded Painter?



"At a Solemn Musick" = most perfect of M's. poe
flawless



Comus. (A Mask presented at Ludlow Castle) 1634

mask - purposely made easy to act.

Elizabethanisms in Comus

"funny dross" - not like "comus smelling over
at T...