

Memphis Artist Paints Cats in All Their Colors

Meet cat lover and talented artist Angi Cooper. Her paintings reflect historical feline subjects, though her own pets often stand in as models.

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Cooper's cats and neighbor cats have unwittingly served as models. "Cleo" was a neighbor cat with downturned eyes and a sad meow, so Cooper painted her blue. "Gizzie Pop" features family cat Gizmo in a four-paneled nod to Andy Warhol. One of Cooper's latest projects, "Frisco Cat's Birdhouse of Blues," is named for her own friendly rescue cat, Frisco. The birdhouse idea started as part of a fundraiser for St. Mary's Catholic Church in Memphis, but Cooper continued making them because they were fun. Each house features a paper mache cat or dog perched on the roof, playing a guitar or harmonica, and lyrics painted down the sides, attesting to the singer's latest woe. Cooper contributes her time and work to charitable causes. She volunteers at the Memphis Zoo and Mewtopia, an area cat shelter. You can view her work at her website.