

FROM BRUEGEL TO MATISSE

Felix Jumps In!

twelve masterpieces for little viewers

JAN VAN WASSENHOVE



A PICTURE BOOK FOR AGES 4-8

Felix Jumps In!

*From Bruegel to Matisse — twelve
masterpieces for little viewers*

JAN VAN WASSENHOVE

A mischievous cat simply jumps into a painting — and Sam and Lily dive in after him! Travel through twelve famous masterpieces and discover, through play, how art works.

Turn the page →

1 PIETER BRUEGEL THE ELDER · #1560

Looking closely & composition

It was raining, so Sam and Lily slipped into the quiet museum. Their little cat Felix came along too. When a ray of sun danced across an old painting, Felix simply jumped right in! Sam and Lily looked at each other... and leapt after him. Plop — there they stood, in the middle of a busy square full of playing children.

🔦 Fact

In the real painting more than eighty groups of children are playing — you keep finding something new.



🔦 Try it yourself

Play "I spy with my little eye" with a busy picture.

7 VINCENT VAN GOGH · 1889

Brushstroke & feeling

Suddenly it turned to night and the whole sky began to swirl! Big yellow stars whirled around like slow carousels. Felix jumped up to grab a swirling star, but tumbled laughing into the soft grass. "The sky is really moving," whispered Sam, "as if it's happy." Lily spun along, until she fell dizzy in the grass.

Fact

The painter put the paint on in thick, swirling strokes.

Try it yourself

Draw a night sky with big swirling curls.

FELIX JUMPS IN! · A JOURNEY THROUGH ART



Try it yourself

Put on some music and draw what you hear:
fast = sharp lines, soft = round shapes.

10 WASSILY KANDINSKY · 1913

Abstraction & music

Through one last leaf they fell into a world without things — only colours and shapes floating around! Circles, triangles and sweeping lines danced like music you could see. “Where is Felix?” asked Lily anxiously. Then a soft “meow” sounded and they saw a black-and-white speck among the triangles: Felix, of course!

Fact

This artist didn't paint things, but feelings and music.

Fact

When the painter grew old, he began cutting instead of painting: "drawing with scissors".

Try it yourself

Cut cheerful shapes from coloured paper and glue them into your own artwork.

12 HENRI MATISSE • c.1947

Cutting & shape

In the last world everything looked cut from cheerful coloured paper: blue shapes, yellow stars, green garlands. And there, curled up on a big pink shape, lay Felix softly purring — caught at last! Sam and Lily cut a door out of the paper and stepped back into the museum, just as it was closing.



FELIX JUMPS IN! • A JOURNEY THROUGH ART

TWELVE WORLDS, ONE ADVENTURE

Discover the whole journey

From a busy village square in 1560 to cheerful paper cut-outs from 1947: Bruegel, Vermeer, Hokusai, Monet, Van Gogh, Klimt, Kandinsky, Mondriaan, Matisse and more. At every stop a fact and a 'Try it yourself' activity.

Looking

Shape

Light

Line

Colour

Pointillism

Brushstroke

Pattern

Fantasy

Abstraction

Geometry

Cutting

For teacher & parent too: the back includes a practical section with read-aloud tips, talk-&-look questions and a mini-lesson for each painting – ready for home and the classroom.

Now available on Amazon · paperback & Kindle

Original illustrations, made with AI based on the author's own concept and art direction. Not reproductions of existing artworks. Masterpieces referenced: public domain. © 2026 Jan Van Wassenhove.