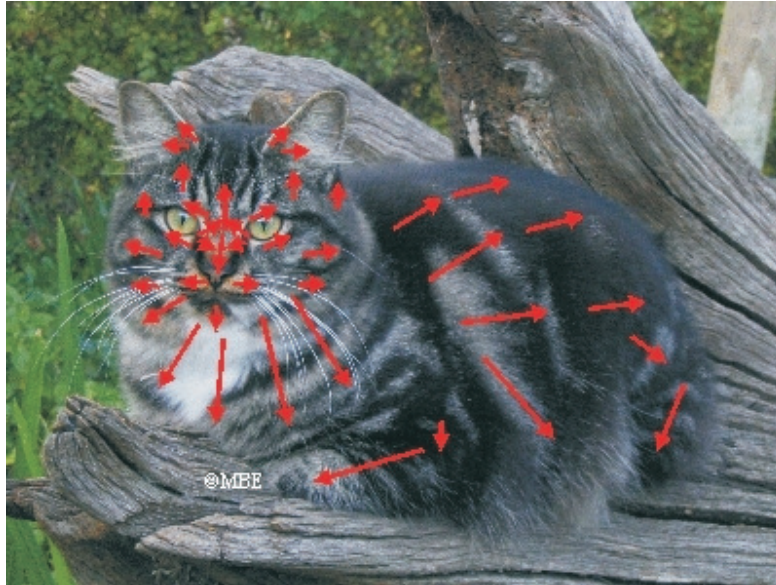


Painting Cats: Fur Map

http://painting.about.com/od/paintinganimals/ss/painting_cats.htm

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What is a Fur Map? A fur map is a deceptively simple painting tool -- it's just an indication of which direction a cat's fur grows in on various parts of the face and body. I say deceptively simple because a fur map is relatively simple to create, but requires self-discipline to use. When you're busy painting a cat, it's all too easy to get carried away and not think about the direction the fur should lie and to paint 'generic' fur. All too often, when there's something not quite working with a cat painting, this is it.

You're not looking at the markings of an individual cat, or whether the fur is long or short, you're looking at the overall direction of fur in a particular part of the body or face, which is similar in all cats. It's about careful observation -- for example, does the fur on a cat's nose go towards the ears or down towards the mouth? Does a cat have eyelashes? Which way do the long hairs inside a cat's ear grow?

How to Make a Fur Map: Create an outline drawing of a cat, or use a photo (as I've done), and make a note of all places where the fur changes direction. If in doubt when looking at your photo, go take a look at your cat (not that they'll make it easy!) Then when you start painting the cat portrait, put this fur map in a place you can easily refer to it.