HOW TO MAKE A GIF WITH

LIZZIE KNOTT

My GIFs

As an illustrator, I use gifs to bring my 2D drawings to life. This involves drawing what I love and then choosing parts of it to animate. They are really fun and super simple!

In particular, I enjoy drawing flowers, people and highlighting important topics such as mental health. Turning these drawings into GIFs can make these subjects really stand out.

A GIF is a simple animation which loops and my technique involves drawing different 'frames' to create movement.

In this resource I am going to show you just how to do that and you can make it as simple or as complex as you like, depending on how many frames you would like to add!

For example, I illustrate for a podcast called 'All Things Mental Health' and to make the Instagram account come to life, I make gifs out of the artwork...

FOR EXAMPLE

(THIS WILL NOW LOOP)

? WHAT ? INSPIRES YOU

So... I challenge you to find something which inspires you.

What is your favourite sport? This movement could be fun to animate.

Or, are you passionate about global topics such as recycling and pollution?

Maybe you miss a friend and want to make them come to life through drawing!

Or you want to see your pet move around.

NOW... VISUALISE!

Take the prompts from the previous page and add your own. Think about these things that make you happy, or what you are passionate about.

Draw as much as you can to visualise these passions. A spider diagram is a really effective way to generate these drawings.

Take a look at my example on the next page!

I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT...

My friends and family

Nature

My cat

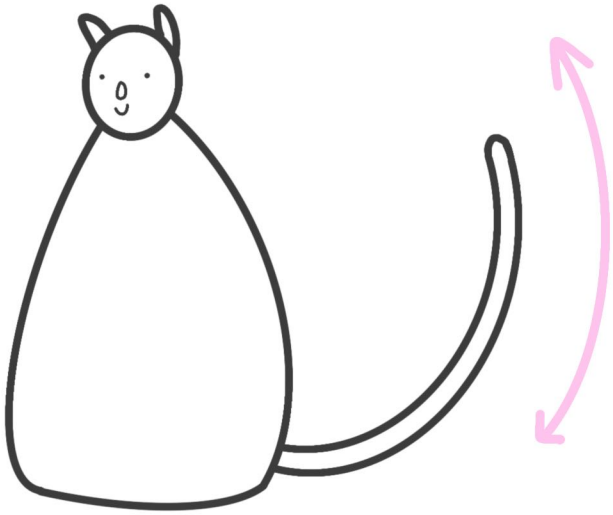
The LGBTQ+ community

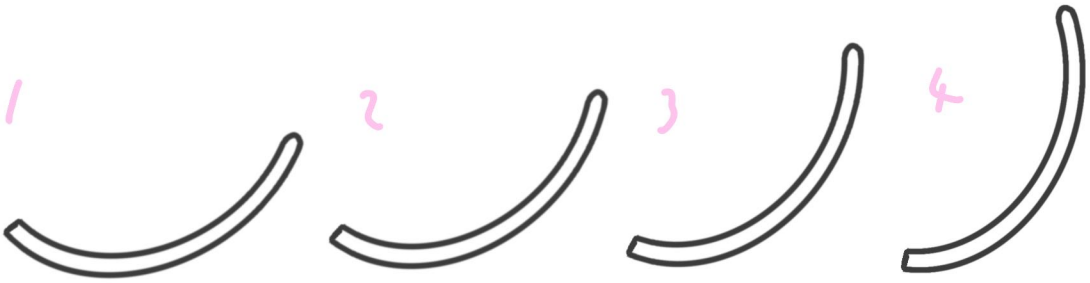
History

HOW TO TURN THESE INTO A GIF,

Now choose one of these drawings and consider how to make it move.

I'm going to choose my cat, who has been keeping us all entertained during lockdown. I feel as though I can capture his personality through a movement of the tail.



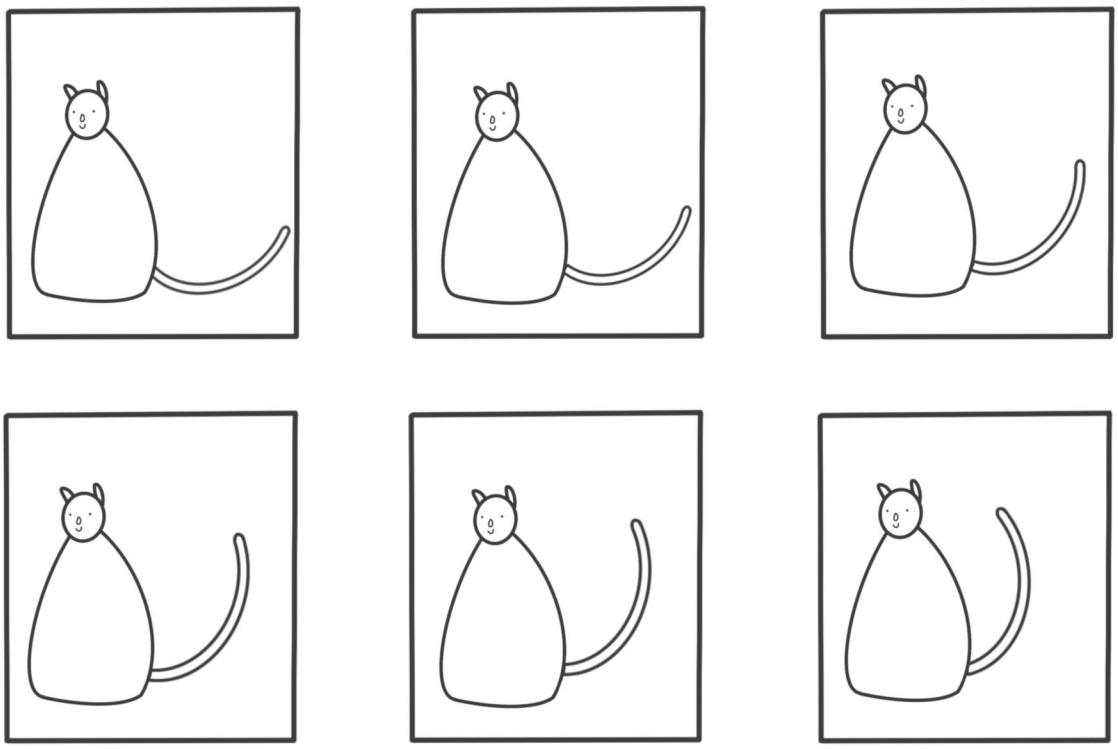


Moving up and down like this!

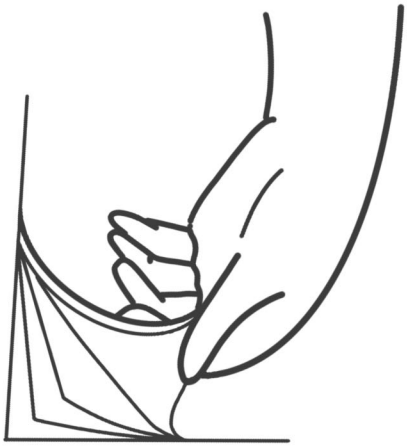
ON PAPER

3

To create a GIF on paper, draw out each frame on separate sheets, just like this.



Then, when you place the sheets in chronological order on top of each other and flick through, you will see the image move!

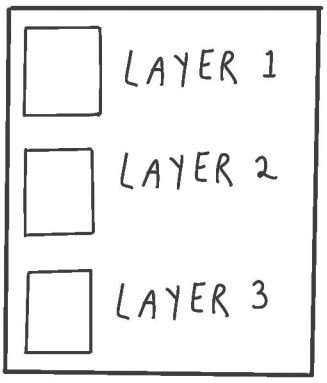


DIGITALLY

1. To turn this into a digital GIF you will need to download the software 'GIMP' which is free to download and use.

2. Scan in or take good quality pictures of each frame that you have drawn out. Make sure that all you can see in the photographs are your drawings and then a consistent plain background.

3. Start up GIMP and open your first layer/frame. You will notice that a dialogue panel opens up on the side of the page which shows all of your layers. Think of these as the separate pages of your flick through paper animation.



4. To open up each frame as a separate layer, click 'File' then 'Open as Layers' and do this one by one until all the layers are uploaded.

5. Make sure that the layers are in the order that you would like them in!

6. When you are happy with the order, click File - Save As - Gif. GIMP will as you if you want to save it as an animation, click yes. You can also change the frame rate to make the GIF move faster or slower.

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