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Purrfect paintings pep up city's 'cat street'



An old city street has been transformed into a vibrant "cat street." The 600-meter-long alley is adorned with vivid wall paintings inspired by pet cat photographs contributed by the public, as well as feline cartoons. — Jiang Xiaowei

Ke Jiayun

AN old downtown street in Shanghai has been turned into a "cat street" with wall paintings inspired by pet cat photographs collected from the public and feline cartoons.

Fangbang Road M., which connects the Yuyuan Garden area and the Bund Finance Center, has been under demolition since 2018 and was empty for a long time. This week, however, local residents and tourists flocked to the street to see the walls covered in different styles of cat paintings.

Starting from Xuanhutai (玄扈台), a traditional Chinese drama stage now wrapped with colorful knitting wool by the artists, the "cat street" is about 600 meters long.

The previously dusty walls are full of vivid huge tabbies and there are also cartoon cats on unexpected corners.

There are paintings of more than 30 pet cats collected from netizens with their names and introductions alongside.

On Monday afternoon, visitors nearly blocked the street and some cyclists and deliverymen had to elbow their way through the crowds.

Shi Er, a pet blogger on lifestyle-sharing platform Xiaohongshu, was excited when she took her cat Tuanzi to the site and saw the paintings of the feline creatures.

"She is a social butterfly who is not afraid of people. I wanted to let her to see herself on the wall," Shi joked.

"It can also raise people's awareness on caring for stray cats."

Tango, the artist behind the huge



The name and an introduction is given alongside the paintings of pet cats. — Ke Jiayun



Shi Er brought her cat Tuanzi to see her own painting. — Ke Jiayun

cat wall paintings, designed them to provide visitors with a unique perspective by showcasing what it's like to see the world from a cat's level.

"As you walk around, you'll find yourself looking at the cats eye-to-eye," Tango pointed out.

Tango's team saw the blank walls of the old neighborhoods as the perfect canvas for their paintings. They embarked on the "Cat Street Archives" project, transforming these walls into a natural gallery for their artwork.