



Penny Wheatley

Cat Passion

Tuesday 14th Nov - Saturday 18th Nov

Gallery Different
London W1T 1DR



Penny Wheatley
Award Winning Artist

I have worked for much of my life as a sculptor. I exhibited widely, undertook commissions, won awards and became known as a sculptor. But in 1992 I became ill; I was diagnosed with M.E. and was unable to work at all. When I recovered enough to begin a little work, I started to learn to paint.

I hadn't painted since I was a child. I started small, and for very brief periods, with Gouache paint. After a while I moved, excitingly, on to oils. But this was very tiring, and I could only paint a very little at a time and oil painting was a huge new ball game.

Years later, one of my first large oil paintings was of a tiger; it was of Blake's vision of the tiger and inspired by his poem The Tyger. The painting was sold at London Zoo, with the help of David Attenborough, and I managed to raise my first few thousand pounds for tigers, and so began my mission to raise money for my beloved big cats in the wild.



"In my life-sized oil painting of a snow leopard, this magnificent cat stands, almost melting into its rocky background, in the foothills of the Himalayas, whose heights can be viewed in the distance. When I had finished this big painting, I declared, 'Now I have brought you into existence, you will earn money for your kind!' And so began my mission to paint my heart out for wild cat conservation. I am delighted all these years later to finally be able to put on an exhibition that will truly benefit the cats I love."

Penny Wheatley

"Artist Penny Wheatley has, over some considerable time and at great personal effort, produced a wonderful set of big cat paintings, full of life, movement and energy. That she is donating every penny from the sale of these works to two worthy animal charities makes this body of work, and her, even more remarkable. Let us hope, for the conservation of big cats and for Penny, that it is a sell-out show."

Chris Rose
Internationally acclaimed Wildlife Artist



Wildlife Vets International

Saving species from extinction is complicated. There's no quick fix and the challenges are immense. Poaching, habitat loss and climate change are just some of the problems made worse by unexpected outbreaks of disease. WVI provides wildlife veterinary expertise that is vital for controlling disease, reducing suffering, and successfully rehabilitating sick and injured endangered animals. We work with a wide range of partners across the world to train more people on the conservation frontline to use veterinary science so that wildlife can survive and thrive.

wildlifevetsinternational.org

"Throughout the last ten years that I have known Penny, her thirst for knowledge about the existence and conservation of the Asian big cats has fed directly into the paintings she has produced. I particularly love Penny's watercolours, where her powerful energy and creative passion pulls you into the excitement of the moment. As great fans of her work, we are therefore delighted to be a beneficiary of this stunning exhibition – Penny's only show of paintings to date. We look forward to supporting wildlife vets working in big cat conservation in her name."

Olivia Walter
Executive Director WVI



The Big Cat Sanctuary

The Big Cat Sanctuary in Kent is a centre dedicated to the conservation of wild cats, with the objectives of welfare, breeding, education and conservation. The initiatives undertaken are a vital part in saving some of the planet's most endangered and iconic species from extinction.

The Sanctuary is proud to have contributed to co-ordinated global breeding programmes as well as donating to in-situ conservation projects. The centre offers personal big cat experiences including overnight stays, photography, ranger days and educational tours.

thebigcatsanctuary.org

"Penny is a dear friend to BCS & the family. We are so proud to be supporting Penny's first major art exhibition for big cats."

Lynn Whitnall
Trustee BCS



Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)

Founded by Dr. Laurie Marker in Namibia in 1990, CCF is dedicated to saving the cheetah in the wild. Cheetah numbers have dropped by 98%, leaving just over 7,000 in the wild in Africa. Every year, around 300 cheetah cubs are taken from the wild in the Horn of Africa for the illegal pet trade. They are the most endangered big cat in Africa and time is running out for them. With a global affiliate network, including CCF UK, we work together to secure a future for the cheetah and all who share its landscape, including humans.

cheetah.org/uk

James Hanaway
Director of Development



Penny Wheatley
Big Cat Oils

Panthera Annunciata Snow Leopard

Oil on board H 45" x W 54" (life size)



I painted my life size Snow Leopard after watching a David Attenborough film featuring snow leopards. I was so deeply moved by what was revealed of this species' glorious but fragile existence. These most endangered creatures are some of the very jewels in our planet's crown.

This magnificent cat stands, almost melting into its rocky background, in the foothills of the Himalayas, whose heights can be viewed in the distance. When I had finished this big painting, I declared, "Now I have brought you into existence, you will earn money for your kind!" And so began my mission to paint my heart out for wild cat conservation.

£7500

Whiteout

Oil on board
H 34" x W 40"



I painted Whiteout with both joy and sadness. No doubt a common enough scene of a snow storm in the mountains, but also a metaphor for the threatened loss of this precious species of cat. It was a glorious subject; beautiful, dazzling, yet deeply moving.

£4959

Tiger in the Snow

Oil on board
H 30" x W 48"



Unlike with my previous Snow Leopard paintings, there is no pathos in this portrayal of an Amur Tiger. He is the King. He rules. The largest cat on the planet at rest, lordly and proud.

£5250

Hunting Tiger

Oil on board
H 22" x W 28"



In the final sprint of a hunt, this Tiger covers the ground so gracefully, almost nimbly, and fully focused on her prey in the dappled shadows of the evening light. This was a painting that I really enjoyed making, with its sensation of speed and atmospheric flashes of light and shadow. I had a ball from start to finish.

£3250

Out of the Darkness

Oil on board
H 17.25" x W 20"

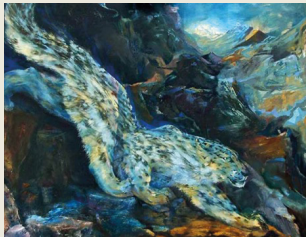


This was a painting of the most endangered Big Cat on the planet. Again I use the metaphor of darkness, as I did with snow in Whiteout, to depict the Big Question of whether or not this beautiful Amur Leopard might disappear in the near future, because of its Critically Endangered status. Will it emerge from the darkness, or will the darkness swallow it up? How often can beauty and tragedy be part of the same work of art?

£3250

Snow Leopard Hunting

Oil on board
H 28" x W 36"



This Snow Leopard almost flows down the rocks, like a waterfall, in pursuit of a Markhor. Both predator and prey display dizzying agility in the race down the rocks. This thrilling life and death chase will end in death for the markhor, but a gratifying meal for the cat.

£4450

Amur Tiger Head

Oil on board
H 28.6" x W 36"



This is an intense life-size study of a snarling Amur Tiger. I feel this large, majestic male is not really angry or fearful in any way. He is confidently, even effortlessly, holding his ground as he stares at you from an uncomfortably close vantage point. He looms out of the evening like a brilliant sun. What a challenge to put over, in paint, his awesome power, size and raw energy! Again, painting on this scale filled me with his very real presence, and to paint him life-size was thrilling.

£3950

Cat Passion

Oil on board
H 35" x W 40"

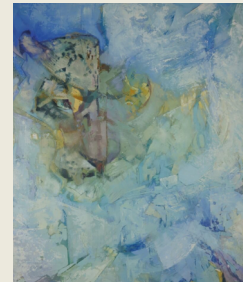


In this painting the two Tigers are engaged in fierce love-making foreplay. When two tigers engage in their mating ritual, it is a brutal business. It is hard to distinguish from a fight between two males at times. The female initiates the aggression, the male is careful and comparatively tactful. But before the actual mating he will overpower her and sink his teeth into her neck – this is all a necessary part of her becoming receptive to him. The foreplay is noisy and takes place at lightning speed.

£5250

Spirit of the Himalayas - Snow Leopard

Oil on board
H 23" x W 19"

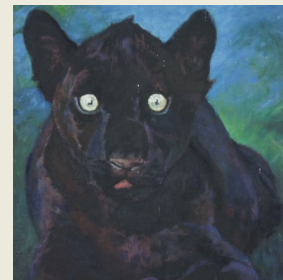


This is one of my absolute favourite paintings and very poignant in its metaphor - in the future, will this glorious creature only be a ghost in the Himalayas?

£3950

Maya - Black Panther Cub

Oil on board
H 12" x W 12"



Maya, the black Panther cub became famous as a television star, when Giles Clark looked after her in his house as a cub. Watching her antics around his house was both thrilling and hilarious. I got to meet Maya when she had become a large adult Panther/Jaguar - sleek, massive and very beautiful.

£950

Willow

Oil on board
H 12" x W 12"



This adorable fluffy cheetah cub came to join Maya in Giles' house. She was a little older than Maya, when she first came, but the two had fun together as they grew up in such unusual circumstances.

£950

Instant Death - Jaguar killing Cayman

Oil on board
H 12.3" x W 15.75"

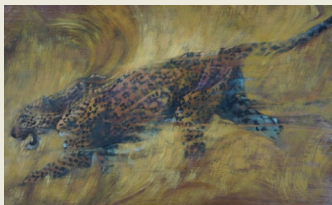


The Jaguar is a very large and powerful cat. It has the widest opening and most powerful jaws of any of the Big Cats. It is quite amazing to watch the Jaguar take such a huge, but utterly calculated risk with its own life, to pounce on and kill the Cayman with one carefully and accurately focused bite to the vulnerable part of the Cayman's skull, which causes almost instant death. My racing heart was in my mouth as I watched some splendid film coverage of this phenomenon. The Jaguar rises from the water like a god, and leaps onto its quarry, all in the flash of an eye.

£1450

Prowling Leopard

Oil on board
H 13" x W 21.5"



There is a feeling of yellow heat in the air as the Leopard prowls through the grasses, stalking, slowly and low to the ground, with his camouflaged body almost invisible amongst the grasses. A powerful cat, a loner on the hunt.

£1250

Penny Wheatley Big Cat Watercolours

Cat Passion 1

Watercolour
H 15" x W 21"



In this painting the female Tiger is more or less overcome - apparently split between fury and desire.

£1495

Cat Passion 2

Watercolour
H 15" x W 21"



In the pre-mating skirmish, the female is the more aggressive. The male Tiger parries and waits his time.

£1495

Cat Passion 3

Watercolour
H 15" x W 21"



The cats spin; the female, already off balance, will fall, and her calmer mate will take his prize.

£1495

Cat Passion 4

Watercolour
H 19.5" x W 22"



The fever of the fight.

£1350

Cheetah running through the grass

Watercolour
H 22" x W 30"



The cheetah, running at full speed, through tall delicate grasses.

£1650

Cat Passion 5

Watercolour
H 11" x W 11.25"



The female Tiger rages against the male, who is confident about the outcome of his fight with her.

£1150

Cheetah Closing in on Impala

Watercolour
H 13" x W 22"

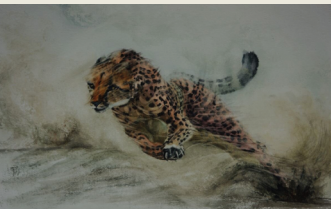


This concluding moment in the chase is always both chilling and thrilling. I watch it with emotions on a roller coaster of extremes - the agony and the ecstasy. I think of that lovely delicate creature about to meet its end, and I think of the mother cheetah and her cubs, and I am both torn and magnetically drawn in.

£1450

Tight Turns - Cheetah Galloping at Full Stretch

Watercolour
H 14.75" x W 21.5"



The typical prey of the cheetah is gifted with exquisite speed and agility, and can turn on a sixpence. the cheetah, the larger and heavier animal, cannot quite match this, but nevertheless, she is also extremely agile and often wins out in the end with her supreme turn of speed.

£1450

Cheetah Leaping for Impala

Watercolour
H 13" x W 22"



The dance-like beauty of this glorious leap cannot but thrill - two such exquisite animals, both supreme masters of movement.

£1450

A Single Cheetah Attempting to Bring Down a Hartebeest

Watercolour
H 12" x W 15"



This is a massive beast for this small Cat to fell on her own. she may not succeed, but her determination to bring a meal to her cubs is paramount and she will give it all she has.

£1250

Twisting and Turning - Cheetah Pursuing Young Thomson's Gazelle

Watercolour
H 12.75" x W 22"



Again the beauty of this anguishing closing-in of the Cheetah on the young impala, towards the end of the chase, is heightened by the flight of the adult impala, soaring over the drama in one leap.

£1550

Two Cheetahs on the Chase

Watercolour
H 9" x W 14"



Two youngsters on their clumsy early efforts at catching their prey. The element of play is rather greater than their skill at this point. Success in this hunt is far from certain...

£1150

Cheetah Chasing Gazelle

Watercolour
H 12" x W 22"



In this painting I was dizzy with delight at the sheer speed and agility of these two beautiful creatures. The poignancy and delicacy of the very young Gazelle and the piercing focus of the Cheetah. Their speed reaches me almost as a blur...They hardly touch the ground - they fly.

£1450

Two Cheetahs Closing in on an Ostrich

Watercolour
H 22.25" x W 24.25"



There is unavoidable comedy in this study of different modes of speed. The Ostrich is, however, almost graceful in its desperate flight. But nobody can outrun the fastest animal on the planet.

£1550

Lioness Closing In on Blue Piglet

Watercolour
H 12" x W 22"



As I painted this Piglet, I was acutely in touch with the pain and sorrow for this young baby animal and his cruel end. In this painting, unusually, my feelings were strongly aligned with the prey animal. This tiny vulnerable creature gasping his last breaths in this hopeless and fatal chase. Previous portrayals of the chase, for some reason, had not affected me as much as the little blue piglet.

£1450

Lions Play Fighting

Watercolour
H 14.5" x W 22"



No sadness in this joyous painting. I have tried to capture a truly lyrical fight - if two such words can possibly be juxtaposed. These young Lions play fight lazily, and even gracefully, in the hot sun. Unlike the majority of my paintings of Big Cats concerned with extreme action, here is a moment of peace, calm and tenderness.

£1475

Caracal with Prey

Watercolour
H 14" x W 18"



Why does this painting seem so quiet and peaceful to me? The lyrical curve of the Caracal's neck and shoulder, and the curve of the back of the little Rat seem to ease the brutality and finality of this moment.

£1350

Lioness and Cub

Watercolour
H 15.5" x W 20"



I am struck by the affection of Lions, and here a mother and her cub lie peacefully together in a warm embrace. For me it was a change to paint such a warm, quiet, domestic scene.

£1450

Caracal Stalking

Watercolour
H 12" x W 20"



How level and easeful is the almost floating silent movement of this glorious Cat.

£1350

Last Gasp

Watercolour
H 12.5" x W 11.25"

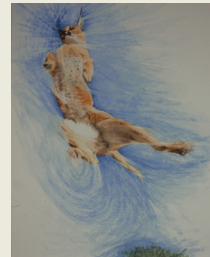


Only a few days old, this tiny fawn in its final moments, and the total deadly focus of the Cat, bring forth such acute mixed emotions at the loss of this tiny life almost before it had begun.

£950

Caracal Leaping

Watercolour
H 18" x W 14.5"



The leap of the Caracal is a marvel to behold. This cat soars effortlessly into the air, reaching above the trees and disappearing into the blue of the sky. What absolute joy and abandon.

£1395

Tiger Attacking Black Grouse

Watercolour

H 21.5" x W 25.75"



This Tiger plunges through a flurry of thick snow to catch a small but relatively easy meal.

£1650

Puma - An Intense Hunt in the snow

Watercolour

H 21.5" x W 22"



With his eye on his prey, this beautiful Puma plunges through the snow, intent on pinning down his next meal. Again, I am entranced by the concentration of energy and focus of this powerful cat as he plunges through the snow.

£1650

Two Tigers Fight for a Female

Watercolour

H 21" x W 25.5"



A spinning ball of Tigers in a passionate whirlwind fight that explodes in seconds. The female awaits her fate with almost disinterested passivity. In this painting I wanted to convey the speed and violence of this aggressive fight. The kind of energy involved could light a city, it is so intense.

£1695

Snow Leopard Alerted

Watercolour

H 15.5" x W 22.5"



Something catches her eye and grips her attention as she moves down the snowy hill. She pauses and fully focuses her concentration, ready for action.

£1450

Mother and Son

Watercolour

H 15.5" x W 21.25"



A picture of maternal bliss? Not quite... Her young son has grown a bit and is now daring to challenge his mother in practice for his adult life, when his dominance will stand him in good stead and get him the best mates.

£1550

Puma Stalking Quietly, Hearing a Rustling Under the Snow

Watercolour

H 13" x W 22"



This beautiful Puma creeps stealthily through the snow. She hears something moving under the snow and pauses ready to strike. The long curve of her body is counterpointed by her shadow, showing stark and dark blue against the brilliant white of the snow as it accompanies her.

£1450

Dr John Lewis
Prints available

In memory of Dr John Lewis, WWI Founder and wildlife vet. John's work was of such enormous importance that I have done my best to help towards enabling it to be carried forward in his name and through his example. I have created this painting of an Amur Tiger especially for this great man, and its subject, the Tiger, the Big Cat he almost made his own with his study and research into it. I offer this memorial, in reverence, gratefulness and awe. I should add that it is impossible not to include the word LOVE, for this amazing and valuable human being, who did so much good in the wildlife world.

I like to believe that this very Tiger, a huge male Amur Tiger, is the very Tiger that John once treated and was once more plunging through the snow, in his glorious freedom and magnificence.

Fine Art Prints – High quality, hand printed images of all the artwork are available to order, both full size (£165 plus p&p) and proportionally smaller (£145 plus p&p).

John's Tiger

Watercolour
H 22" x W 30"



SOLD
(prints available)

**Cheetah tripping up
a Thomson's Gazelle**

Watercolour
H 10.25" x W 22"



The poignant end-game: again I capture the dynamic moment of the final strike.

SOLD (prints available)

Penny Wheatley
Big Cat Drawings

The Red Tyger

Charcoal, White Chalk and pastel
H 26.5" x W 21"

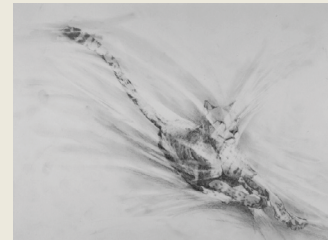


This coloured charcoal drawing refers back to my original large oil painting that I sold, with the help of David Attenborough and ZSL London Zoo, to raise my first sum of money for Big Cats, many years ago. In this new drawing, Blake's Tyger is no longer 'burning bright' and shooting flames out of him, proud and splendid. Now, here, the fire has reduced to dying flames and burning embers. His head is no longer held high and eye brilliant, but carried low with wary watchful eye. In this picture, he is representing the fate of the Big Cats in general - a dangerous downward slide into oblivion.

£1250

In Hot Pursuit

Graphite on white paper
H 11" x W 15.5"

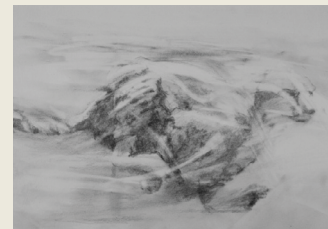


I think this is perhaps my favourite drawing of a Cheetah in full flight. The Cheetah, in turn, is one of my favourite cats. I worship its beauty, speed and grace. Of all the Big Cats in Africa, the Cheetah has perhaps the hardest life. So often he or she will catch prey, but snatch only a mouthful or two, before her hard-won meal is stolen from her by a bigger cat.

£625

The Speed of Light

Graphite on white paper
H 7.75" x W 11"



This drawing catches the emotion felt when perceiving the speed and grace of the fabulous hunting machine. This is what I was striving for...

£625

The Speed of Light 2

Graphite on white paper
H 7.75" x W 11"



Again I am striving to convey the feeling of supreme speed of the fastest animal on the planet, the Cheetah...

£495

Two Young Caracals Chasing a Bird

Charcoal, heightened with white chalk and pastel on coloured paper
H 14" x W 19.5"



The leading Caracal is leaping for a Bird. The leap of the Caracal is more glorious to behold than that of the finest human dancer. These two young cats are having a ball, exercising their new found skills.

£675

Powering Over The Plains

Graphite on white paper
H 11" x W 14.5"



I never tire of this mesmerising sight of the Cheetah at full stretch - so much ground covered in a single stride...

£495

Caracal

Graphite on white paper
H 11.75" x W 8.25"



He turns to look - a glorious twist of his graceful body in one of the most beautiful of all the Wild Cats, the Caracal.

£495

Caracal

Charcoal heightened with white chalk
H 12" x W 10"



I have drawn this Caracal in charcoal on coloured paper, highlighted in white. He looks hesitant and rather ghostly in the gloaming.

£445

Caracal Running

Charcoal, with added pastel
H 7.5" x W 11.5"



I have added a little colour in pastel to this charcoal drawing of a Caracal plunging forward into a chase.

£395

Cheetah Pursuing Prey

Graphite on white paper
H 8.5" x W 7.5"

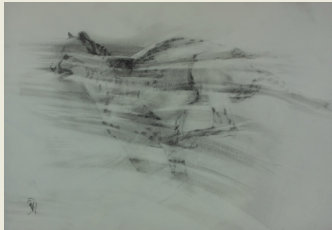


Cheetah rushing past you,
in hot pursuit of prey.

£395

Cheetah at Full Gallop

Graphite on white paper
H 8.25" x W 10.75"



The excitement of the chase and the whirl
of speed always takes my breath away.

£415

Cheetah Walking Stealthily

Graphite on white paper
H 11.75" x W 16.25"

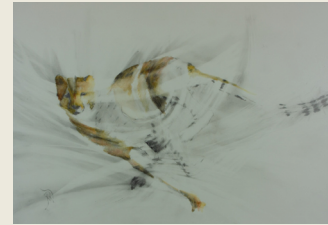


Even at the walk, the languid beauty and
grace of this magnificent Cat is so lyrical.

£425

Cheetah Pursuing Prey, About to Turn

A graphite drawing, heightened
with crayon and wash
H 9.25" x W 15.25"



This Cheetah is pursuing her agile prey
and must change direction fast. Her prey,
usually a Gazelle, has more flexibility
than the heavier Cat, she makes up for it
with her tremendous burst of speed.
Watching this, one is on tenterhooks -
sad for the Gazelle, its life threatened,
but conscious that the Cheetah might
need to feed her precious cubs.

£450

Two Lions Involved in their Noisy Violent Courtship

Charcoal heightened with white
chalk on coloured paper
H 14" x W 16"



He now has her on her back and under
his control, but not yet willing or quiet.
He will persist and win.

£425

Mating Lions

Charcoal, white
chalk and Pastel
H 12" x W 16"



Finally the Lion is able to get on the job!
His mate is now quiet and willing (up to
a point - they both make a lot of noise!)
and he completes his mating and I think
the Lioness is happy that before long
some lovely cubs will be forthcoming
(fanciful, once again!). This time I added
colour to the drawing.

£450



"The Red Tyger"

This exhibition is my tiny contribution to the desperate need for action.

Penny Wheatly



Sponsored by Hertfordshire Zoo & Paradise Wildlife Park