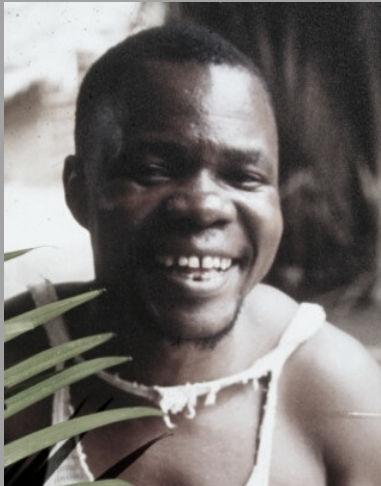


Famous Artists

Edward Saidi
Tingatinga

Tanzanian
1932 – 1972



Edward Tingatinga was born into a poor family in Tanzania. His childhood was spent farming the land and doing household chores. He had a very basic education and only went to school for two years. At the age of 23, Edward moved to Dar es Salaam where he worked as a gardener for an English government official. When Tanzania gained its independence his employer moved away and Edward was left without a job. This was a very difficult time for him.

Noticing people from Zaire selling paintings along the roadside to tourists Edward decided to try and paint one of his own- it sold for 10 shillings!

Excited by his success, Edward began making more and more pictures using recycled materials and bicycle paint, which made his artwork look bright and shiny.



After some time, Edward found another job working at a hospital but, he still kept painting as much as he could. Edward had not trained as an artist or gone to art school, But he loved to paint. He painted pictures of wildlife and nature using a simple, **naïve style** similar to that found on the walls of traditional African mud huts.

Look at Edward Tingatinga's painting of a peacock below.



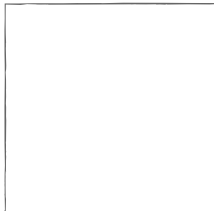
Discuss

What do you notice first about the picture ?

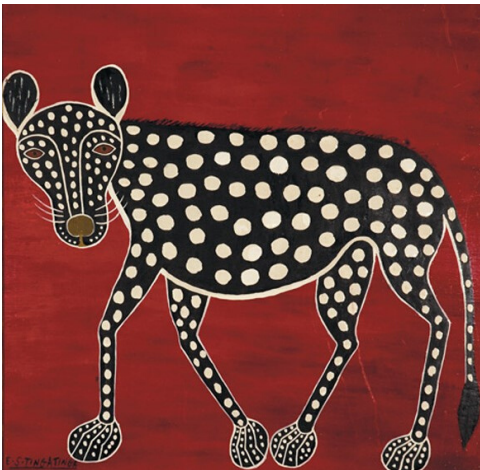
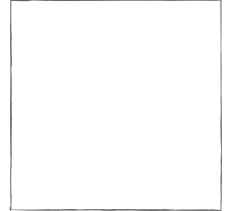
What do you like best about it?

What do you think Edward Tingatinga could have done to make his painting better?

Edward Tingatinga decorated the animals he painted with simple lines and patterns to represent feathers and fur.

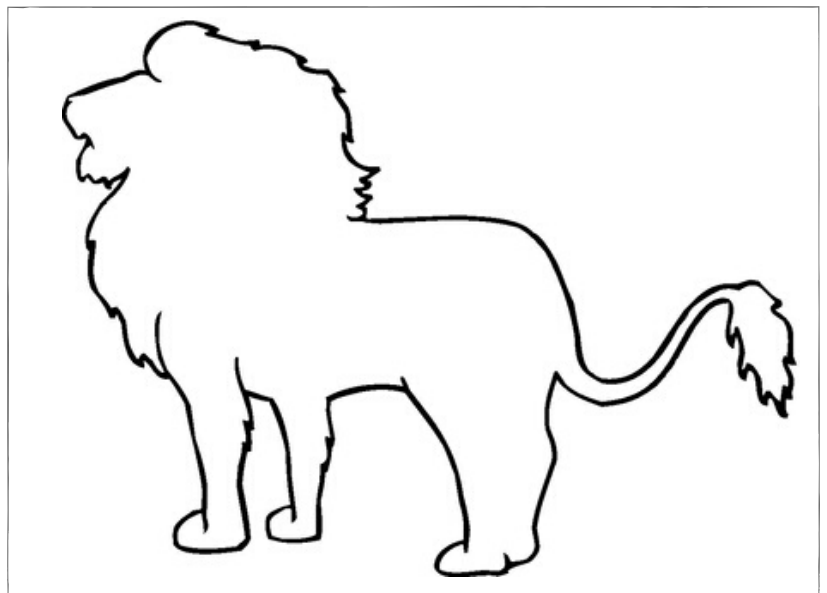


Copy the feather patterns in the boxes.



He also included other patterns like dots, swirls and zigzags in his paintings to make them more interesting. **Look at the picture of the Hyena opposite, now imagine that it wasn't covered in spots. do you think it would look better without them?**

Decorate the lion with different patterns. You can use the same patterns as Edward Tingatinga or try out some of your own.



Edward Tingatinga's paintings became very popular with tourists and after two years of working at the hospital he stopped to spend more time painting and selling his work. He was so busy, that he was able to start training apprentices to paint in his style. It became known as the Tingatinga School.



Tourists bought paintings from the *Tingatinga School* because they were light and could easily fit into a suitcase! They hoped the brightly coloured pictures of native African animals and plants would remind them of their time in Tanzania.

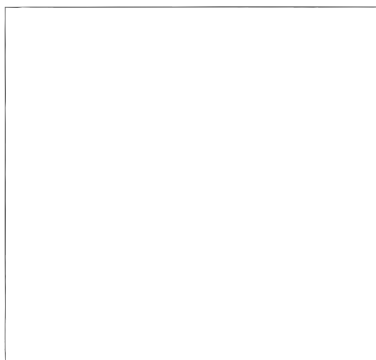
Discuss

What animals are native to the country you live in ?

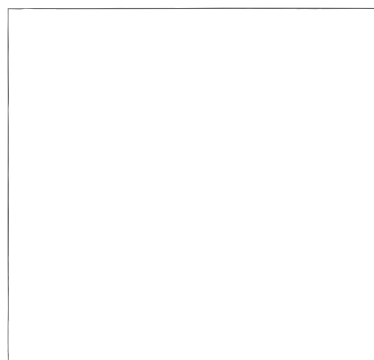
The main focus of Edward Tingatinga's paintings were the animals, which filled most of the space. He often painted the background in a single colour but, sometimes blended two or three colours together.



Try blending some bright colours together in the boxes below.



2 colours



3 colours



4 colours

Suddenly at the age of 40, Edward Tingatinga died after being accidentally shot by the police. The six artists who had been trained by Edward Tingatinga decided to continue painting in his style and with relatives and followers formed what is now called the Tingatinga Arts Co-operative (TACS).

At first, they continued to produce work in the exact style of Edward Tingatinga but, over time introduced new patterns, techniques and colours while keeping the overall look. This style of art became known as Tingatinga. It continues to grow in popularity and versions of it are now made in several African countries.



You are going to make your own piece of Tingatinga inspired art. Edward Tingatinga painted animals that lived in Tanzania. Choose an animal that lives in the country you are in, think of the colours and patterns you will use. Will you add any trees or plants? Sketch your ideas in the box below.

How to make your Tingatinga art.

- **Using a pencil, draw the outline of your chosen animals and plants. Remember to fill all the space.**
- **Colour in the background. You can blend colours or just use one.**
- **colour in the animals and plants.**
- **add patterns.**
- **Draw around the animal outlines with a black felt tip pen.**
- **Add your signature.**

You can create your picture in the box below or use another piece of paper.

