

# MAP Activity Worksheet: Symbols & Arpita Singh



## Part One: Decoding Symbols

Arpita Singh uses a lot of things in her paintings that act as symbols (things that represent another idea or concept). In the painting below, you can see how she uses symbols to present an idea of her central character's traits, features and personality.

Living creatures, everyday items, environment, actions and other objects, all act as clues for us to decipher what those are! Here's us guessing what that might mean. Do you agree with us?



I See	I Think It Means
A figure behind a curtain	<i>This is a shy person</i>
A watch	<i>This is a punctual person</i>
A Scorpion	<i>This person probably snaps a lot</i>



*This is a detailed closeup from the same painting. Can you spot Arpita Singh's signature, along with the date and the title of the work?*

Now that you know the painting is titled *Scorpio: Mystery*, would you change your answers in the previous exercise? What do you now think the work might be about? The title also presents a clue!

This painting is part of a series of twelve where each one depicts a zodiac sign. The paintings explore different factors that are identified with people born under that sign, and also feature the animals associated with that sign. The scorpion here for example, and the idea that scorpions are mysterious.

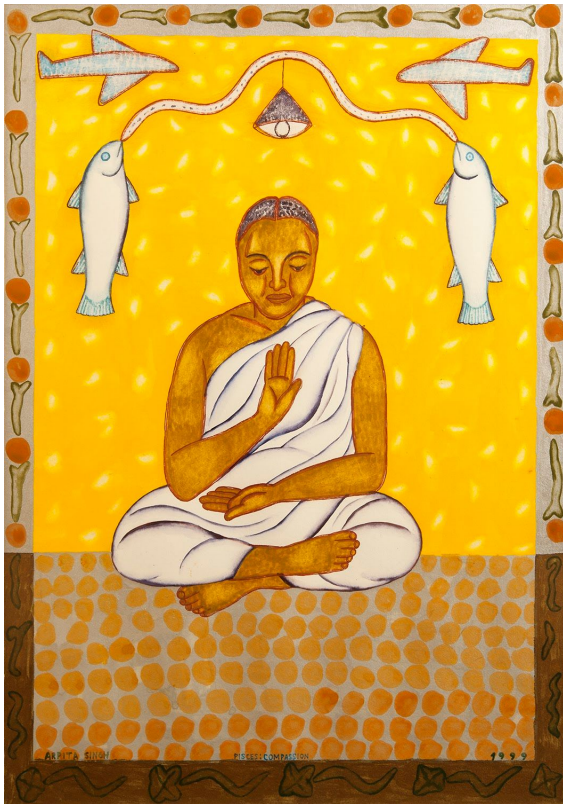
## What are Zodiac signs?

The modern western zodiac is believed to be comprised of twelve signs: Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces. In India, the equivalent system is known as *rashis*, and denotes a sign for each month of the calendar year.

According to astrology, what happens above is reflected below, and so the stars and planets and their movements are believed to affect and guide human activity and life. The zodiac sign we are born under, therefore, is believed to influence our luck, fortune, and events in our lives, as well as our personalities and characters.

What do you think? Do all people born under a zodiac sign share common traits? Or do we want to believe that?

Now, let's look at two other paintings from Arpita's Zodiac series and do the same exercise to decipher what the clues she has left us might mean!



The title of this painting is

## **Pisces: Compassion.**

*Do your observations noted down in the grid align with the personality trait that Arpita Singh chose for her title?*

I see	I think it means



The title of this painting is

## **Capricorn: Persistent.**

*Do your observations and thoughts align with the personality trait Arpita Singh chose to depict and highlight?*

I see	I think it means

## Part Two: Make Your Own Symbolic Painting

How about making a painting like this for yourself?

First, find out what your zodiac is and fill in all details below:

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Your Name

Zodiac Sign

Any animals, objects, or  
traits associated with  
your sign?

Three words you  
would use to  
describe your  
personality (eg:  
Loyal, Clever, Active)

A living or non-living  
object that you think  
represents each of  
your traits best?

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Once you have all your components, you are ready to create your own zodiac painting including personalised symbols! Remember to also give it a title, and sign it like Arpita.



We'd love to see what you created! DM it to us on Instagram @mapbangalore.  
You can also email your images to us at [education@map-india.org](mailto:education@map-india.org)