

## Activity Guide

# Many Visions, Many Versions

Art from Indigenous Communities in

# India

## *Dots, Dashes, and Lines*

The storytellers of the Gond community of India – the Pardhan Gonds – translate folklore songs into visual art. Gond art, which celebrates deities, flora, fauna, and everyday objects, is traditionally painted on house walls and floors. It embraces the idea that “viewing a good image begets good luck.”

Gond paintings are often brightly colored. Birds, elephants, tigers, and horses are typical subjects.

A painting begins with distinctly drawn outlines of uncomplicated forms. The artist then chooses patterns of dots, dashes, and lines to fill in the forms.

**Create your own Gond-inspired art. Imagine a basic animal or bird shape. Draw clean outlines. Add bright colors and patterns using dots, dashes, and lines.**



Jangarh Singh Shyam, *Tree and Panther*, 1988, gouache on paper, © 2015, courtesy of BINDU Modern Gallery, photo by Sneha Ganguly



# Triangles, Circles, and Squares

The Warli people also tell stories through paintings. These stories – often depicting social life – embellish the walls of village houses. Unlike traditional Gond art, Warli art is distinguished by the use of only two prominent colors, a red or brownish earthy pigment (sometimes made from cow dung) and white derived from rice-flour or lime.

Simple geometric shapes are used to create loose rhythmic patterns. Hourglass-shaped figures, made with two triangles, are characteristic of Warli art.

Look at the arms, legs, and feet of the figures in the image. Only three lines form an entire leg, ankle, and foot. Slight variation in the angle of the lines suggests movement.

**Imagine a scene depicting village life, such as dancing, harvesting, or celebrating a special occasion. Draw figures using only circles, triangles, squares, and lines. Vary the angles to suggest movement.**



Jivya Soma Mashe, *Coal Mining Process*, 2011, acrylic on paper, © 2015, courtesy of BINDU Modern Gallery, photo by Sneha Ganguly



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*Many Visions, Many Versions: Art from Indigenous Communities in India* was curated by Drs. Aurogeeta Das and David Szanton with assistance from consulting curator Jeffrey Wechsler, organized by BINDU Modern Gallery, and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.



700 North Twelfth Street  
Wausau, WI 54403  
715.845.7010  
www.lywam.org

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