

TRANSCRIPT

ACCESSIBLE LEARNING WITH VENKAT RAMAN SINGH SHYAM

This is a transcript of the video featured in the **Accessible Learning with Venkat Raman Singh Shyam** resource. You can view the video [here](#).

- 00:00:03 Hello, everyone. My name is Leah. And my name is Sarah. We are both educators at the National Gallery of Victoria. We call it the NGV for short.
- 00:00:16 Have you been to the NGV before?
- 00:00:19 Things are always changing here. In fact, there are around 50 different exhibitions on at the NGV each year. So, there's always something new and exciting to see when you come to visit with your family and friends.
- 00:00:35 Today we're going to look at a bright and colourful artwork that comes all the way from a country called India.
- 00:00:45 Do you know where India is? Let's have a look at a map to see where it is.
- 00:00:52 Here's Australia. The NGV is down here in Melbourne.
- 00:01:05 And here is India. It's quite far from Melbourne and the NGV isn't it?
- 00:01:15 I guess that means the artwork travelled a long way before it was displayed at the NGV. **Aren't we lucky to have it here?**
- 00:01:26 Let's have a close look at it.
- 00:01:31 This is a painting by an artist named Venkat Raman Singh Shyam.
- 00:01:38 It's called The World of the Gonds. The Gonds are a group of people indigenous to India. That is, they are some of the original Indian people.
- 00:01:52 Venkat, the artist, comes from a Gond community right in the middle of India.
- 00:01:59 Now, what's happening in this painting?
- 00:02:03 Hmm, I can see a large, interesting looking animal. What do you think it is?
- 00:02:10 A big cat? Maybe a tiger? Hmm, interesting!
- 00:02:16 It's decorated in lots of bright colours and patterns. And it looks like it's smiling. I guess it's a friendly animal.
- 00:02:28 And what's on the animal's back? I can see some very small people. Let's count them.
- 00:02:38 One, two, three, four, five, six.

- 00:02:47 They look like they might be a family of children and adults. And it looks like one is carrying a drum.
- 00:02:58 Is that a tree? It looks like it might be growing out of the animal's body.
- 00:03:05 Interesting!
- 00:03:06 I wonder what this painting is about. Are you curious too?
- 00:03:12 Well, this painting is about a Gond story, and the Gonds have always lived very close to nature.
- 00:03:22 According to Gond storytelling, this tiger is the God of travel and transportation, which means moving from place to place.
- 00:03:35 In Gond stories, the tiger has the power to make sure that everyone can go to where they want to go safely.
- 00:03:45 Hmm. What kinds of transportation do you use to move from place to place? You might get a ride to school in a car or catch a bus or ride a bike.
- 00:04:02 The small people we see are travelling together on the back of this tiger so they can safely pass through the forest.
- 00:04:12 These people are from the nearby village or town, and they are from the same community. I wonder if you have heard the word before. Community.
- 00:04:26 A community is a group of people living or working together in the same place.
- 00:04:35 People in communities might go to the same schools, shop in the same stores and do the same things, like play the same sport. They also help each other and solve problems together.
- 00:04:54 I wonder what kind of communities you are a part of.
- 00:04:59 Let's start with your family. Families are a type of community because they usually live together and do a lot of the same things.
- 00:05:10 Then there are your friends. They often share your ideas and probably go to the same school as you.
- 00:05:18 Your neighbourhood or the area you live in, along with your neighbours, is a community too.
- 00:05:25 We can also tell that the people in this painting are in the same community because Venkat, the artist, has painted them with similar colours and patterns.
- 00:05:39 Look closely. What do you notice on their clothes?
- 00:05:45 They are all wearing clothing with matching spots.
- 00:05:51 Gond art, or artwork made by Gond artists like Venkat, is famous for its rich colours.
- 00:06:00 Venkat has used lots of different colours for this painting, hasn't he?
What colours can you see? Are there any that really stand out to you?
- 00:06:13 The first colour that I notice is the bright orange used in the background.
It really stands out, doesn't it?
- 00:06:23 I wonder what this orange might remind you of.
Maybe a warm sunset? A juicy mandarin? Or even a crispy carrot?

00:06:36 What about the colours on the tiger, Sarah?

00:06:40 This tiger is covered in so many different colours. Normally, I'd expect a tiger to look like this.

00:06:50 But this tiger looks different. It is not the same. It is a special tiger. A God.

00:07:00 This tiger's head is red like an apple. Its ears are purple, just like the skin of an eggplant.

00:07:12 Around its neck, we can see the colour yellow. What does this colour remind you of?
It reminds me of sunflower petals.

00:07:25 And I can see that the tiger's legs are green, like trees in a forest.

00:07:34 Colour is important in art because it can create a mood or feeling.

00:07:41 Take a moment to notice what kind of feeling you get when you look at all of these bright colours together.

00:07:48 For me, looking at all these colours makes me feel happy.

00:07:55 Yes! And I'm also really amazed by all the colours. They make the artwork look detailed and interesting.

00:08:04 And when I take my time and look really closely, I can see lots of other details in the painting too.

00:08:14 As well as colours, Venkat also used many lines and dots to make this painting extra interesting.

00:08:24 By repeating the dots and lines, Venkat made different kinds of patterns.

00:08:31 A pattern is a design in which lines, shapes or colours are repeated. For example, we can repeat a line over and over to create a pattern of stripes.

00:08:48 Or we can draw lots of small circles to create a pattern of spots or polka dots.

00:08:58 Patterns are all around us in nature, as well as in art and design. Let's look for patterns in The World of the Gonds.

00:09:09 Hmm, well, I can see that there are many yellow dots on the red head of the tiger. Together, all the yellow dots make a polka dot pattern. What else can we find, Leah?

00:09:26 Oh look. Here on the neck of the tiger, there are lots of shapes that look like petals, and each one is decorated with very fine stripes. I can also see dotted red stripes for even more detail.

00:09:45 What about over here on the tiger's back legs? There are lots of patterns here. I can see blue and pink stripes white polka dots and a pattern made from curved lines that look a bit like fish scales.

00:10:08 And are these goats? They are also covered in the same scaly pattern. Wow!

00:10:17 I wonder what other patterns you can see in this artwork. Take your time to look closely and see what you can find.

00:10:34 What did you learn when you slowed down to look carefully at the world of the Gonds?

00:10:43 I learned that the Gonds are a group of indigenous people who live in India and that Gond artwork is well known for rich colours.

00:10:55 Venkat used many rich and bright colours in his painting about a Gond story.

00:11:02 And I learned that in Gond storytelling there is a God in the form of a tiger who helps people travel safely through the forest.

00:11:15 Yes. And I also learned that lots of bright colours in a painting can make me feel happy when I look at it.

00:11:23 And by repeating shapes, lines or colours in an artwork, we can make interesting patterns.

00:11:31 And finally, I learned about communities and how groups of people in a community can share interests, do things together, and help each other.

00:11:47 Thank you for joining us today. And we hope you liked learning all about this special artwork.

Bye!