

*Use these worksheets in the Gallery spaces for independent looking.
They are designed to be managed by an adult leading a small group.*

Signs & Symbols

Suggested exhibitions: *Maori Portraits level 1* | *Love, Longing, Loss mezzanine level*

Symbols can help to tell us something about a person, or give us clues for what an artwork might be about. In your group, find a portrait that interests you.

Draw the portrait here:

Title:

Artist:

Date:

1. Find some objects in the portrait you have drawn that you think might be symbols.

2. Look at each object, one at a time.

– *What might this symbol convey to us?*

– *What makes you think this?*

3. Discuss with your group some of the symbols you found and how you tried to work out what they might mean.

4. Objects are not the only things in artworks that are symbols. What other things in these artworks might also work as symbols?

Lines can also function as symbols, and help us think of different moods.

In the box below, draw:

1. A zig-zag line

4. A thin line

2. A wavy line

5. A fast line

3. A thick line

6. A slow line



Look at the lines you have drawn.

Which line looks like the 'angriest' line?

Why? Share your ideas with your group.

Which line looks like the 'calmest' line?

Why? Share your ideas with your group.

In the Gallery, see how many different kinds of line you can find:

1. Broken

5. Loud

2. Strong

6. Quiet

3. Weak

7. Careful

4. Powerful

8. Messy

Draw an artwork featuring one of the lines that you found:

Title:

Artist:

Date: