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the art of
AMRITA SHER-GIL

LOOKING AT INDIAN ART

This book belongs to:

About this Activity Guide



This activity book is divided into three parts: In the Studio, Appreciating Amrita's Art, and At the Gallery.

The section, In the Studio familiarises young children with the colours, painting and art techniques used by Amrita Shergil.

Appreciating Amrita's Art gives an insight into her artistic observations, subject of her art and what it tries to convey to the viewer.

At the Gallery contains simple and fun activities related to exhibiting art-works.

It is recommended that this activity may be implemented at the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.

Amrita's artwork is also available to view online at the Google Cultural Institute.

A little note from me, who created this:

Hello! This activity book has been created for children so they, along with their families can access and appreciate art. It took me a lot of time to research and put this set of activities together and I hope that you will enjoy this book as much as I enjoyed creating it.

In case you're still wondering, here's why I feel children must be introduced to art.

Art is about:

- observing & imagining
- understanding life and the human spirit
- connecting to the past
- connecting to other cultures
- thinking critically and solving problems
- knowing ourselves deeply
- feeling and expressing

I was advised to add copyright-protection and a terms-of-use to this note, but I feel trust and sharing is more fun. Please do not copy, re-use or produce multiple copies without permission. This activity book is not meant for sale. Images used in this booklet mostly belong to NGMA, Delhi.

If you have any questions, feedback or want to reach out to say hello, you can leave a message at :

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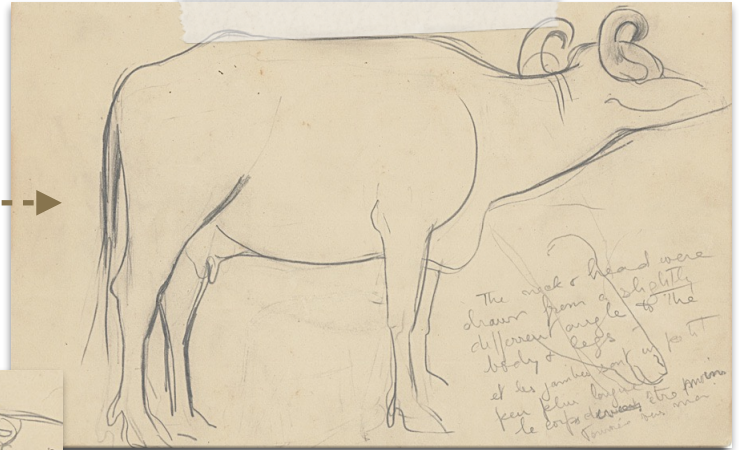
I'd love to hear from you!

Contact us for creative inquiry workshops in your school, office or at the Museum.

In the Studio

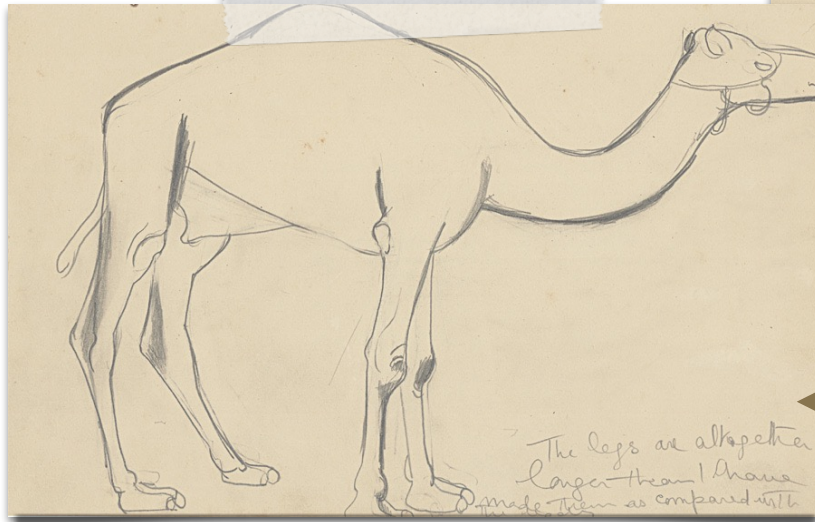
The note reads :

The neck and head were drawn from a slightly different angle to the body and legs



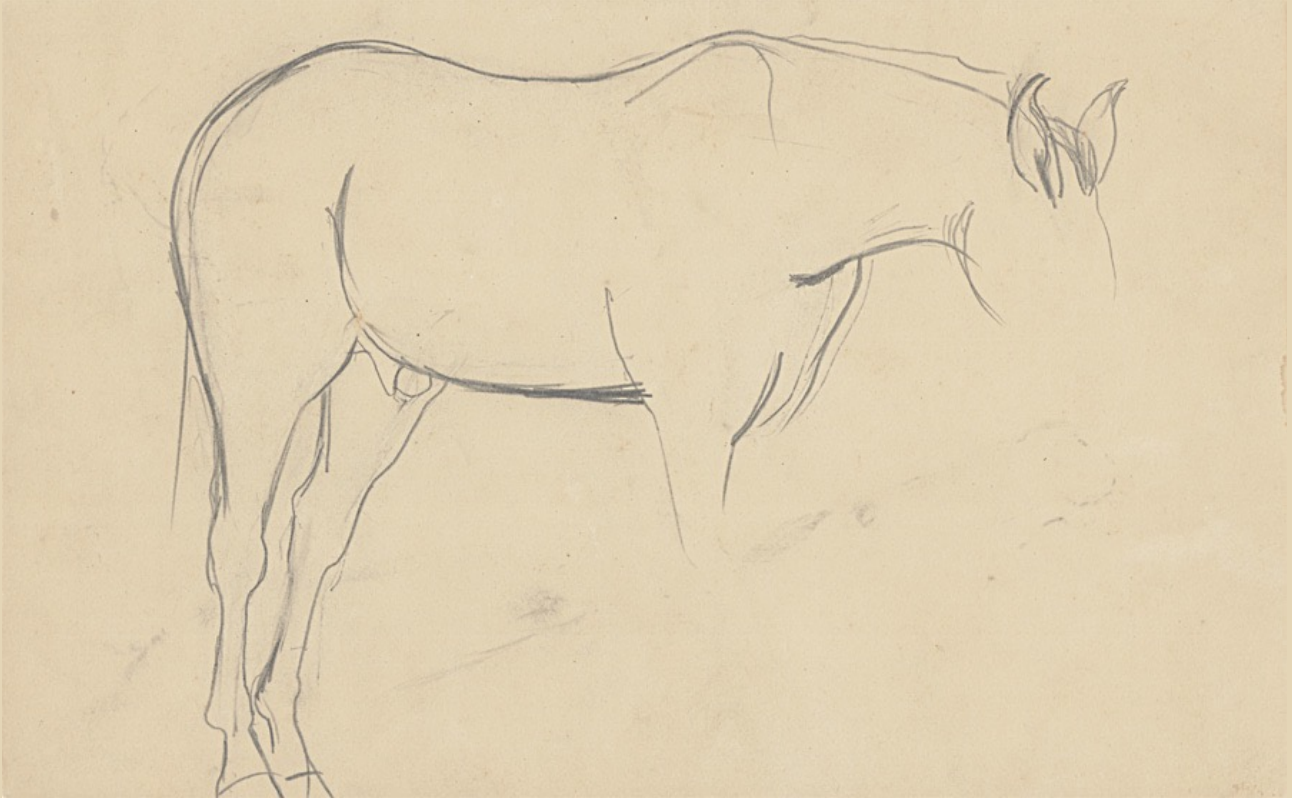
The note reads :

The legs are altogether larger than I have made them as compared with the body.



Observe the above sketches by Amrita Sher-gil. Can you correct what Amrita observed about her sketches? Use the space below to re-draw.

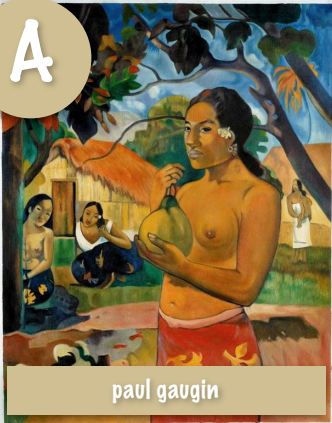
These unfinished sketches were found amidst Amrita's belongings. Can you complete them?



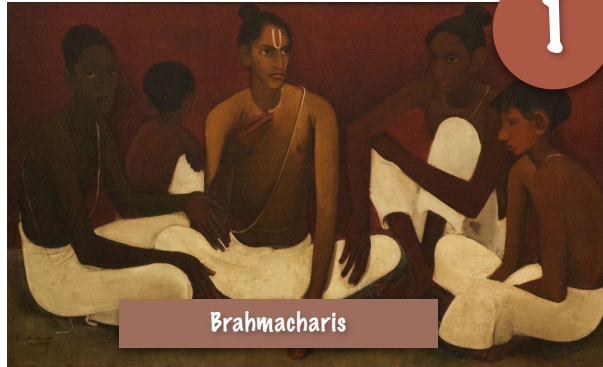
In the Studio

While in Paris, Amrita was hugely inspired by Gauguin and other European artists. When she came to India, she felt very inspired by the murals at Ajanta caves and the Pahari, Mughal miniatures. Match Amrita's paintings (numbers) to the ones you think she was inspired by (alphabets).

A



1



2



C



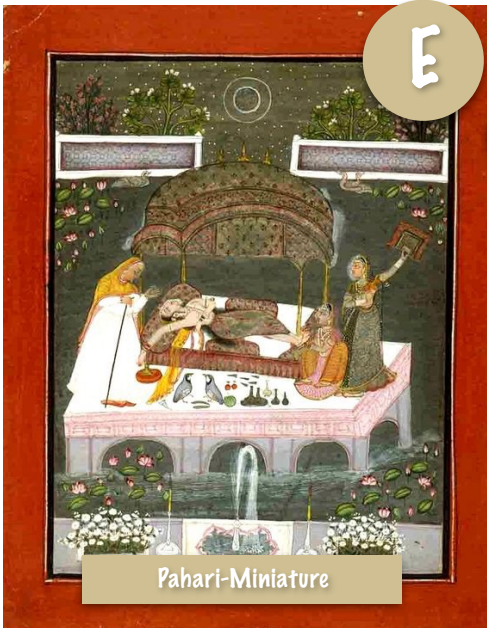
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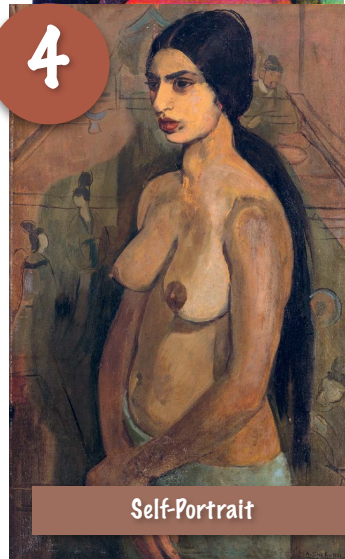
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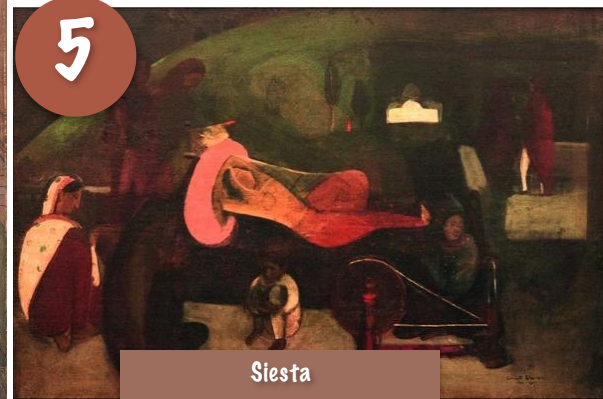
E



4



5



B

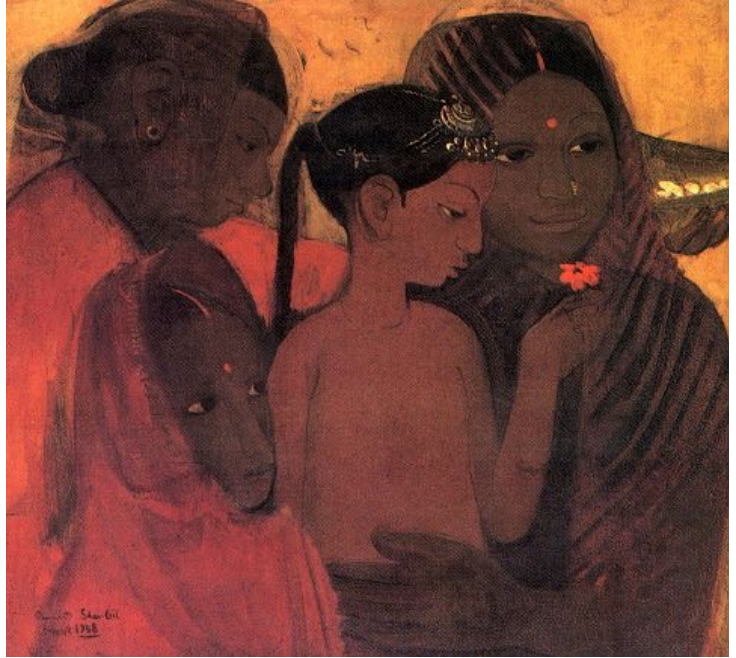


Write your answers here

In the Studio

Someone messed Amrita's studio up. Can you arrange her favourite colours together?

Hint: Look at these 4 paintings. What colours do you see? Fill in the palette given below.



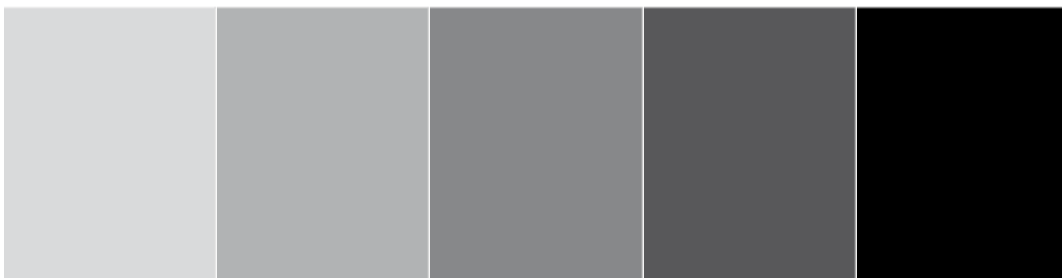
In the Studio

Look closely at this painting : Village Scene. The painting won a Gold Medal and was appreciated for its varied use of white. In 2006, it went on to be sold for 6.9 crore, the highest at that time for a woman-artist.

The technique: CHIAROSCURO (light-dark shading for 3d effect) was a technique Amrita had mastered. An exceptional use of white always marked out Amrita's paintings. She had discovered that white, if used effectively, could enliven a painting, like a flash of lightning which would illuminate the entire space. In Village Scene, she uses white, nuanced in different ways, to spell-binding effect.

The shades of white used in this painting have different values. The value of a colour is how dark or light it is. Look at the values of grey below. In the space given, try to recreate the value of any colour from The Village Scene.

Hint: use the side of your pencil and experiment with pressing gently and firmly.



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Appreciating Amrita's Art

‘Young Girls’ was awarded the Gold Medal in Paris, when Amrita was just 19 years old. Compare this to the painting she made 8 years later. Which one do you like more? Why?



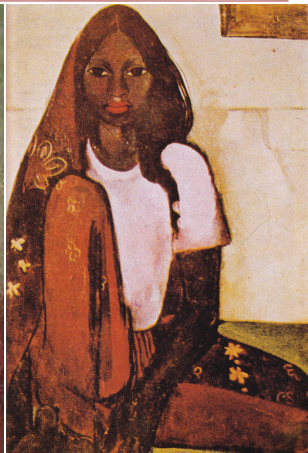
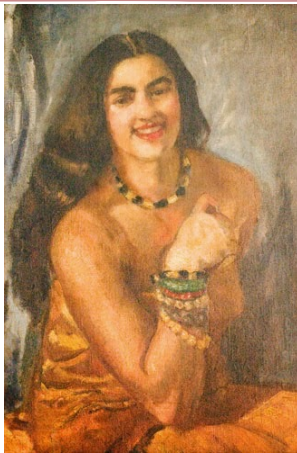
	Young Girls	Woman on Charpoy
What is the age of the women?		
What time of the day do you think it is?		
If you were in the painting, what sounds would you be hearing		
What do you think they are talking about?		
What is the difference in colours?		

Appreciating Amrita's Art

Find out about the position of women in Indian society in 1930s. Then compare it to how Amrita made her women look. What does it say about Amrita's approach to painting women?

Amrita's women

Women in India in 1930

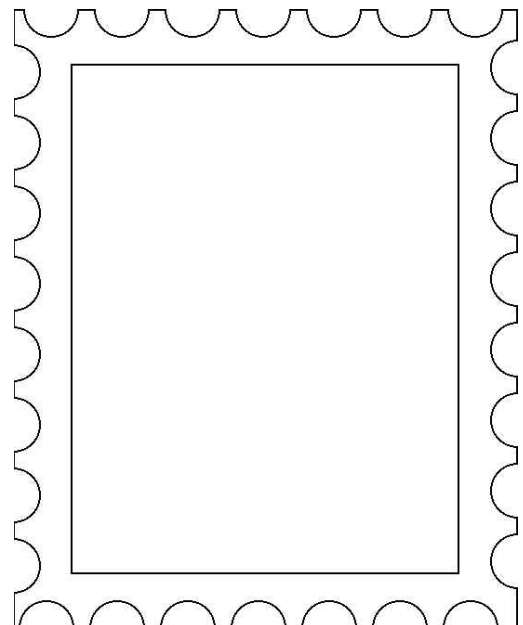


Appreciating Amrita's Art

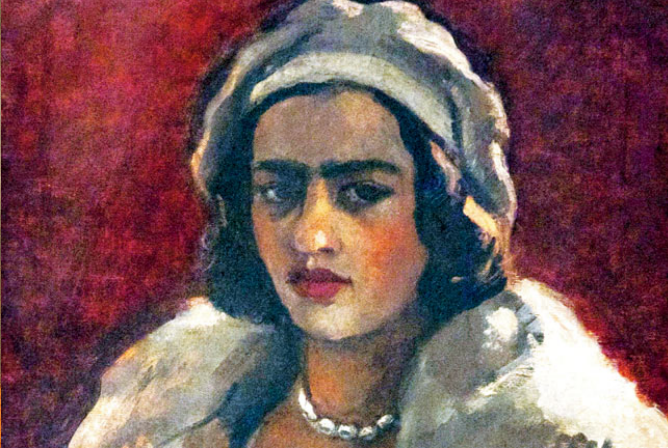
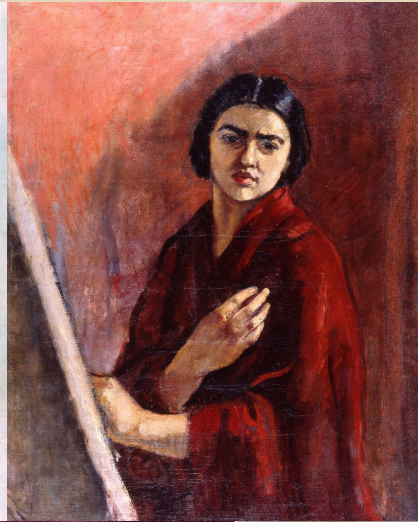
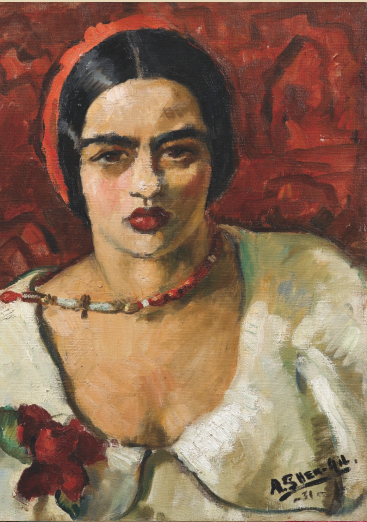
Look at this painting, titled “Hill Women” This was also used on a stamp by the Government of India. What words would you use to describe it?



Use your favourite Amrita Shergil image to create a stamp for Women's Day 2017!



Amrita was known for her self portraits. One of them sold at an Art Auction for USD 2.92 million / 18.2 crore. Can you guess which one? Choose an Amrita-pose and take a selfie -photo like her. Paste it in the space below.



Gallery Fun

South Indian Trilogy was Amrita Shergil's most famous works. Can you arrange the three paintings in the order that you want the visitors to see it? Also, the assistant-curator seems to have mixed up labels for the artworks. Re-arrange the labels alongside the correct artwork. Which one is your favourite? Write a note introducing visitors to the Trilogy, in the space given below.



Brahmacharis

The Bride's Toilet



South Indian Villagers Going to Market

About the South India Trilogy

In this book, the following artworks have been featured

Tahiti Self Portrait

Sleep

Brahmacharis

Vina Players (Lahore Museum)

Siesta

Three Girls

Tribal Women

Woman resting on Charpoy

The Bride

Village Scene

Young Girls

Self Portraits

Sumair (cousin in green saree portrait)

Child Bride

Hill Women

South Indian Trilogy

Answers

Match the following:

A > 4

B > 2

C > 3

D > 1

E > 5

Self-portrait

The last portrait on the right in the second row was auctioned for a record 18.2 cr