

# Learn with MoMA



**MoMA**



## Step 1 Look closely

1. What words would you use to describe the form in this photograph?
2. What shapes make up the form?
3. Look closely at the second, larger image. What materials did the artist use to create this artwork?

## Step 2 Learn more

The artist, Shambhavi, was born in India and grew up spending a lot of time visiting her grandparents in the countryside. She has said that these visits were the origins of her fascination with the relationship between nature and humans, which inspires most of her work:

“Even as a kid I could vividly see the fragile and rather tough existence of the farmer from very close quarters. The landowner and the tiller both were caught up by nature’s cycle, sometimes brutally cruel, often heavenly.”<sup>1</sup>

This artwork, titled *Reaper’s Melody*, is made up of sickles (farming tools used to harvest or reap grains); Shambhavi says they are “like a group of birds which fly in the sky.”<sup>2</sup> In her works, she presents the hardships that farmers experience: “It is their labour or love that sustains us. This dichotomy is the reaper’s melody.”<sup>3</sup>

Watch a video of the artist talking about her works:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV9dK7ViuE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV9dK7ViuE)

E.



Volkswagen of America is proud to be MoMA’s lead partner of learning and engagement.

Generous support for School and Teacher Programs is provided by the Carroll and Milton Petrie Education Program Endowment, the William Randolph Hearst Endowment Fund, and the Mimi and Peter Haas Endowment Fund for Elementary School Programs.

Additional funding is provided by the Ducommun and Gross Family Foundation, the Lewis B. Cullman Education Fund of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, and by the Annual Education Fund.

Image: Shambhavi. *Reaper’s Melody*. 2011/2018. 294 iron sickles. Anonymous gift. © Shambhavi

## Step 3 Activity: Consider the positive and negative relationships between nature and people

Materials: paper and pencil

1. Make four columns on a piece of paper. In the first column, make a list of the ways that nature could be helpful to people. In the second column, make a list of ways nature could be harmful to people. In the third column, make a list of ways people could be helpful to nature. In the fourth column, make a list of ways people could be harmful to nature.
2. Reflect on which column resonates with you most.
3. Find a friend or classmate who has a different view (e.g., if you had more items in the first column, find someone who had more in the second, third, or fourth column).
4. Share your perspectives with each other.

## Step 4 Share!

Share your lists with another friend or classmate and see if they agree or disagree. Or you can email your lists to us at MoMA: [schoolprograms@moma.org](mailto:schoolprograms@moma.org).

1. <https://www.artbuzz.in/blogs/art-blog/interview-with-s-hambhavi-singh-at-talwar-gallery-new-delhi>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV9dK7ViuE>
3. Gallery label from “Reaper’s Melody” Cutni Geet. Essay: Mati Maa, 2018. Writer: Sanjog Sharan. Edited by Revati Laul.