**Symbolism in Art**

**Symbolism** is the practice or art of using an object or a word to represent an abstract idea. An action, person, place, word, or object can all have a symbolic meaning.

Different cultures will use the same symbols to express different ideas:

Eg. The swastika in the **West** is a symbol of **hatred** and **pure evil**.

In **Hinduism**, the **right-facing** symbol (卐) is called swastika, symbolizing **sun**, **prosperity** & **good luck**.

The **left-facing** symbol (卍) is called sauvastika, symbolizing **night** or **tantric** aspects of **Kali**.

**Colours can be used in symbolism:**

- **Death/Evil**
- **Life/Purity**
- **Blood**
- **Passion**
- **Danger**
- **Immoral**
- **Royal**
- **Violence**
- **Decay**
- **Peace**
- **Calm**

**Flowers as symbols:**

- **Roses** stand for **Romance**
- **Violets** represent **shyness**
- **Lillies** stand for **beauty** and **temptation**
- **Chrysanthemums** represent **perfection**

**Animals as symbols:**

- **Bear:** **Danger or Courage**
- **Butterfly:** **A great transformation**
- **Dog:** **Loyalty or Devotion**
- **Serpent:** **Corruption or Darkness**

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ART AND NATURE PROGRAMME

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What do these images symbolise to you?

Further info: https://www.ancient-symbols.com/

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