

## #MUSEUMATHOME



### **Illustrating Stories with Line and Colour**

Inspired by artworks in the AGG's permanent collection by Simon Tookoome

## Illustrating Stories with Line and Colour

Inuit artist Simon Tookoome (1934–2010) was born in Tariunnuaq (Chantrey Inlet), Nunavut. As a child, he lived with his family in traditional camps on the land. Tookoome spent time in many professions including working as a fisherman, builder, teacher, jeweler, carver, and artist. While he began carving in the 1960s, he was much more interested in drawing as he believed it allowed him more artistic freedom. His drawings and sculptures are inspired by his mother's stories of traditional Inuit life on the land and the natural environment of the North. Tookoome's artwork has appeared in many international solo and group exhibitions, in annual Baker Lake print collections, and it has been included in many catalogues and publications including *Inuit Art Quarterly*. Creating his first drawings in 1970, he became best known for his graphic artworks featuring bright colours, energetic lines, and human-animal hybrid figures. His drawings, like the stories themselves, are filled with a type of movement and energy that only a drawing can fulfill, with repetitive and saturated mark-making that fills space.

Share your own story with a drawing like Simon Tookoome!

### Materials

- Paper
- Pencil crayons

### Instructions

Pick a story – it could be a story about you or a family member, perhaps an ancestor. Take 5 to 10 minutes to discuss the story with a family member and jot down notes on a piece of paper. How many people are in the story? Where and when did the story take place? Is the story about a person growing, transforming, or learning? Is this particular story connected to family stories or memories? Using a bright pencil crayon, draw a scene from your story. Fill the whole page! Include your characters and background details (nature, buildings, objects). When you complete the outline, colour in each block or section using a different colour. Consider how the colours you choose may signify meaning within the story. Do the personalities of certain characters in the story match a colour (for example, blue for calm and quiet, or orange for outgoing and energetic). Fill the sky, clouds, and ground with small energetic lines like Simon Tookoome. What type of line will you use to fill the blank spaces? Small, tight zigzag lines? Narrow wavy lines? Crisscrossed or “hatch” marks? Use your favourite line to fill the spaces and shapes.



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