**Eastern Woodland Painting**



**Eastern Woodland Painting usually has…**

* people and/or animals as the main subject
* often look like x-rays to show both the interior and exterior life of the organism
* a background, usually painted in one or two large areas of flat, bright colour
* simple shapes outlined in thick black & filled with bright colours that reflect the mood of the painting
* symbols (pictures that tell a story without using words)
* no sense of place (no landscape or horizon line)
* no shading or textures; single values used

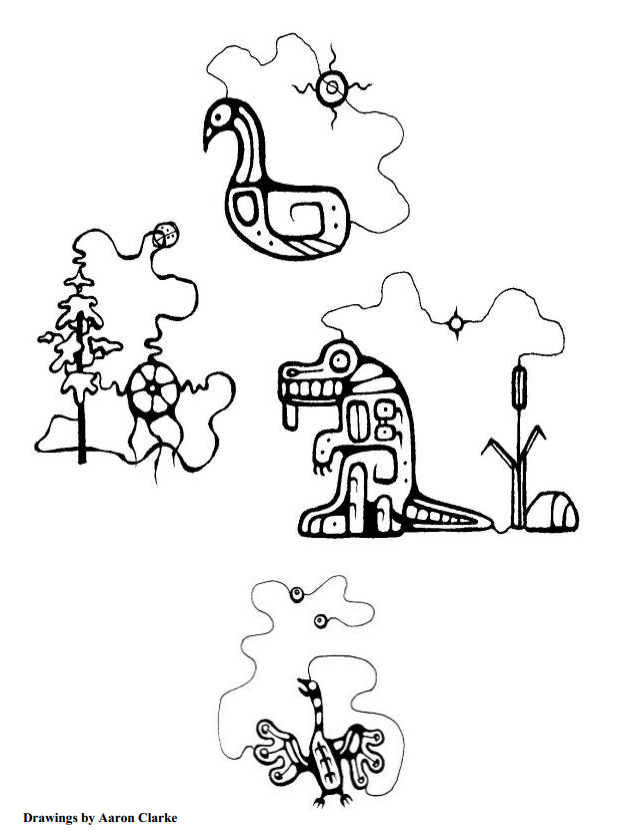
**Symbolism in Eastern Woodland Painting**

Examples of symbols in Morrisseau’s work are:

* large eyes – the symbol of the shaman or person who can interact with the spirit world
* https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/sb0gqVAmOwvwY8X6dlLOqNg/image?w=41&h=61&rev=1&ac=1the divided circle – shows dualities in the world like good and evil, day and night, sky and earth, honesty and dishonesty
* several different kinds of lines:

https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/s_l-9qeBexFtmu7uI1ksHfA/image?w=33&h=49&rev=1&ac=1 - lines of power radiate out from the head and/or body

- communication lines connect creatures and show interdependence of two beings and their relationships in nature

- small movement lines in and around a body can show shaking, for example, or a heart beating

* solid balls or seeds represent spirit power, often float within the picture
* circles – sacred to First Nations spirituality; the life cycle, the sun, the moon, and the directions (north, south, east, west)

