

**Artist:** Lillian Pitt (Warm Springs/Wasco/Yakima), from the exhibition [Love Letters to the Collection](#).

**Artwork:** *Gorge Spirits Floating 2*

**Materials:** Paper, colored pencils or markers, watercolors (if you have them)

**Age range:** The whole family!

**Create:** a piece of art inspired by *Gorge Spirits Floating 2* using simple materials



Lillian Pitt (Wasco/Yakama/Warm Springs), *Gorge Spirits Floating 2*, monotype, 2019, 22 x 30". MAM Contemporary American Indian Art Collection, gift of MATRIX Press, 2019.16.01, copyright the artist.

**Prompt:**

Pitt's *Gorge Spirits Floating 2* uses symbols, characters, and a background that looks like water to create the image. Pitt includes symbols of her Tribal heritage to honor her American Indian cultural identity. She also emphasizes our responsibility to be good stewards of the environment by including references to water.

**Steps:**

1. **Brainstorm** symbols, characters, or places that represent and honor your own identity or ancestors. What types of environments or environmental elements might you connect to your heritage? Anything you come up with can be included in your drawing. Pitt often uses an image based on "She Who Watches", or Tsagaglal, a rock image carved into stone that can be found in Pitt's ancestral homelands, in the Columbia River Gorge area of Oregon.
2. **Draw** the images you came up with on your paper. Your drawings can be free-floating, like in Pitt's *Gorge Spirits Floating 2*, or can be organized in a different way. For example, you might want to draw in a way that shows a story or narrative.
3. **Add** in a background that references a place or environment that is important to you. Pitt often uses water as a background to show the relationship between humans and the natural world. You could use a contrasting material for the background.
4. **Share** your art on social media using the hashtag **#mamloveletters** so we can repost it! If you want to write a love letter along with your image you are invited to send it directly to the artwork at the email address: [gorgespirits@missoulaartmuseum.org](mailto:gorgespirits@missoulaartmuseum.org)