



Adult Learning Within Reach

## Member Lecture – 2 November 2023

Symbolism in art: the hidden meanings in paintings

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Questions answered post-lecture

### **Q1 What about the symbolism of colour in art – I'm thinking of Miro – Ceci est la couleur de mes rêves?**

Colours are indeed often seen as symbolic – blue for sad, yellow for joy etc. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a number of artists, including Kandinsky and Matisse, used colours to evoke particular emotions.

### **Q2 What about the symbol of the rose?**

In medieval times, the rose is especially used as a symbol of Mary and in ancient Greece, it was used to symbolize Aphrodite. It is also often used to express love. In his Four Quartets series of poems, TS Elliot uses it as a symbol of new life.