

Learning Guide: Creating a Paper Mural

Inspired by Visual Artist and Muralist Sandeep Johal

Grades 2-5

Created in collaboration withSandeep Johal

Activity:

In this lesson sequence, students will learn techniques for visual storytelling, as well as drawing and painting animals and foliage. They will learn about composition and colour theory as they create a patterned bird and hybrid character. They will contribute their designs to a collaborative large scale paper mural.

Inquiry Questions:

- What kinds of stories do murals communicate?
- How can an artist use colour and pattern to help communicate a story or feeling in an artwork?

Goals for this lesson sequence (what students will DO):



- Students will observe and describe murals by Sandeep Johal. They will explore the materials, tools, and techniques used by this artist through small group and whole group discussion (Art Education, Grade 3).
- Students will create a patterned paper bird and hybrid creature, using ideas inspired by the artwork of Sandeep Johal, as well as imagination, experimentation, and purposeful play. Students will contribute to a collaborative paper mural (Art Education, Grade 3).

Students will KNOW the following concepts and content:

- Processes, materials, and techniques required for creating elements for a collaborative mural including: collage techniques, drawing and painting animals and foliage, and mural planning (Arts Education, Grade 3).

- Elements and principles that contribute to visual storytelling including: space, colour, pattern, repetition, contrast, and emphasis (Arts Education, Grade 3).
- Works of art by the Vancouver-based visual artist and muralist Sandeep Johal (Arts Education, Grade 3).

First Peoples Principles of Learning:

- Learning is embedded in memory, history and story.

Core Competencies (suggested questions for reflection):

- COMMUNICATION: How can an artist use colour and pattern to help communicate a story or feeling in an artwork?
- THINKING: Describe the process you used to create your hybrid creature.
- PERSONAL AND SOCIAL: What contributions did you make to the collaborative mural?

Displaying Student Artwork:

The following are tips for displaying the finished paper mural at your school:

- Mount the completed mural on a wall or bulletin board • Include a title and description with the display, for example:

Collaborative Paper Mural by Div. 2 Students

We learned about the visualartist and muralist Sandeep Johal.

We learned collage techniques and practiced drawing and painting animals and foliage. We created patterned birds andhybrid creatures which we then contributed to a collaborative mural design!



Materials:

PAPER

- Sheet of white or black kraft paper from roll for mural background, approx. 4'h x 7'w (could be planned to match size of school bulletin board)

- Multiple sheets of blue and green kraft paper for mural background shapes and foliage, approx. 4'h x 4'w
- 9"x12" white construction paper (4 per student)
- Sheets of 11"x17" white thick paper (1 per student)
- 6"x8" white paper (1-2 per student)
- 5"x3" white paper (1-4 per student)
- 5"x3" black paper (1-4 per student)
- Construction paper or fadeless paper in some of the following colours: yellow, blue, pink, red, orange, green
- Optional: Sheets of 6"x8" black paper

DRAWING, CUTTING, & GLUING MATERIALS

- Class set of scissors & rolls of masking tape
- Class set of pencils & erasers
- Class set of ultrafine or fine Sharpie markers
- Optional: class set of white gel pens
- Optional: glue sticks
- White glue, pots, and brushes

PAINTING MATERIALS

- Acrylic or tempera paint in 2-4 of the following colours: red, orange, pink, yellow
- brushes
- lids, pots, or trays for paint
- Optional: aprons or smocks

TEMPLATES & REFERENCE IMAGES

- Printed templates, tracers, and references from lesson plan (see end of document)

Lesson Guide

Lesson 1: Introduction to the Art of Sandeep Johal and Patterning

VIEW AND DISCUSS ARTWORK BY SANDEEP JOHAL:

- Share with students images of Sandeep Johal's artwork by projecting artwork found at end of this document
- Ask students the following questions, have them share answers in small and whole group discussion:
- Identify the patterns that the artist has included in these artworks.
- What kinds of characters appear in these artworks?
- What examples of characters can you spot that are a hybrid of more than one type of creature?
- Describe the colours the artist has used in these works.
- Share the following information about Sandeep Johal and her art:



- Sandeep Johal is a Canadian visual artist whose practice engages drawing, collage, textiles, and large-scale murals. Through her Indo-folk feminine aesthetic, she confronts themes of bleakness, despair and ugliness with their dissonant opposites: brightness, hope and beauty. Johal has worked on a number of notable site-specific commissions including a series of banners on Granville Street in partnership with Downtown Van BIA (2024) and a 4,000 sf collaborative mural project for Vancouver Mural Festival, which centred around the Komagata Maru Episode and involved the denaming of the federal building it was painted on (2019). Johal holds a Diploma in Fine Arts (honours) from Langara College (2007) and a Degree in Education from the University of British Columbia (2002). She lives and works in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Learn more about Sandeep Johal at: www.sandeepjohal.com.

Sandeep Johal, *I am easy to find*, 2024, 13 colour serigraph on Stonehenge paper, 18" x 24", edition of 30. Photo credit: Rachel Topham.

- Share with students that Sandeep takes inspiration in her art from forms of Indian folk art, specifically Madhubani folk art and Gond folk art. Share examples of these art forms provided at end of document.
- Ask students: how is patterning used in the two examples of Indian folk art?
- Folk Art can be described as art that is of the people, for the people and by the people. These artists are interested in making art that tells stories about daily life or the culture of their community.
- Madhubani art is a style of painting practiced in the Mithila region of India and Nepal. The art was traditionally practiced by female members. Artists create these paintings using a variety of mediums, including their own fingers, or twigs, brushes, nib-pens, and matchsticks.
- Gond art is an art form practiced by the Gond tribal community of central India, which not only includes painting but also folk dances, songs, and performances. The themes and motifs of Gond painting are drawn from local flora and fauna, deities, and urban culture.

INTRO PROJECT:

- Students will create patterned birds and hybrid creatures that they will contribute to a collaborative mural design.





PATTERNING BIRDS:

- Share with students Sandeep Johal's sample images of patterned birds. Share with them that they will create birds using the same shapes and they will fill the shape of the birds with patterns of their choosing. They will be able to reference Sandeep's pattern templates for inspiration (see end of document).
- Distribute 1 sheet of 6"x8" white paper to each student. Use the bird templates to create tracers that students can trace onto their paper, and then cut out. Students will draw patterns using fine or ultrafine sharpies.
- Optional: If you have access to white gel pens, students can create black birds with white patterning.
- Students can create 1-2 birds. These should be collected and will be contributed to the collaborative mural in a later lesson.

REFLECTION:

- Have students arrange their patterned birds in one grouping. Ask the students to reflect on the finished birds:
- What differences and similarities do you notice amongst the birds?
- Can you point out a pattern that someone else drew that really stands out to you?

Lesson 2: Drawing Animals and Creating Hybrid Creatures

VIEW AND DISCUSS ARTWORK BY SANDEEP JOHAL:

- Share with students that Sandeep often repeats certain animals in her artwork. She often uses tigers, snakes, birds, and monkeys. Show students examples of these animals from Sandeep's artwork (see end of document for image collections of each animal from Sandeep's artwork). Ask students:
- What shapes does Sandeep use to build the animals bodies? What differences and similarities do you notice amongst each animal collection (i.e. all of the snakes, all of the monkeys, etc.)?

INTRO ACTIVITY:

- Students will practice drawing a tiger, snake, bird, and monkey using techniques that Sandeep Johal uses her own art. Students will then combine their animal drawings together to create one hybrid creature. Once this creature is finished, they will contribute it to a collaborative mural.

DRAWING 4 ANIMALS:

- Distribute 4 sheets of 9"x12" white construction paper to each student. Students will also need pencils and erasers.
- Using the drawing guides provided at the end of this document, demonstrate for students slowly and stepby-step on the white board or on a large sheet of paper how to draw the following animals: tiger, snake, bird, and monkey.
- Students should follow along, drawing each step. Specify that students draw large and have each animal touch the edges of their paper. Specify that students should not add details to their animals at this point, as they will be cutting up these drawings.

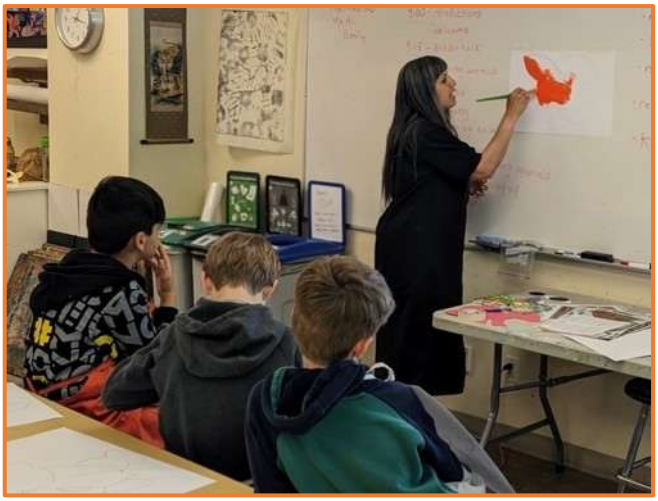


COLLAGING & TRACING HYBRID CREATURES:

- Share with students examples of Sandeep's artwork that features hybrid creatures. Ask students to list the Sandeep Johalto draw a tiger at a 2024 Artists for Kids demonstrates for grade 3 workshopstudents how . different creatures that she has combined.
- Demonstrate for students how to cut different parts of their 4 drawings and to combine them into a new made-up hybrid creature. The different sections of the drawings will be taped together.
- Specify that students should include at least one feature from each of their 4 drawings.
- When students have finished creating their hybrid creatures, demonstrate how to trace the outline of their creature onto a sheet of 11" x 17" white thick paper using pencil. Students should not include any details inside the outline of their hybrid creature.

PAINTING CREATURE BACKGROUND COLOUR:

- Demonstrate how to paint the traced creature one solid colour. Students will choose from the following colours: red, orange, pink, and yellow.
- Demonstrate how to create an even layer of paint across the entire creature.
- Emphasize that it is ok if students paint outside the lines because they will be cutting the creature out at a later step.
- Let the paint dry before carrying on to the next step in the lesson sequence.



Sandeep Johal demonstrates how to paint the outline creature in one solid colour.



Students combine parts of their animal drawings of a hybrid together to create a hybrid creature.

Lesson 3: Completing Hybrid Creatures with Eyes, Patterning, & Details

VIEW AND DISCUSS ARTWORK BY SANDEEP JOHAL:

- View examples of artwork by Sandeep Johal and ask students to look closely at the details that Sandeep uses on her characters' faces and bodies. Ask students:
- What kinds of shapes does Sandeep include on the faces and bodies of her characters? What kinds of patterns?
- Describe the types of eyes that Sandeep includes in her art.
- Have students draw a collaborative "eye collection" on the white board: students can observe different eyes found in Sandeep's art and draw them in the eye collection on the board.

CREATING EYES:

- Distribute 5" x 3" sheets of white and black paper to each student. Students will also need: pencils, erasers, scissors, white glue, and glue brushes.
- Students will create at least 2 eyes to add to their hybrid creatures. Encourage students to creatively add multiple eyes to their creature's face and body.
- Demonstrate how to draw and cut out the shapes to create different types of eyes. Reference the eye sheet provided at the end of this document and optionally provide copies for students.
- Demonstrate how to use white glue to attach layers for the eyes.
- Demonstrate how to add patterning to eye shapes using sharpies and white gel pens (if available).
- Once students have glued the eyes onto their hybrid creatures, they will cut out their creatures from the thick white paper.





ADDING SHAPES AND PATTERNS TO HYBRID CREATURES:

- Demonstrate how to cut out shapes and details to add to the hybrid creatures using white glue.
- To create these details, use construction paper or fadeless paper in some of the following colours: yellow, blue, pink, red, orange, green.
- Refer to the sample hybrid creature at the end of the document to demonstrate how patterns can be added to hybrid creatures and how shapes can be cut out and repeated in multiple colours of paper.





Hybrid creatures created by grade 3 students.

Lesson 4: Creating Foliage and Shapes for Background

VIEW AND DISCUSS ARTWORK BY SANDEEP JOHAL:

- View examples of artwork by Sandeep Johal and ask students to look closely at the shapes, patterns, and colours that she uses in her backgrounds. Ask students:
- What colours has Sandeep used in the background? How does this help the animals and other features to stand out in the foreground?

- What shapes does Sandeep often use in her backgrounds? What kind of worlds does she create? What mood or feeling does she create using colour, shape, and pattern?

CREATING FOLIAGE AND BACKGROUND SHAPES FOR MURAL BACKGROUND

- In advance of this lesson, cut out large shapes for the mural background, referring to the foliage shape template provided at the end of the lesson. The shapes can be cut from cool colours such as green or blue. These can be glued onto a white or black background (kraft paper) in advance using white glue.
- Students can optionally create foliage shapes referencing the foliage template and tracers provided. They can draw or trace their shapes onto blue or green kraft paper and then cut them out.
- Help students to collaboratively place their foliage shapes in the mural. Ask students to carefully consider the placement of these shapes, considering elements of balance, space, emphasis, and repetition.
- Once placed, foliage shapes can be glued down with white glue.



Examples Sandeep Johal has created to demonstrate how to layer shapes and foliage to design a background for a mural.

- Students can add patterning to the foliage using sharpies and pieces of colourful paper. Students can refer to the pattern templates provided at the end of the document.





Grade 3 students gluing down foliage and background shapes to create a collaborative mural background.

Lesson 4: Collaboratively Creating Mural Composition

VIEW AND DISCUSS ARTWORK BY SANDEEP JOHAL:

- View examples of Sandeep Johal's artwork and ask students to pay close attention to the placement of the characters in her designs. Ask student:
- How does Sandeep's placement of her creatures and characters contribute to a visual story?

COLLABORATIVELY COMPOSING THE MURAL:

- Have students place their patterned birds and hybrid creatures on the finished mural background.
- Discuss with students ways that the placement of their birds and creatures contributes to a visual story, or multiple stories within the mural.
- As a class, experiment with different ways to arrange the birds and characters. Discuss the following: balance, space, emphasis, and repetition.
- After students have decided on the placement of the birds and creatures, they can be glued to the background with white glue.
- Optional: birds and hybrid creatures could be attached with a more temporary adhesive such as masking tape. That way, students can have their individual birds and creatures back after the collaborative mural has been displayed.
- Reflect as a class on the final mural. Ask the students to discuss the following questions in small groups and in the whole group:
- What contributions did you make to the collaborative mural?
- What story does your class mural tell?
- How has the class used balance, space, emphasis, and repetition to tell a visual story?
- Are you surprised by how the collaborative mural turned out? How so?





Grade 3 students work with Sandeep Johal to collaboratively arrange their birds and hybrid creatures.



Finished collaborative mural by grade 3 students.

Teachers are invited to adapt and edit the following summative evaluation rubric:

COLLABORATIVE PAPER MURAL

Patterned Bird & Hybrid Creature Design Created a unique bird with neat and detailed patterns and a hybrid creature showing imagination and playful design	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
Technique & Craftsmanship Paper shapes neatly cut, collaged details glued well, and paint applied evenly	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
Collaboration & Mural Contribution Thoughtfully suggested placements, considering space, balance and storytelling	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
Studio Habits Demonstrated care and respect in following instructions, engaging with classmates, and looking after and cleaning materials	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
OVERALL:	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING

NAME:_____ DIV:_____ DATE:_____

COLLABORATIVE PAPER MURAL

Patterned Bird & Hybrid Creature Design Created a unique bird with neat and detailed patterns and a hybrid creature showing imagination and playful design	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
Technique & Craftsmanship Paper shapes neatly cut, collaged details glued well, and paint applied evenly	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
Collaboration & Mural Contribution Thoughtfully suggested placements, considering space, balance and storytelling	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
Studio Habits Demonstrated care and respect in following instructions, engaging with classmates, and looking after and cleaning materials	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
OVERALL:	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING

NAME:_____ DIV:_____ DATE:_____

COLLABORATIVE PAPER MURAL

Patterned Bird & Hybrid Creature Design Created a unique bird with neat and detailed patterns and a hybrid creature showing imagination and playful design	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
Technique & Craftsmanship Paper shapes neatly cut, collaged details glued well, and paint applied evenly	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
Collaboration & Mural Contribution Thoughtfully suggested placements, considering space, balance and storytelling	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
Studio Habits Demonstrated care and respect in following instructions, engaging with classmates, and looking after and cleaning materials	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
OVERALL :	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING

NAME:_____ DIV:_____ DATE:_____

COLLABORATIVE PAPER MURAL

Patterned Bird & Hybrid Creature Design Created a unique bird with neat and detailed patterns and a hybrid creature showing imagination and playful design	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
Technique & Craftsmanship Paper shapes neatly cut, collaged details glued well, and paint applied evenly	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
Collaboration & Mural Contribution Thoughtfully suggested placements, considering space, balance and storytelling	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
Studio Habits Demonstrated care and respect in following instructions, engaging with classmates, and looking after and cleaning materials	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
OVERALL:	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING 10

NAME:_____ DIV:_____ DATE:_____



Sandeep Johal, *Swing into Spring*, 2023, Photo tex mural design commissioned by VMF Agency for Central City Shopping Centre. Photo Credit: Phil Tifo.



Sandeep Johal, *One Day*, 2020, Exterior mural commissioned by Nelson International Mural Festival. Image courtesy of the artist.



Sandeep Johal, *I am easy to find*, 2024, 13 colour serigraph on Stonehenge paper, 18" x 24", edition of 30. Photo credit: Rachel Topham.



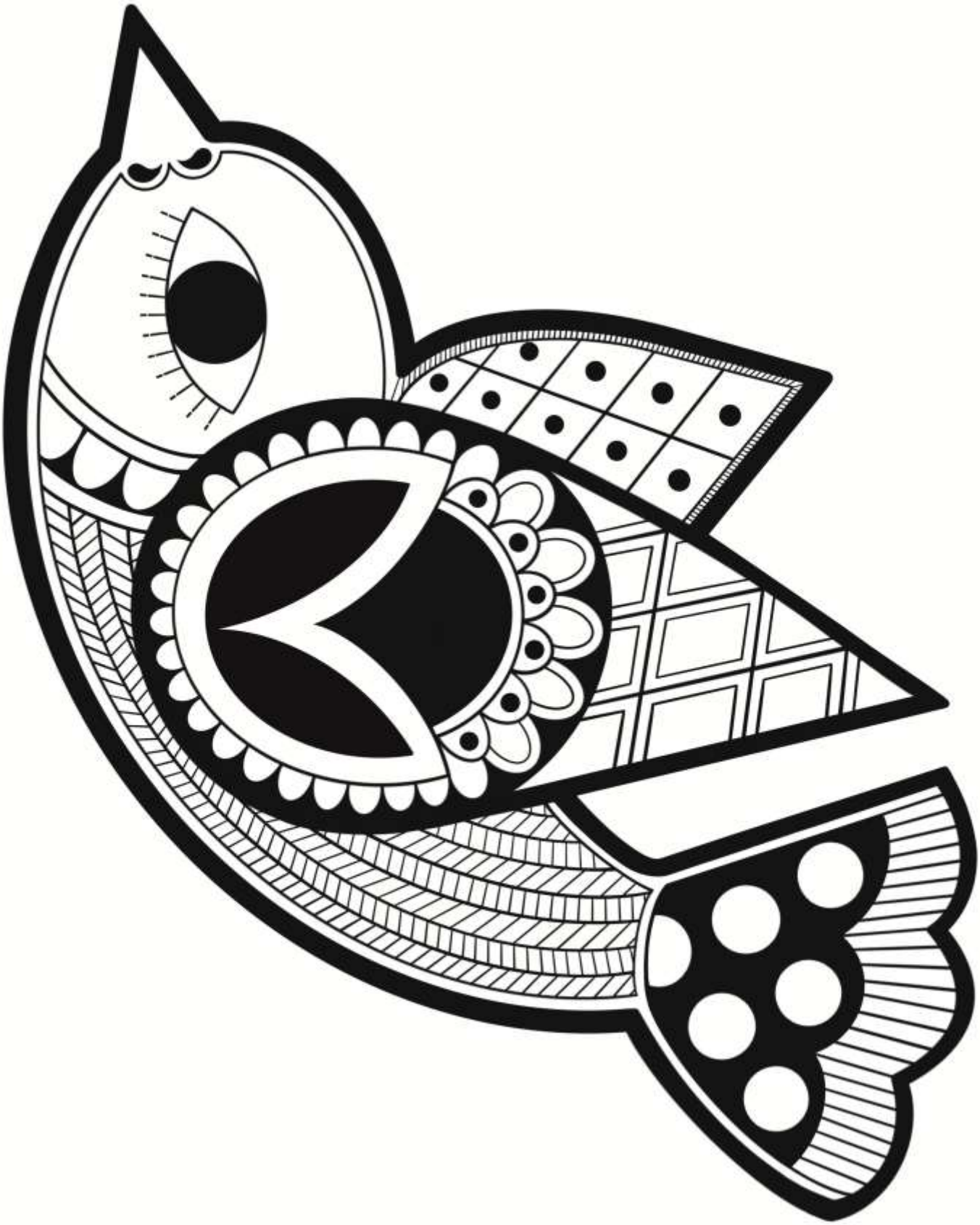
BAUA DEVI
Madhubani Folk Art



BHAJJU SHYAM
Gond Folk Art



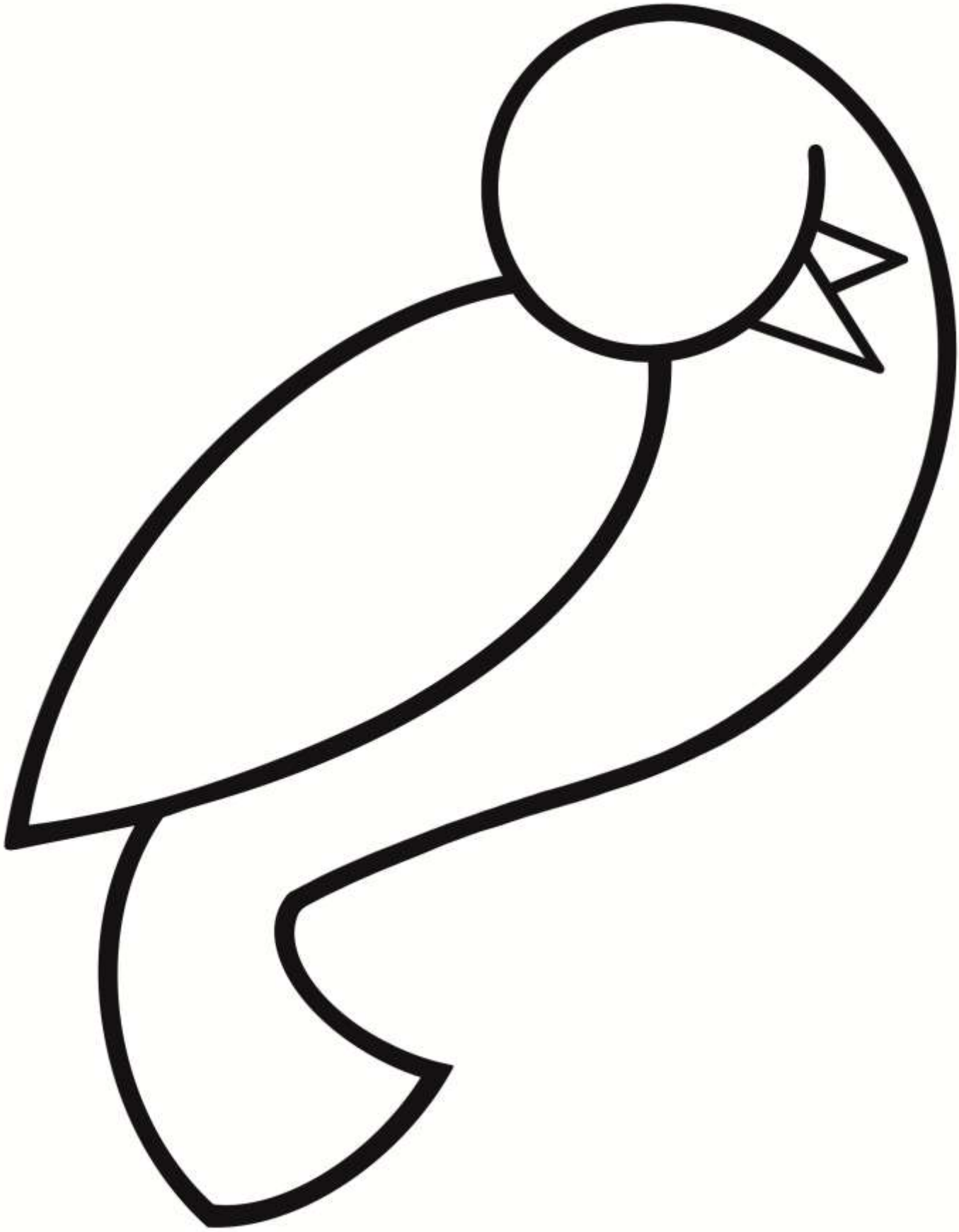
www.sandeepjohal.com



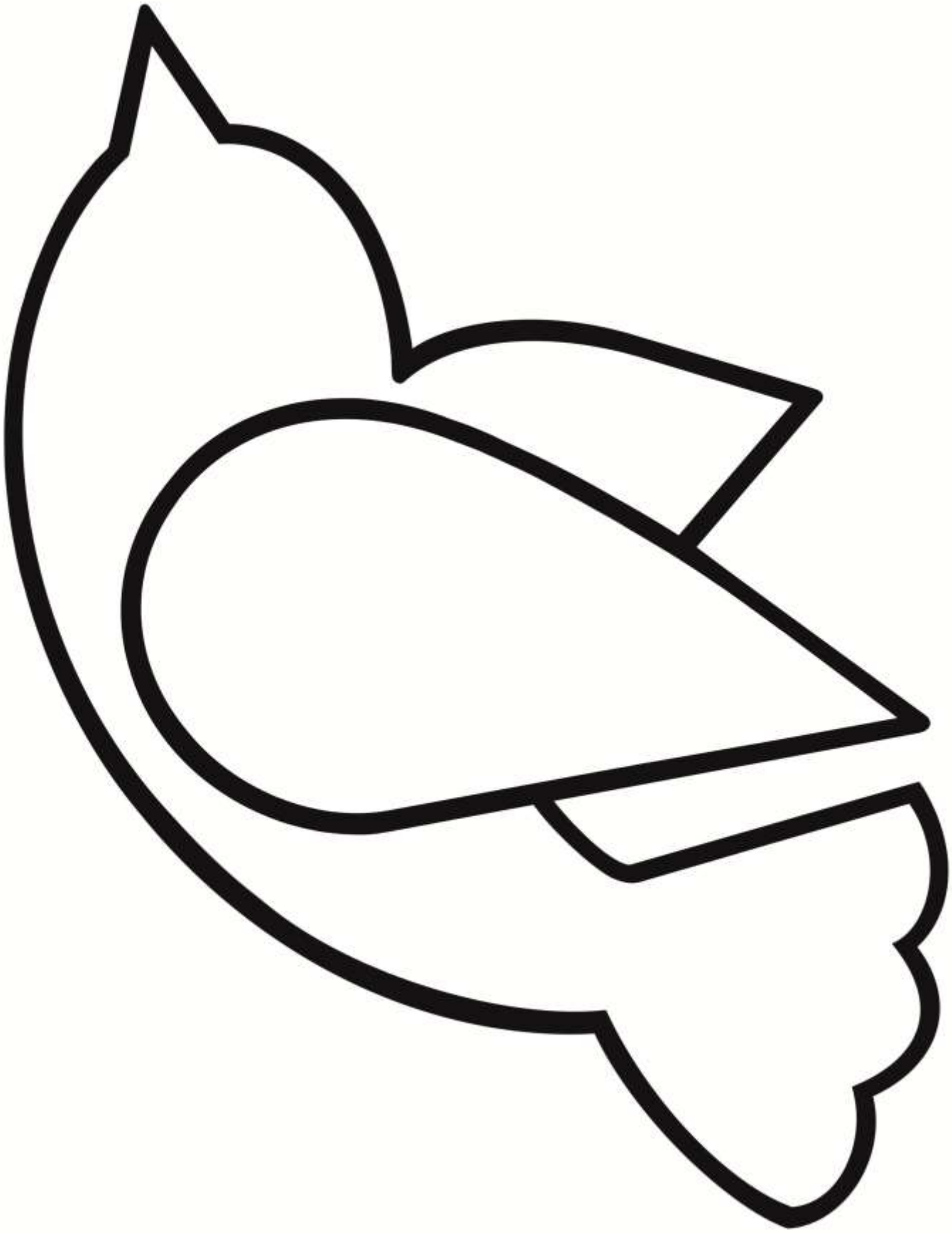
www.sandeepjohal.com



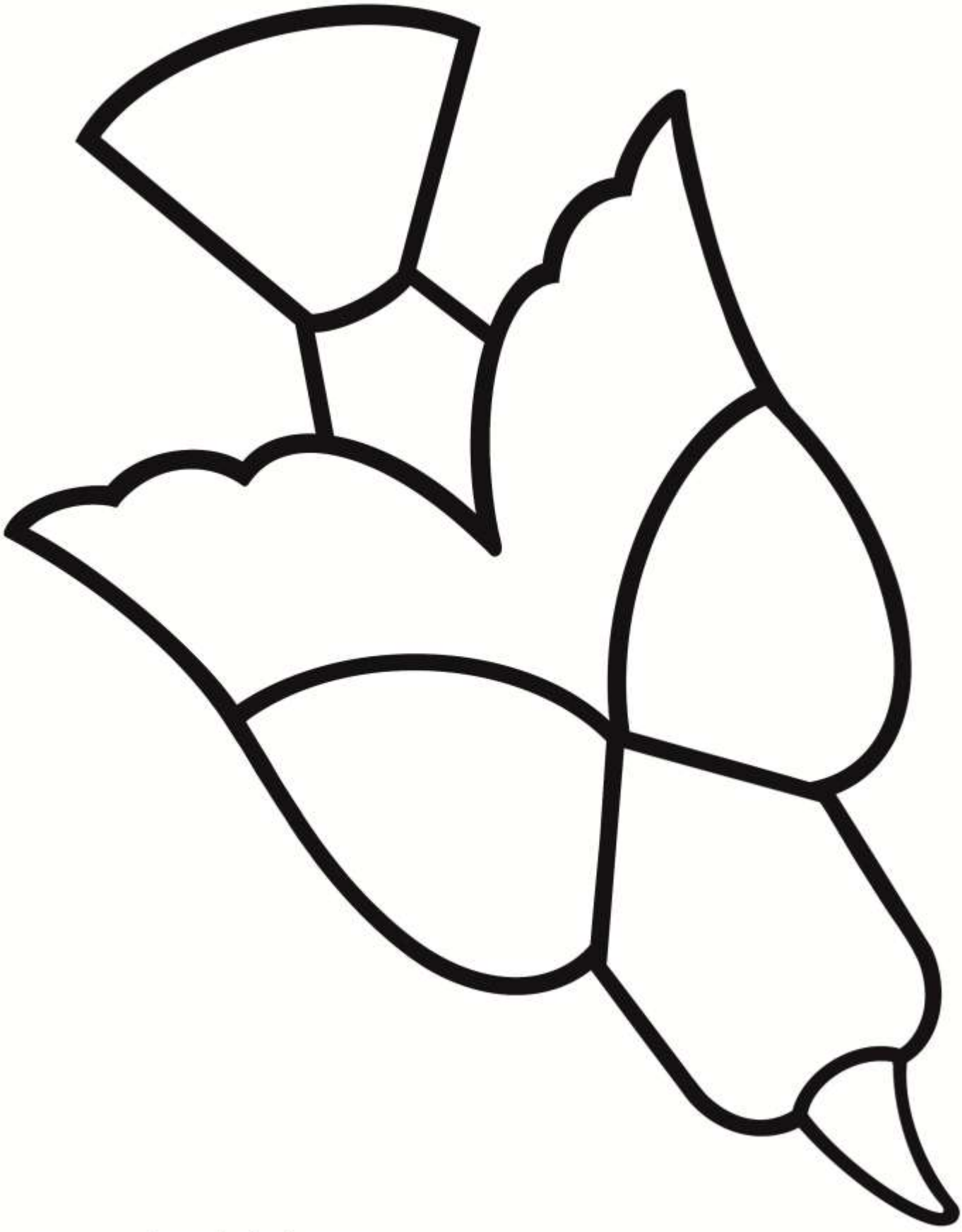
www.sandeepjohal.com



www.sandeepjohal.com

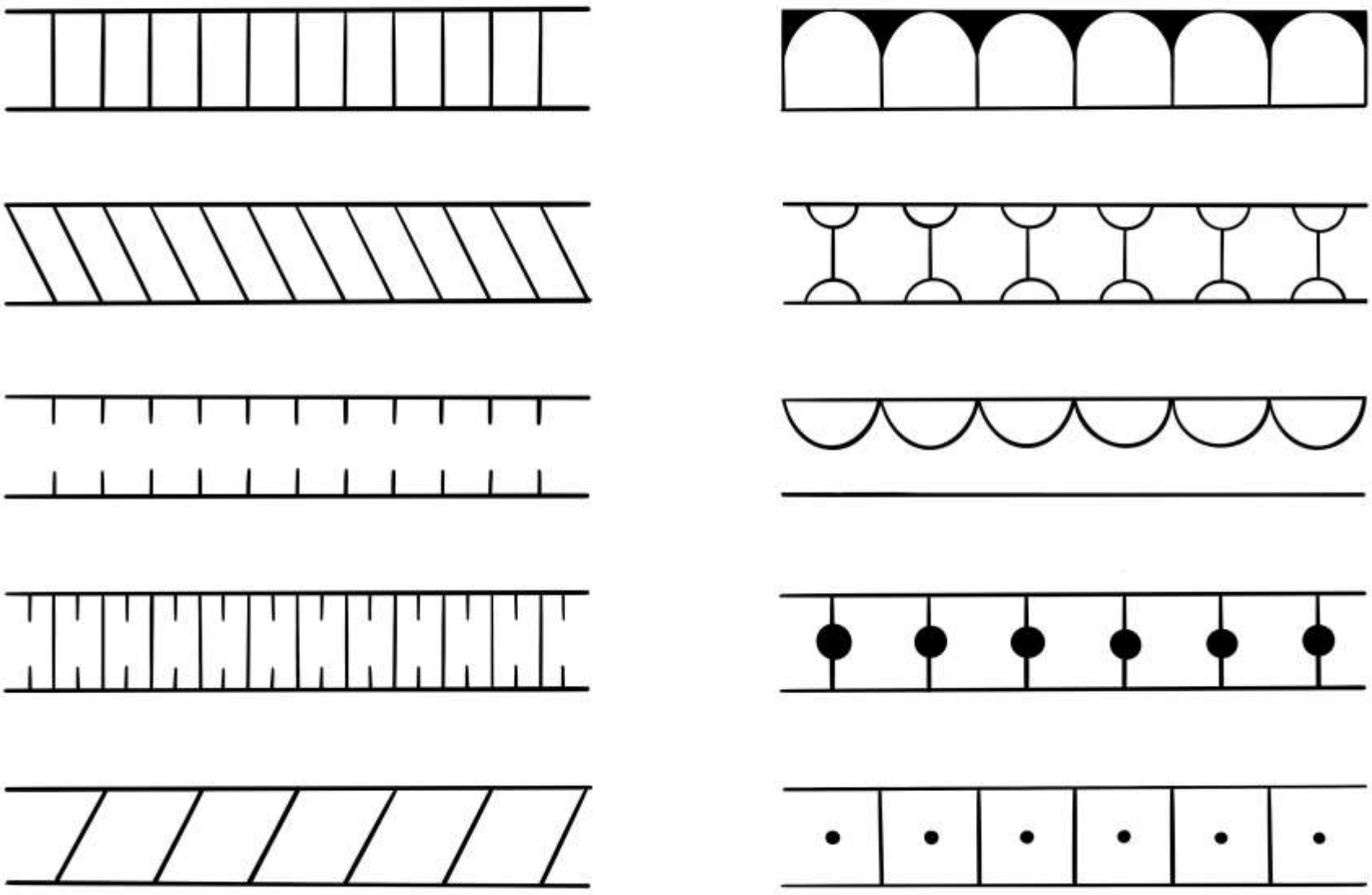


www.sandeepjohal.com



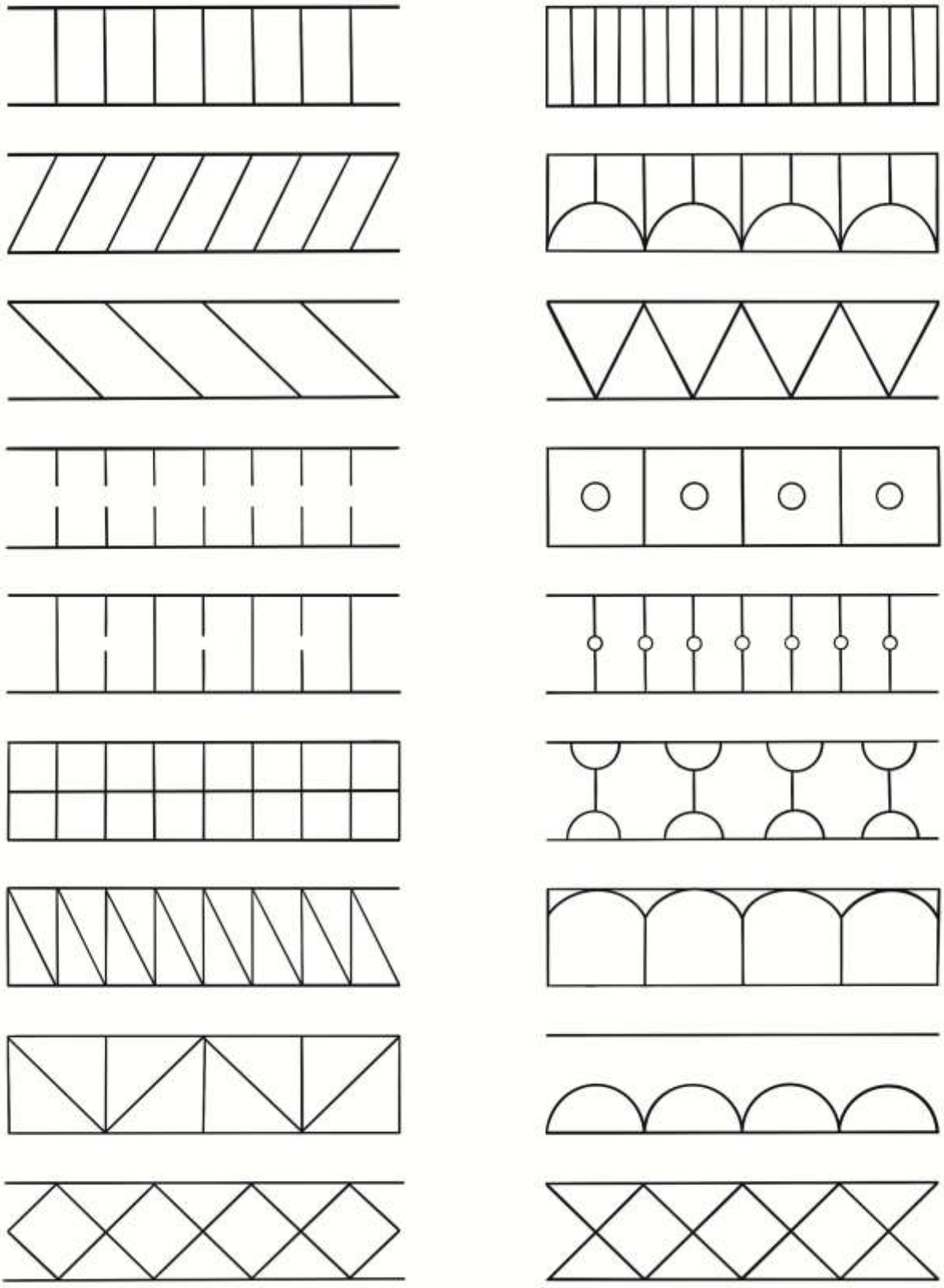
www.sandeepjohal.com

PATTERN IDEAS



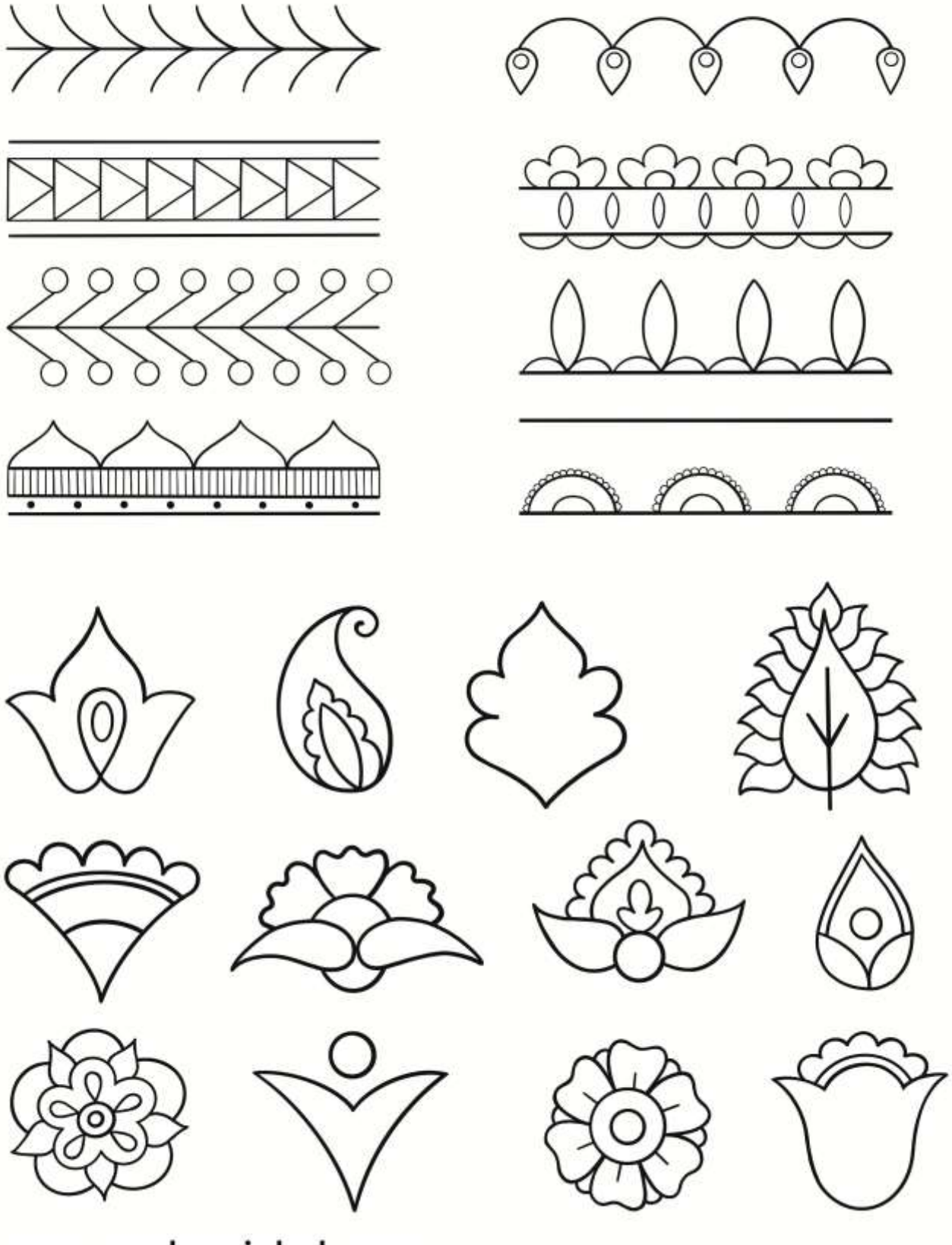
www.sandeepjohal.com

PATTERN

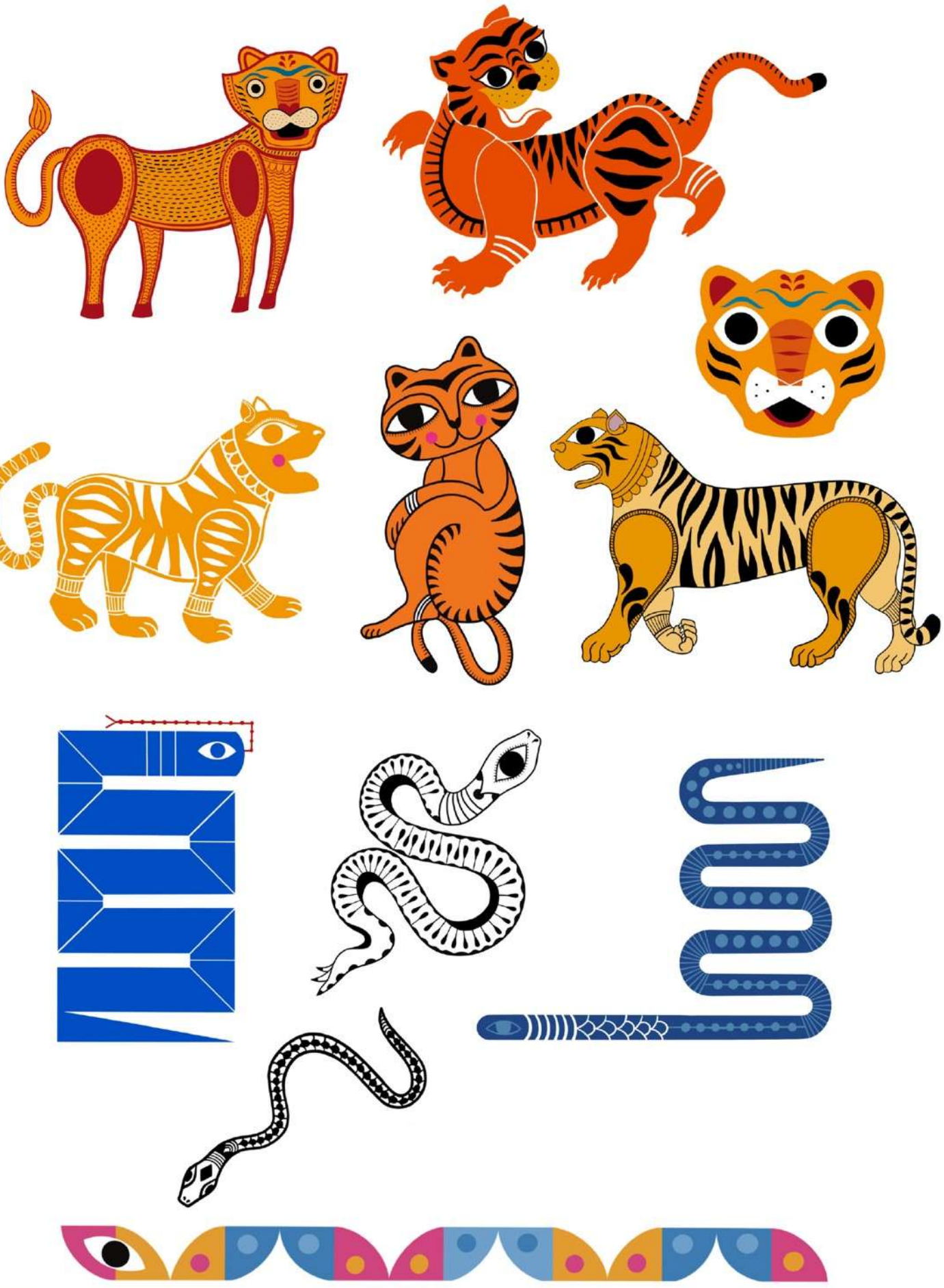


www.sandeepjohal.com

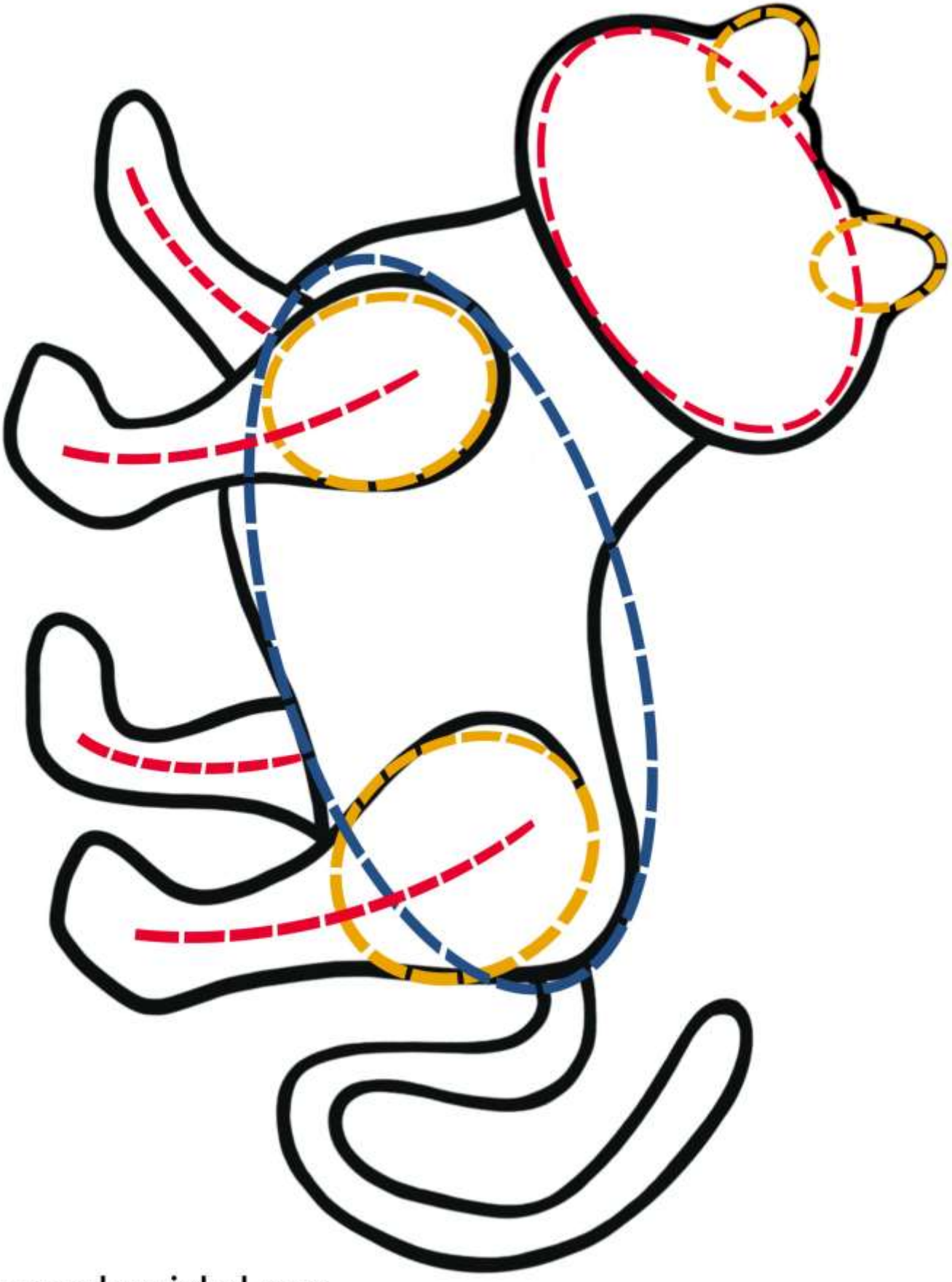
PATTERN



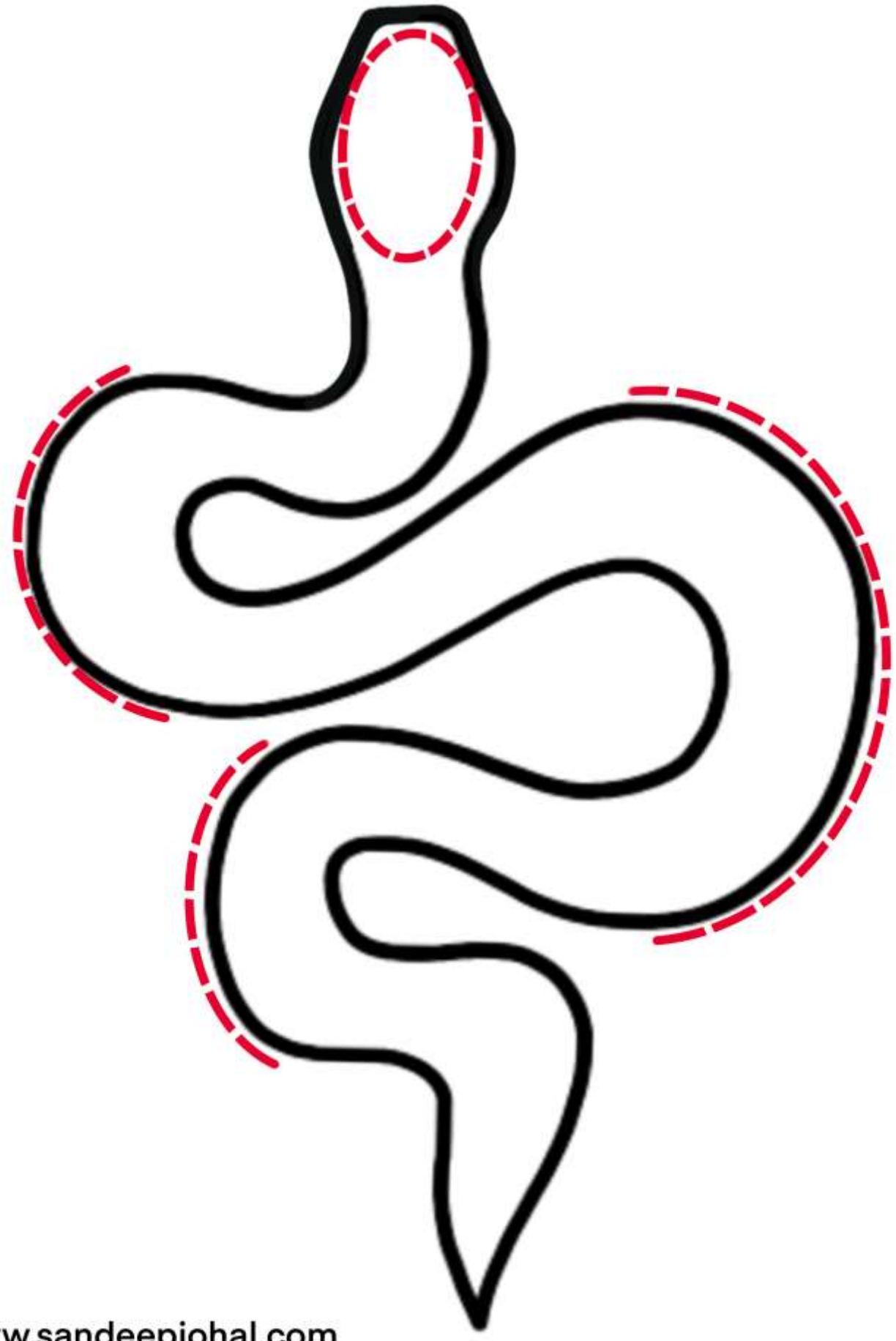
www.sandeepjohal.com



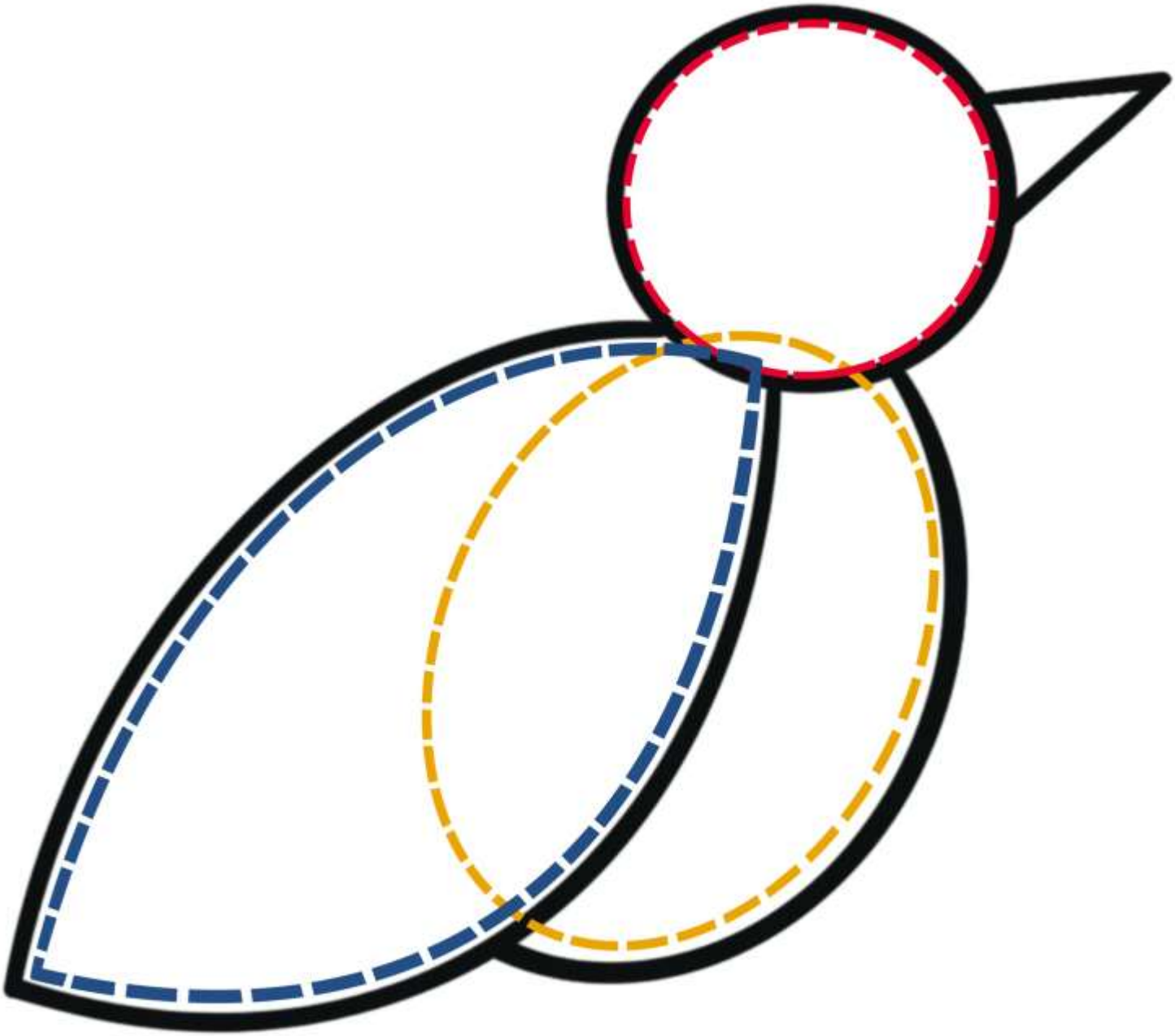




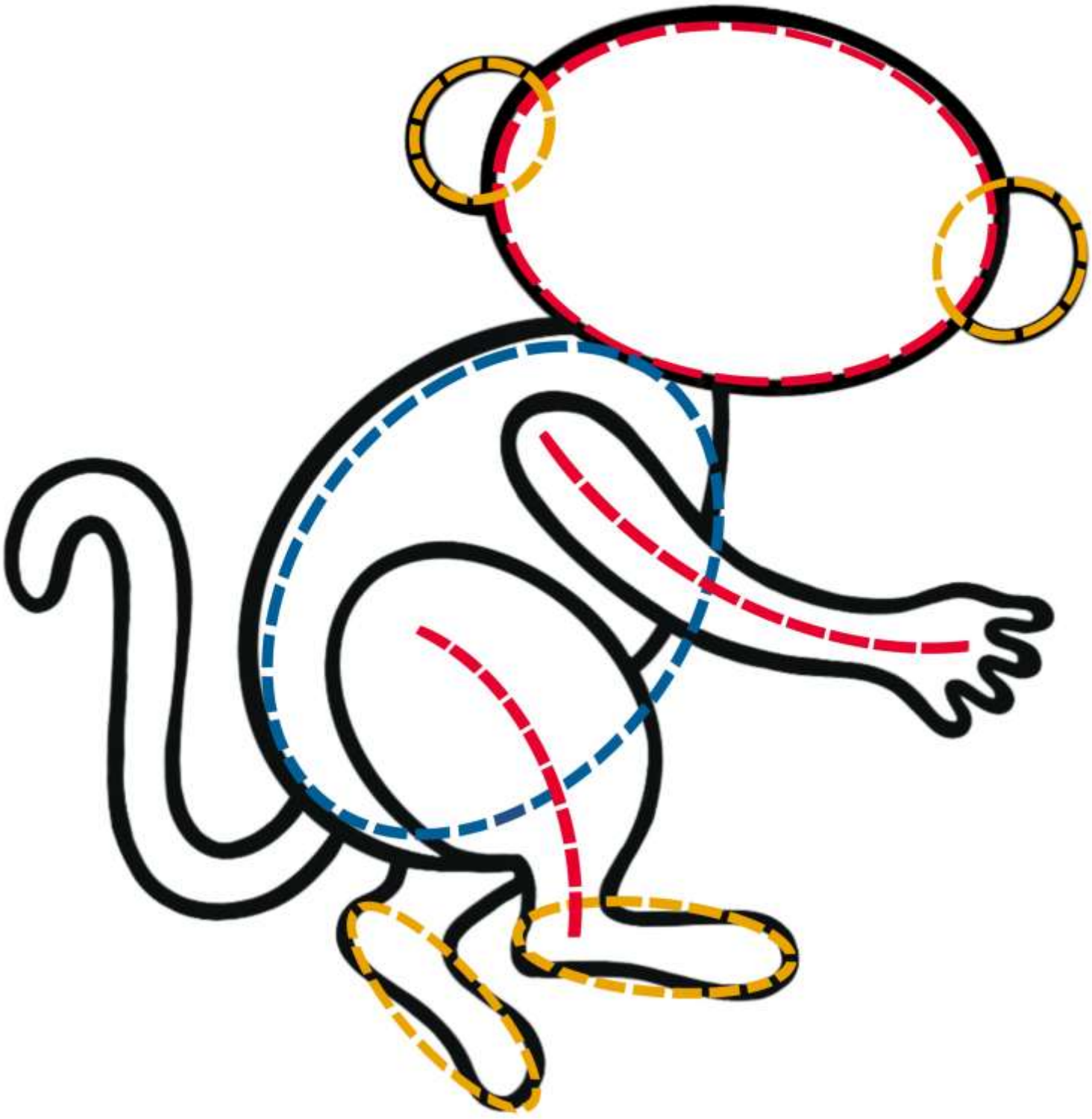
www.sandeepjohal.com



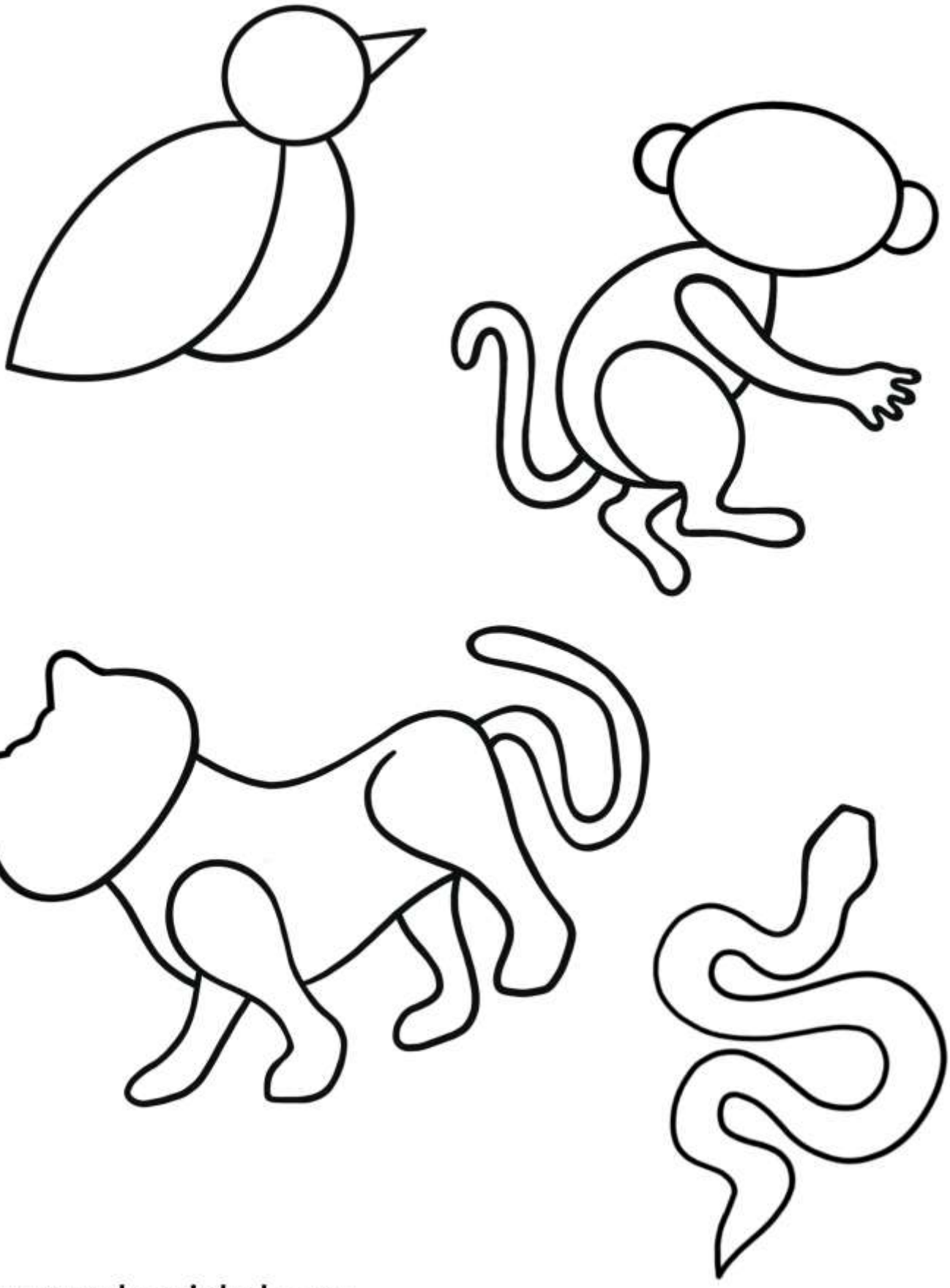
www.sandeepjohal.com



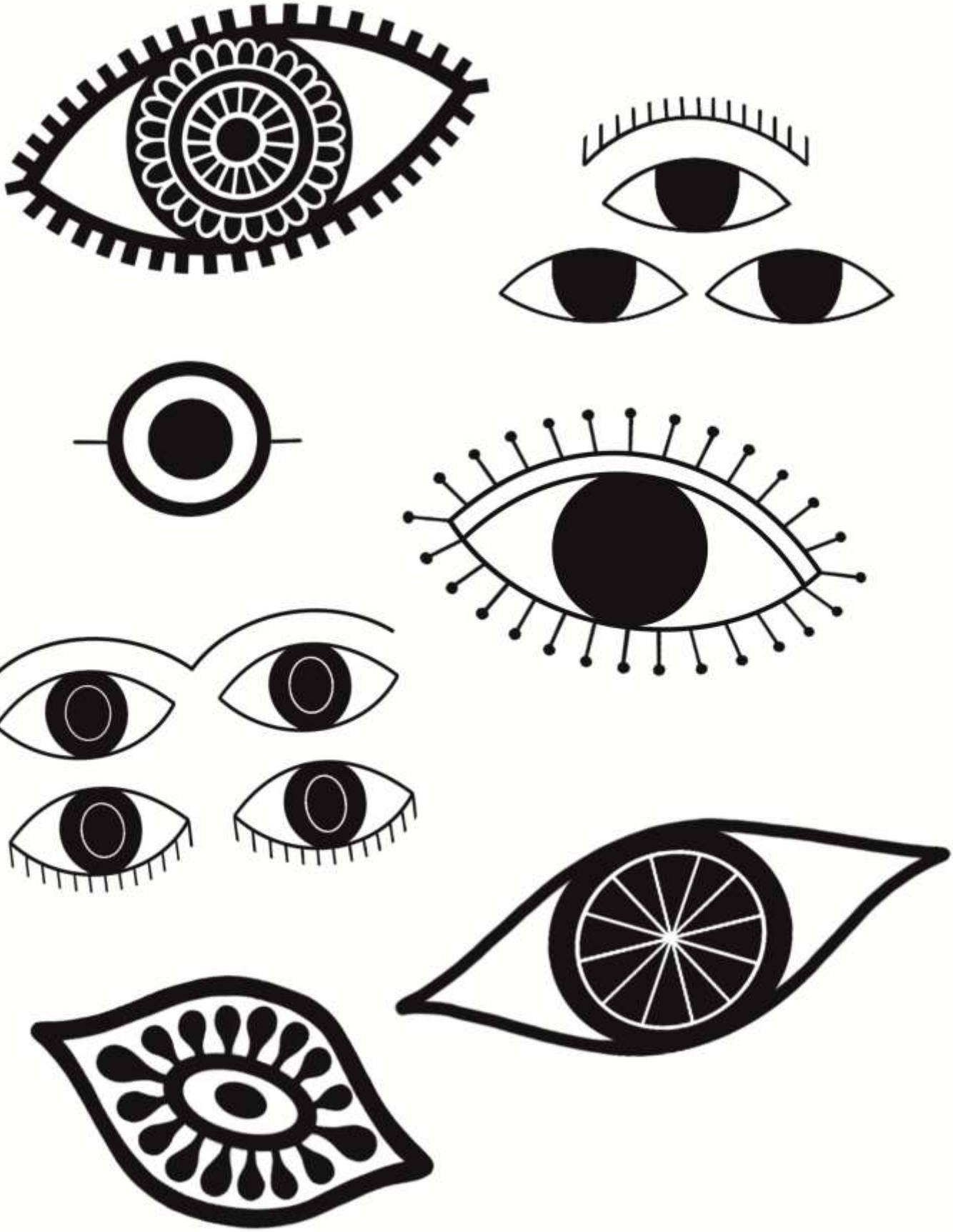
www.sandeepjohal.com



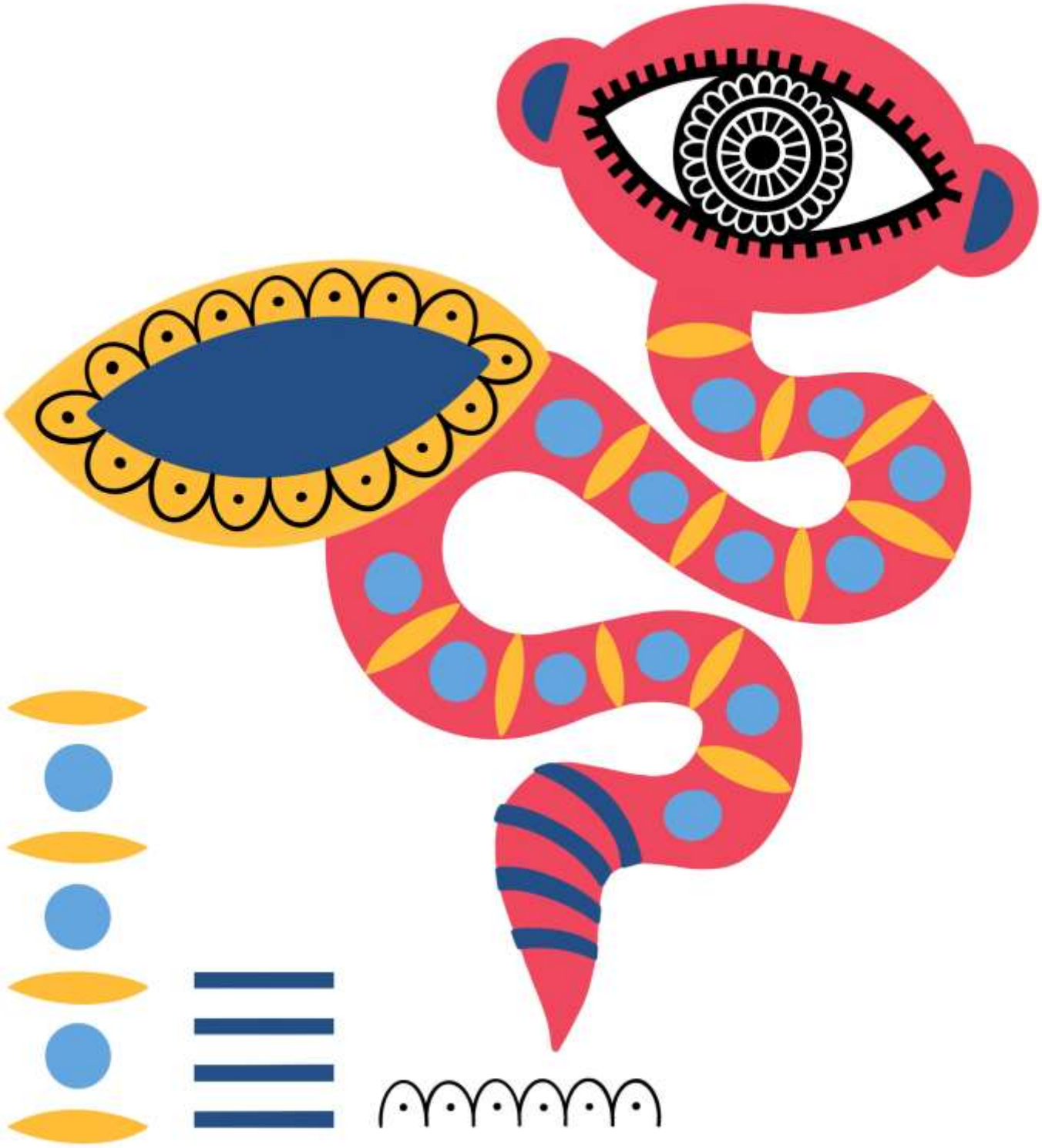
www.sandeepjohal.com



www.sandeepjohal.com

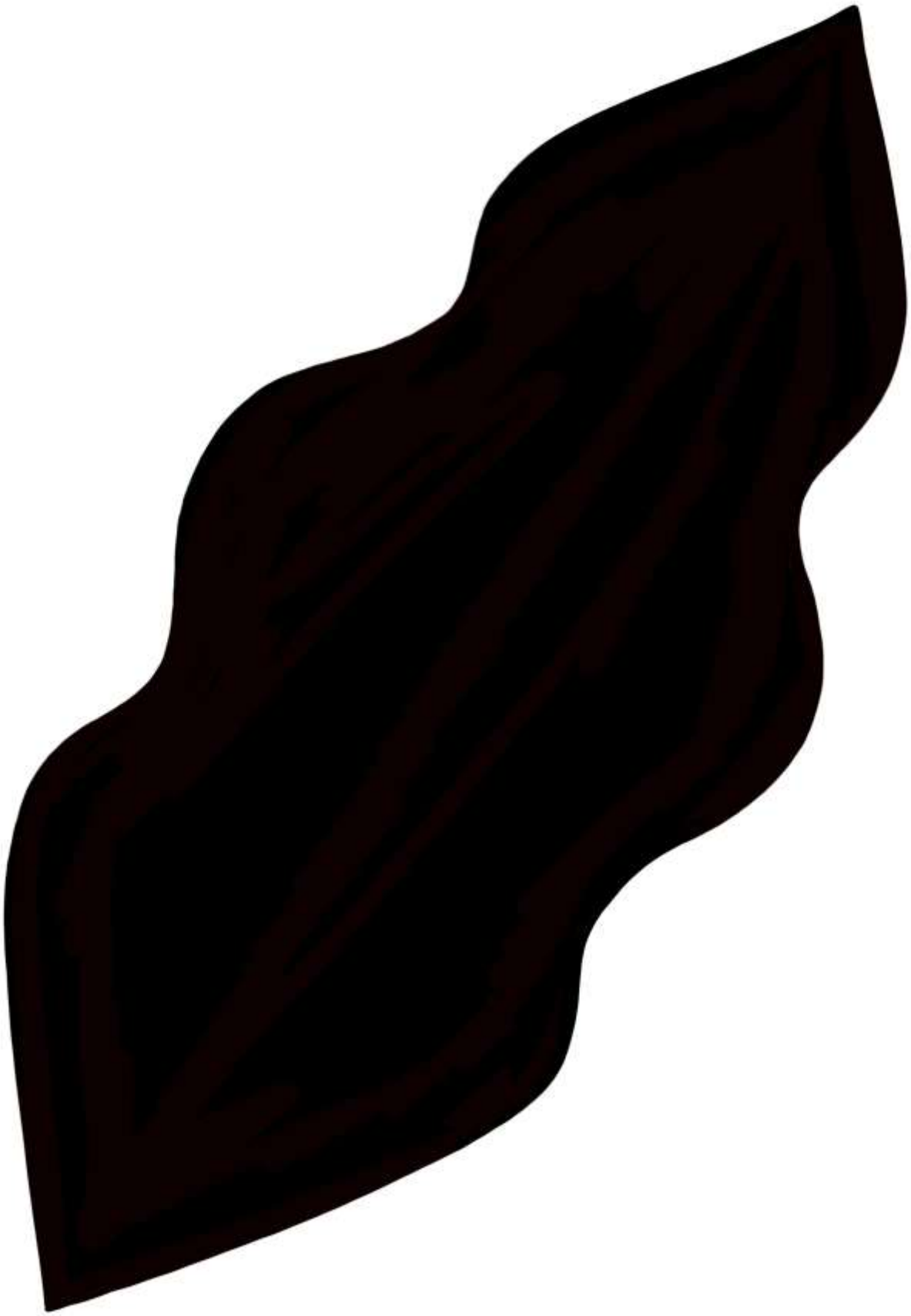


www.sandeepjohal.com

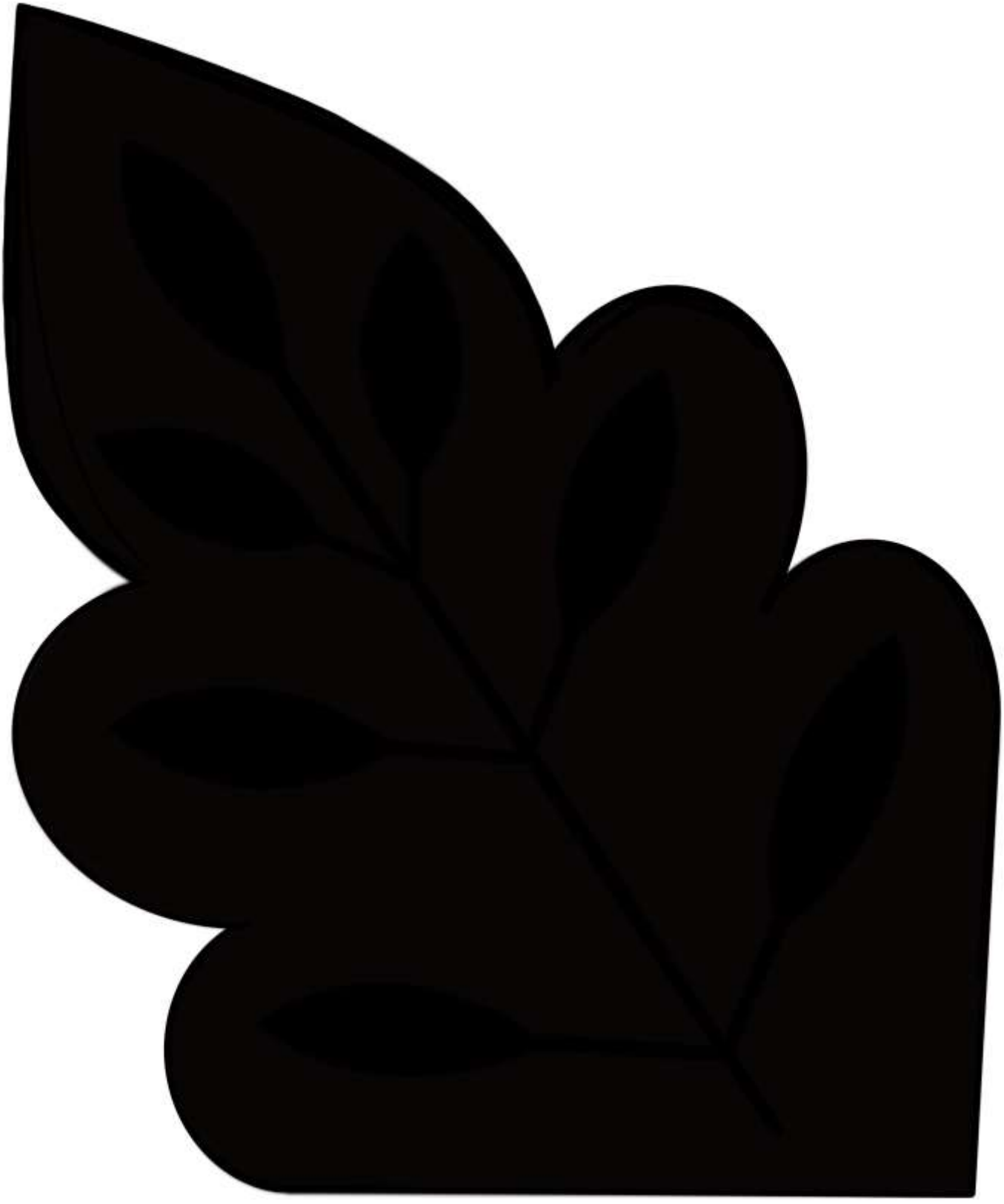


www.sandeepjohal.com

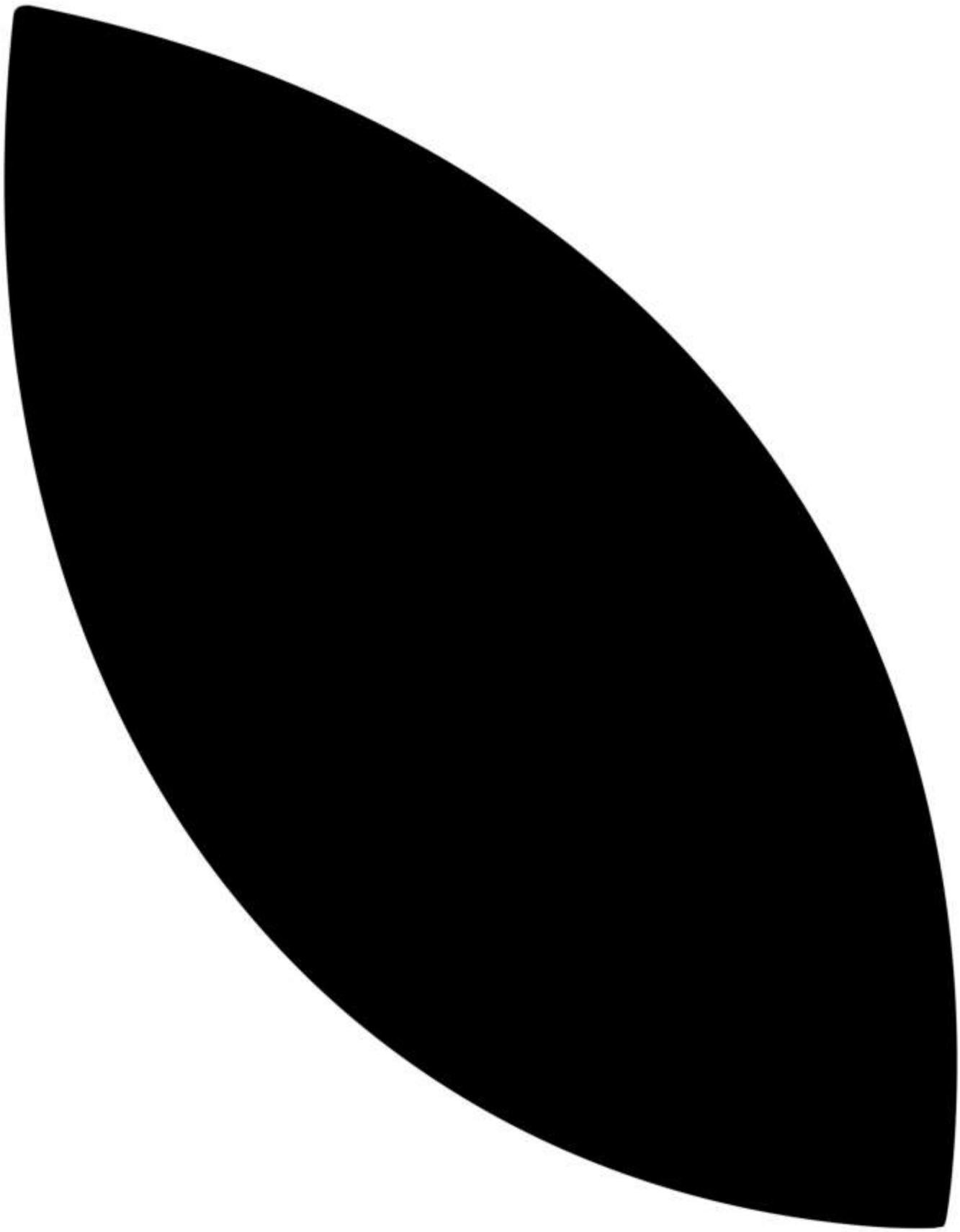

www.sandeepjohal.com



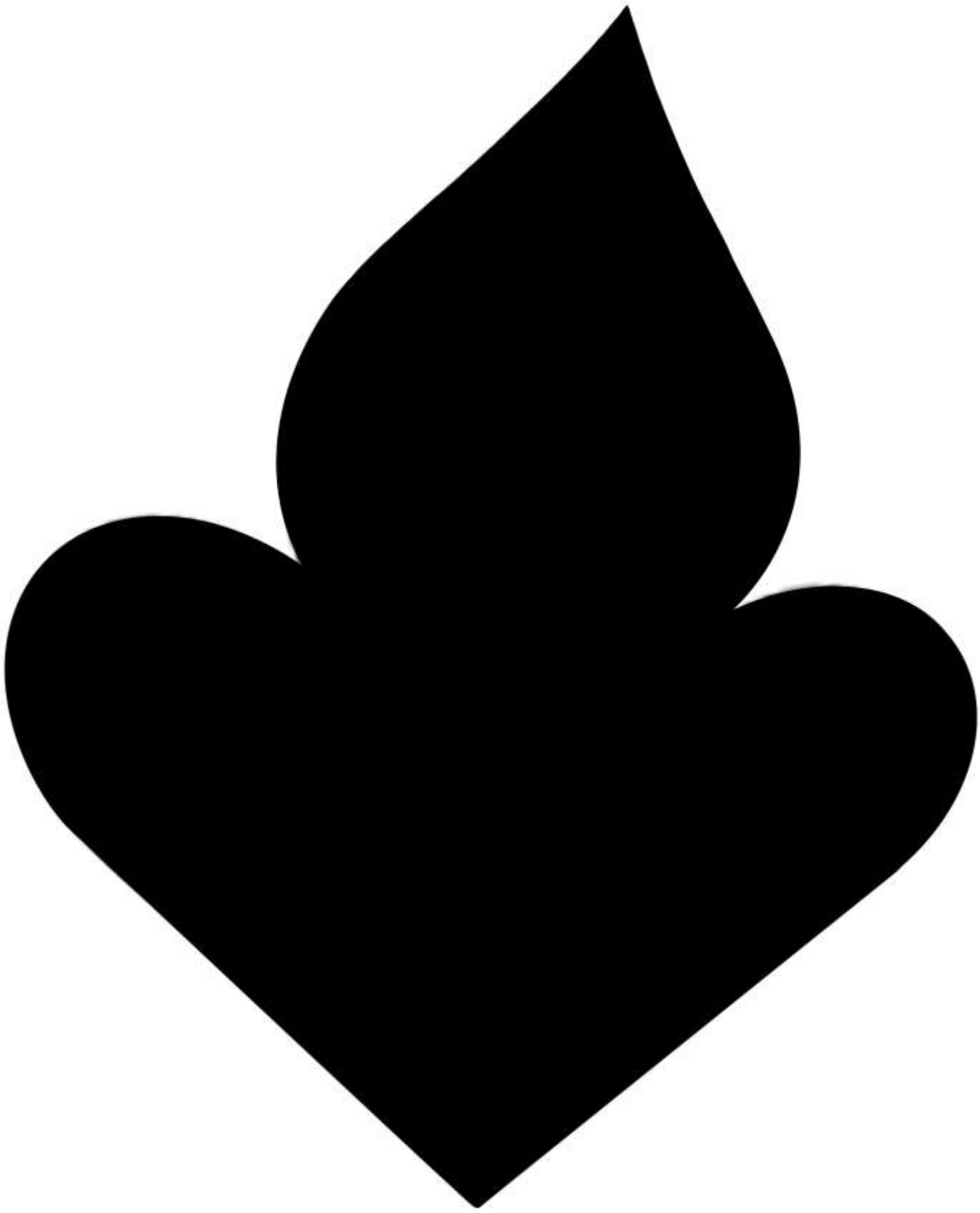
www.sandeepjohal.com



www.sandeepjohal.com



www.sandeepjohal.com



www.sandeepjohal.com