

QAG

I live in a village named **Naya**, in **Bengal, India**. Naya is a very special place because lots of artists live here. Everywhere you look, people are **making art**, and it is so joyful and beautiful.



# Mantu Chitrakar



Traditionally, painters would carry their scrolls from door to door. As the scrolls were rolled out for viewing, particular stories could be sung for a small fee. **I learned to sing the scroll songs when I was a child**, and today I still love to sing.

My paintings are created using colours I make from **leaves, roots and flowers**. I do not like ready-made colours. I think it is more interesting to **make my own**.



I create **scroll paintings** known as *gorana patas* (rolled paintings). I paint **traditional scrolls** about local folklore, religious stories and episodes from the great Hindu epics (the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*); and **new scrolls** about events in modern history and issues facing India today.

TOP *School is Important* (detail) 2019

MIDDLE *Atom Bomb Scroll* 2018

LEFT *Tree Plantation Scroll* 2020

Images courtesy: The artist

GOMA



# Activity!



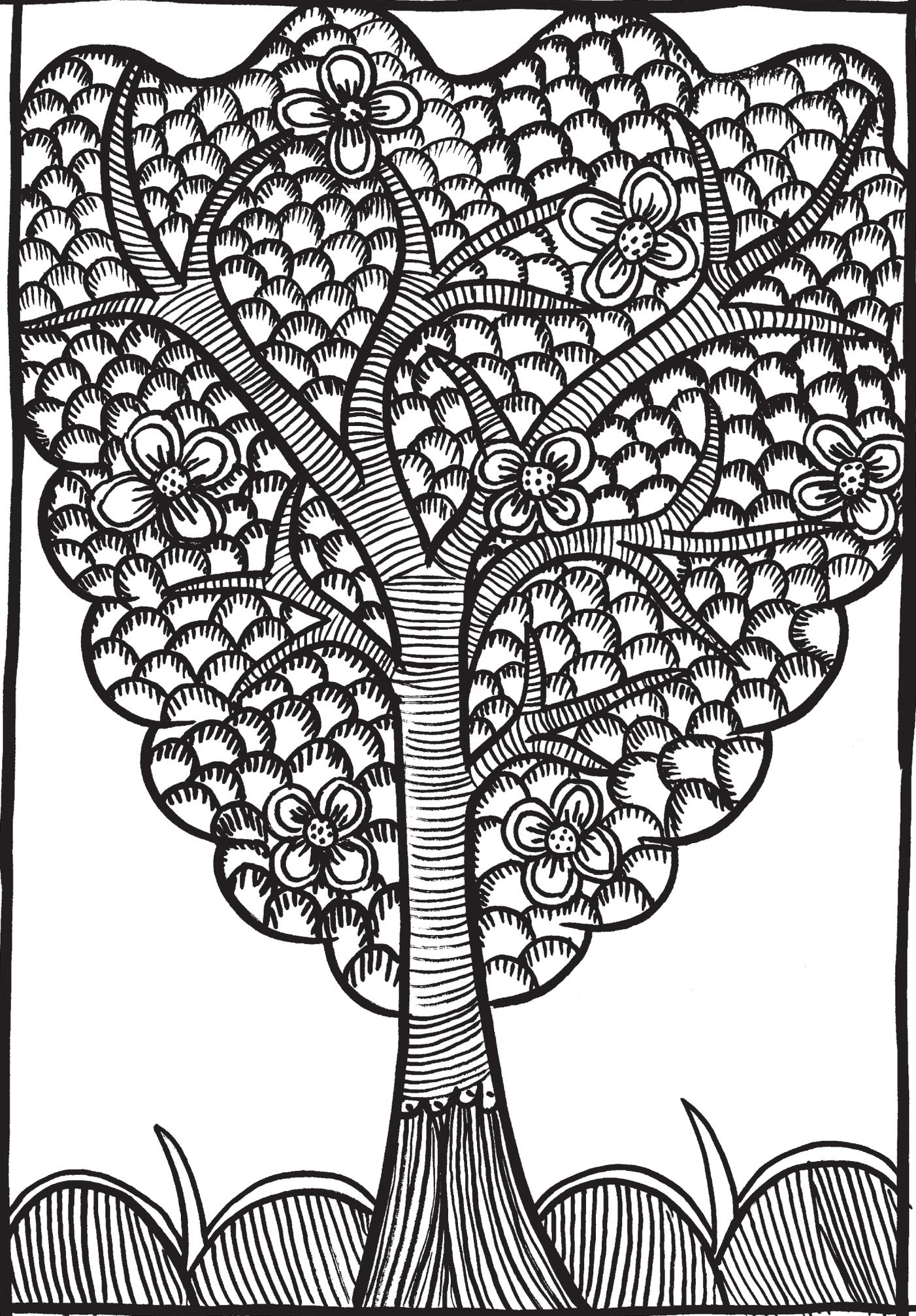
I am **inspired** by things happening in the world around me. Many of my paintings explore **environmental issues** impacting India and countries all over the globe.

I have drawn two pictures inspired by these issues for you to **colour in**.

My first drawing is of a **tree with flowers**. Trees are precious and we should think carefully about the damage caused by clearing forests.

My second drawing is of a **magnificent tiger**. Once tigers could be found all over Bengal, but today there are only about 3500 left in the wild. It is important that people work together to protect tigers and other endangered species.

**FUN FACT!** My favourite colours are **black** and **yellow** — the colours of the Bengal tiger!





**Create your own picture of a tiger.**

Think carefully about how you would like to decorate your tiger.  
Instead of stripes, your tiger could have zigzag, check or even polka-dot patterns.