

# Activity sheet

Collection leads:  
Kate Beynon—  
kindred spirits



## Graveyard scene/the beauty and sadness of bones

This painting, *Graveyard scene/the beauty and sadness of bones* (2014–15), represents a significant moment in an ancient Chinese myth, *An-Li: A Chinese Ghost Tale*, when the ghostly form of An-Li makes a nocturnal visit to his grieving mother. In Beynon's contemporary interpretation of this scene she incorporates recognisable symbols and personal references including a heart signifying the connection between An-Li, Rose and his mother, a hand emerging from a lotus flower referring to Kwan Yin/ Guanyin, the Goddess of Mercy, hybrid animal/human skeletal figures that act as memento mori, lion-dogs symbolising Beynon's Chinese zodiac year, and oranges representing the offerings made by Buddhist ancestors.

## Dig deeper

Identify symbols in Kate Beynon's painting and compare them to other symbols you have seen in other cultures and media.

