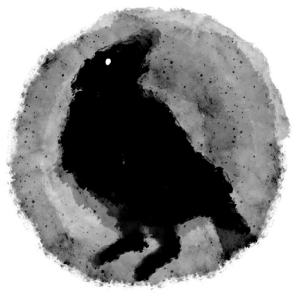


ABISEK A  
PRASAD BOKIL

Abisek A  
Prof. Prasad Bokil





# Contents

Introduction...	05
Getting to know...	07
Capturing...	09
Studying...	11
Challenges...	13
Abstracting...	15
Attributes...	17
Applying Attributes...	19



# Introduction

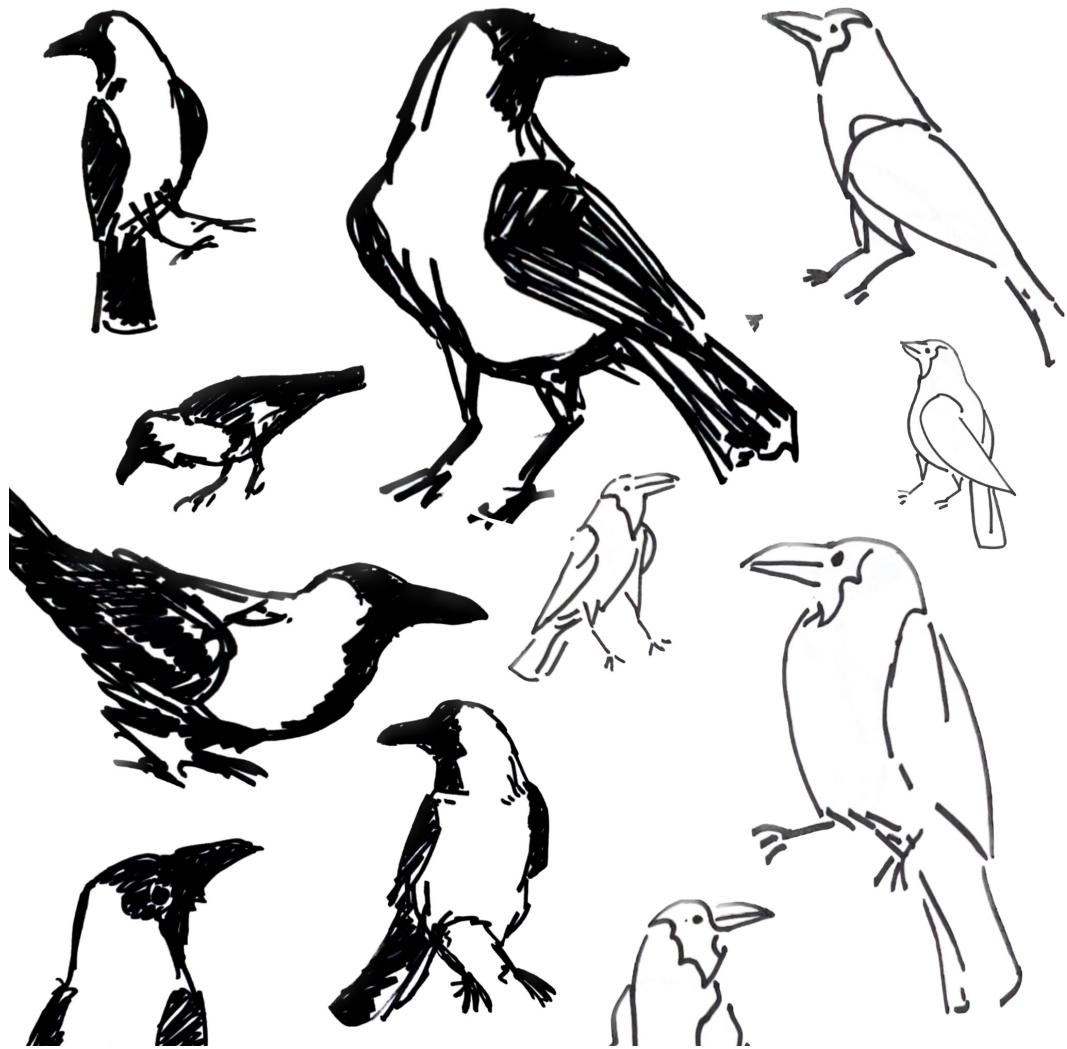
During my DES project, I chose to create symbols and icons using everyday objects, and I decided to focus on the intriguing subject of crows. Crows have always held a special fascination for me, and I don't say that as a mere platitude. For years, I have been observing these creatures with a keen interest, drawn to their unique behaviours and intriguing habits. While I rarely interacted with them, I spent a significant portion of my life simply watching them.

This project allowed me to take my fascination with crows to the next level. I was given the opportunity to closely observe and work with them as the central subject of my works. By delving deeper into their world, I gained a newfound appreciation for

their place in the ecosystem and the significance of their behaviours.

Through this project, I aimed to create symbols and icons that captured the essence of these remarkable creatures. My hope was to highlight the fascinating qualities of crows, such as their intelligence, adaptability, and sense of community, while also acknowledging the darker connotations associated with them in certain cultures.

As I continued to work on this project, I found myself becoming even more fascinated by these creatures, and my admiration for them grew stronger. By focusing on crows as a subject, I gained a deeper appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the natural world, and the importance of paying attention to even the most seemingly mundane aspects of our environment.



# Getting to know

For as long as I can remember, crows have been a part of my surroundings. I would often see them flying over my head or perched on a nearby tree, but I had never taken the time to truly understand them. However, that all changed when I was given the opportunity to work on a project that required a deeper dive into their world.

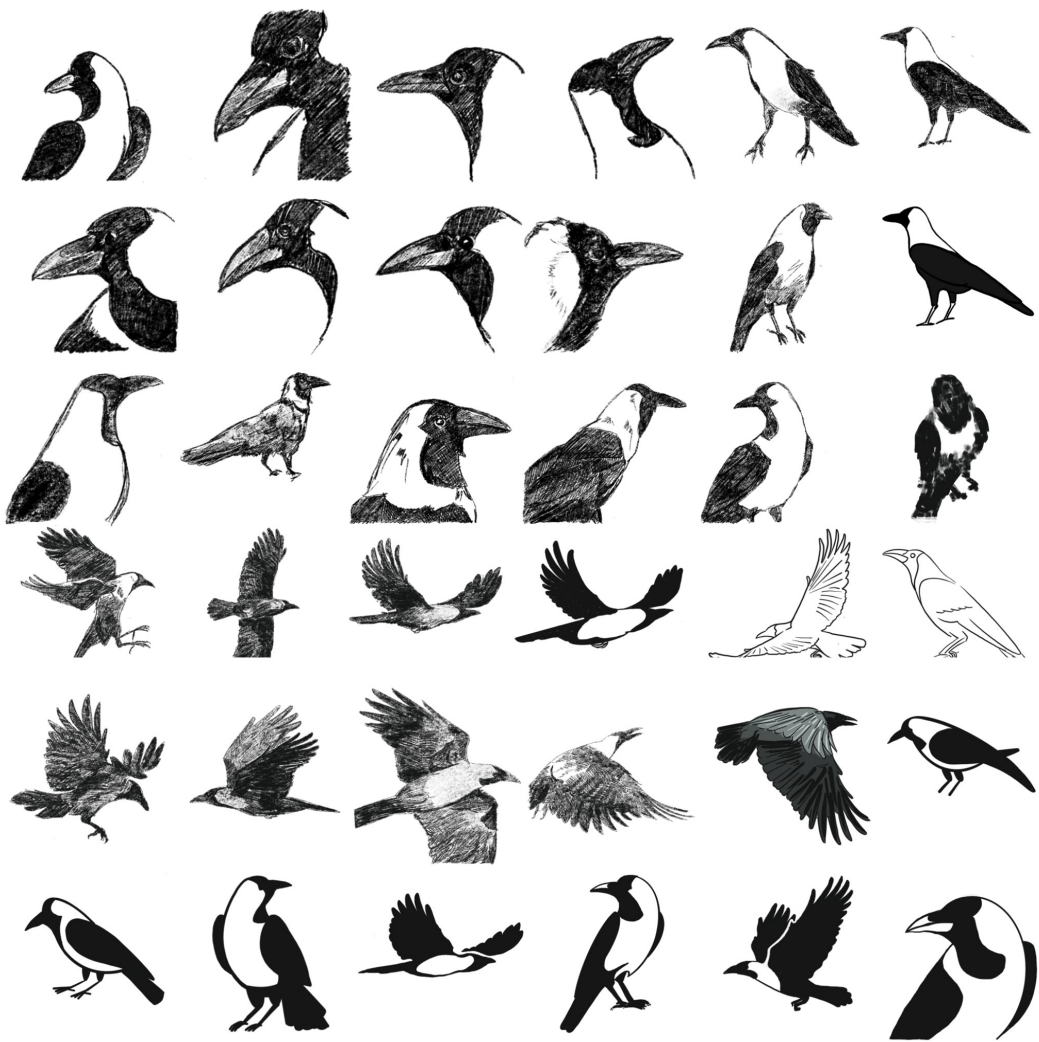
To truly grasp the essence of what crows represent, it was necessary for me to gain a level of understanding about their lives. I needed to view them as more than just birds and appreciate them as the remarkable creatures they are.

With the guidance Prof. Bokil, I began my journey by seeking inspiration and references directly from the source.

I wanted to interact with them on a personal level. This led me to start sketching crows and observing their behaviour in their natural habitat.

In order to get a closer look at them, I started feeding them in my hostel. It was an nice experience to watch them take bits and pieces of nuts and crackers, and slowly get used to my presence. I started sketching them more frequently.

As I continued to sketch and observe the crows, I began to appreciate their unique personalities and their role in the environment. They are incredibly adaptable creatures, with a strong sense of community and social behaviour. They mourn their dead, protect their young, and work together to solve problems.



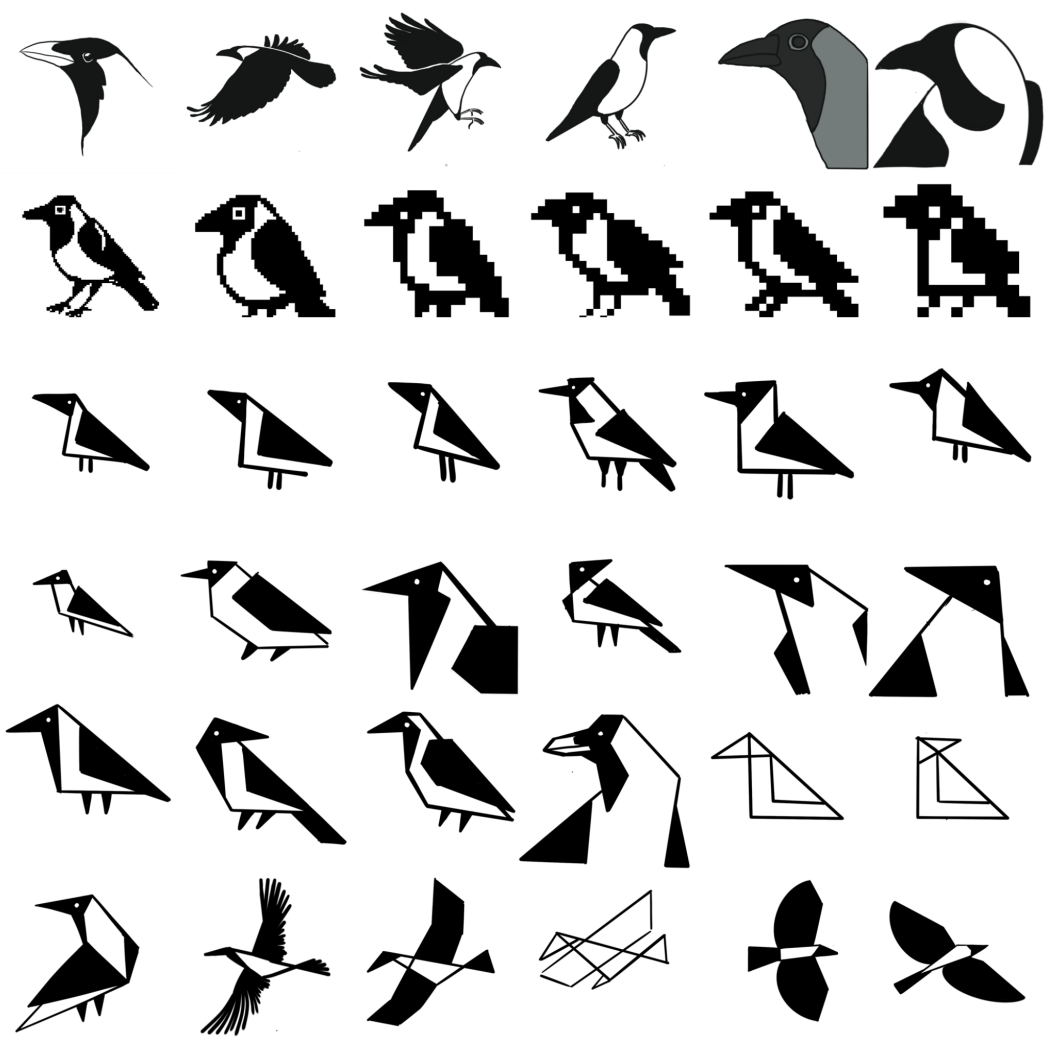


# Capturing

The detailed sketching phase is an essential step in accurately representing the form of a crow. It involves capturing the intricate details of the bird's unique shape, including its curves, corners, and proportions, and presenting it as a distinct and recognizable entity.

The detailed sketching phase also provides an opportunity to appreciate the uniqueness of crows. While they may appear common and ordinary, each crow has its unique features and characteristics that set it apart from others. By paying close attention to the details, one can gain a better appreciation of the subtle differences that make each crow distinct.

One of the main challenges in this process is the lack of outstanding differentiating features that make crows prone to be misinterpreted as other birds when even the slightest of mistakes are made in capturing the proper lines and curves. Therefore, paying close attention to details is crucial to accurately portraying the crow's form and avoiding misinterpretation.



# Studying

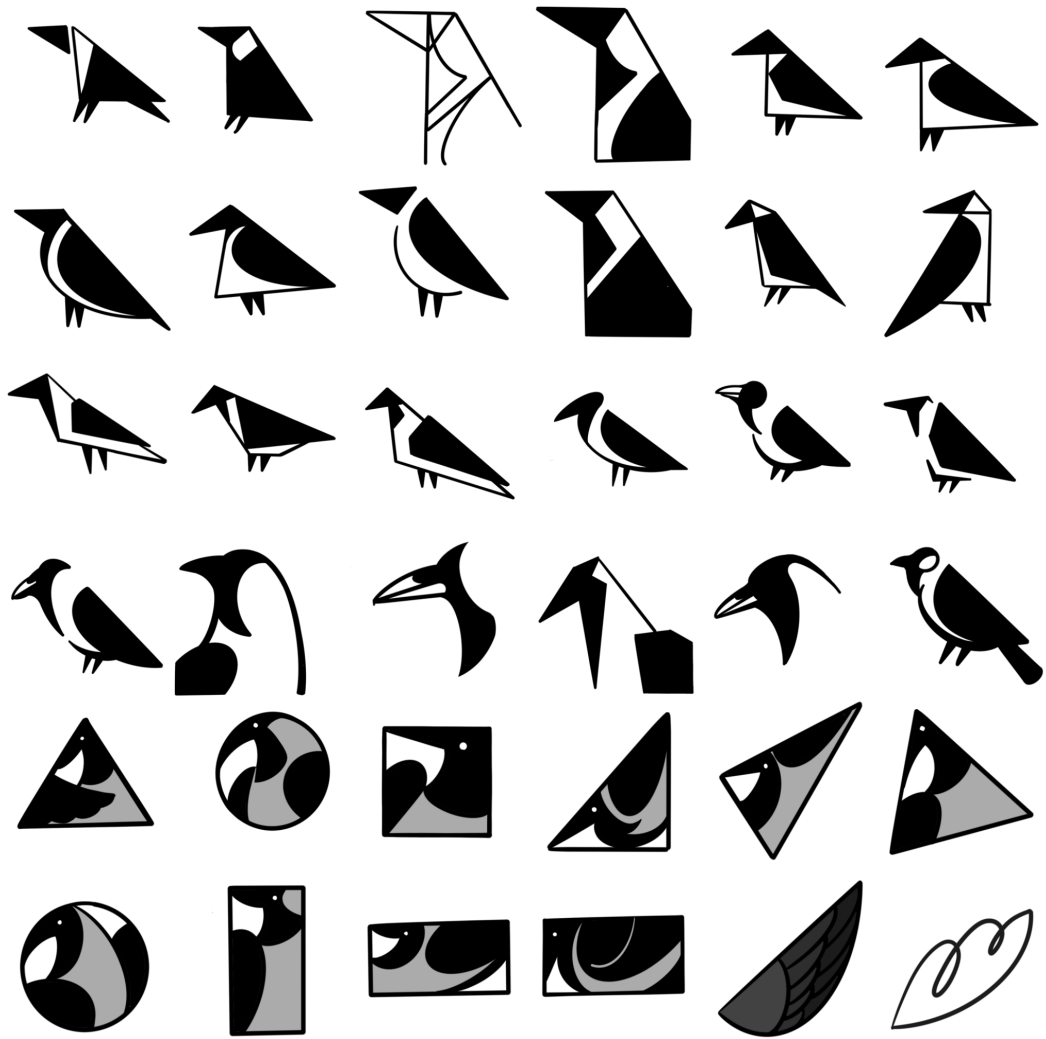
Crows are fascinating. Despite their common perception as completely black birds, closer observation reveals that they are not entirely black. In fact, the most common species of crow in India, the house crow, has a little grey around its neck. While most of their heads and necks are black, the exact shape and distribution of the black parts can vary slightly between individuals. This subtle variety makes them even more interesting to observe.

Crows have wings that are similar in shape to those of many other birds, allowing them to fly high and perform sharp maneuvers. Their legs are also quite generic, but they are positioned in a way that enables them to hop around with ease.

The feathers that cover most of a crow's body are smooth and give them a sleek appearance. However, their wings and tails are heavily layered, providing a distinct texture. Underneath, the crows have down feathers that are much fluffier and softer.

The beak of a crow has a unique shape, but the feathers surrounding it near the mouth can greatly impact its appearance. These feathers merge smoothly with the shape of the beak and can even change in appearance as the crow moves its head around.

Through my observations, I have also noticed that crows are able to fluff the feathers on their head, giving their beak a different look.



# Challenges

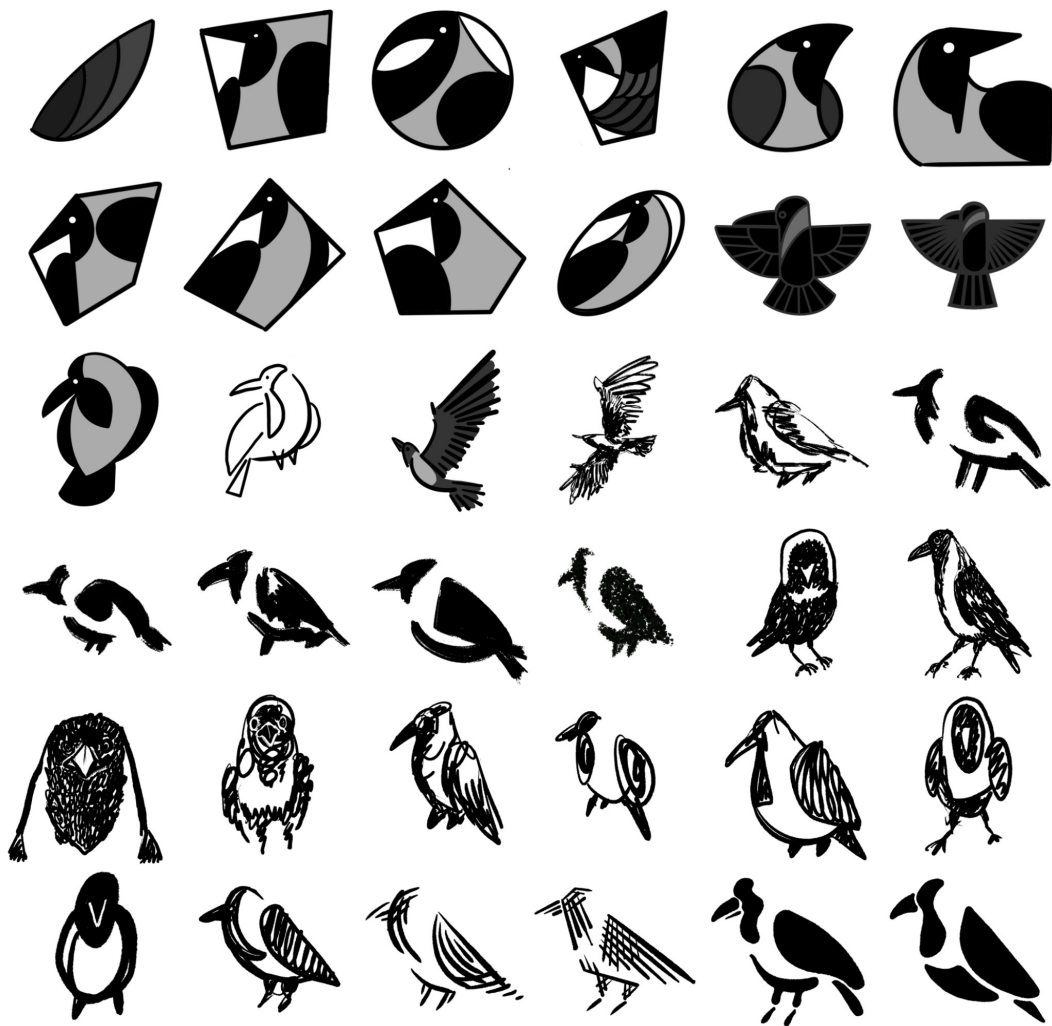
During my project, I encountered various challenges that required careful attention to overcome.

Another challenge I faced was dealing with the generic shape of crows. While crows are versatile birds, their shape is relatively similar to other common birds. This generic shape made it difficult to create unique and distinctive designs based on the crows. I had to spend a lot of time studying and observing the crows to identify subtle differences that I could incorporate into my designs.

As my project progressed, I found myself moving towards a more creative and wild style. However, as I moved away from the natural representation of crows, I encountered the challenge

of losing context. The more creative I became with the designs, the harder it was to maintain the essence of the crows. It was a delicate balance between staying true to the subject matter and pushing the boundaries of creativity.

Finally, dealing with the lack of unique features on crows was another significant challenge. While crows have many positive attributes, such as their intelligence and sense of community, they do not have any particularly unique physical features. This lack of unique features made it difficult to create designs that would stand out and be easily recognizable. I had to find ways to incorporate the attributes of crows into my designs while also making them visually distinct and appealing.



# Abstraction

Abstraction started with mostly simplifying the features and elements while retaining the key shape of the thing. The general essence lies in the sum of the subtle features that make up the shape of the crow rather than very distinct unique parts such as the patterns on a tiger or a leopard. The texture is feathers and the color is black and the shape is bird shaped, or almost bird shaped. A beak that looks like a hawk's as well as a pigeon's and a very generic body. Take out an important feature and you are left questioning the identity of the bird itself. The crowness lies in the sum of its parts.

The markings somehow are able to stand along without all the colors being involved. As I have mentioned before, crows have a dark grey fill color

and with the lack of it, just as standalone black parts the bird is somehow recognisable as a crow. The grey does add more context and complete it one hundred percent but the lack of it is not affecting it as much as I thought and the abstract images could survive without the inclusion of the secondary color.





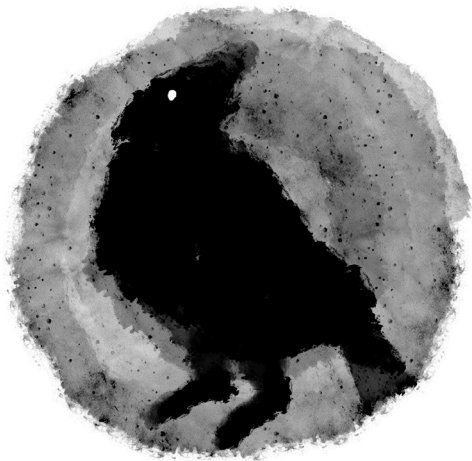
# Attributes

Crows are a fascinating and complex bird, with a variety of attributes and associations that differ from culture to culture. In western cultures, they are often viewed as a bad omen, associated with death and the occult. Unfortunately, this negative perception overshadows the many positive qualities that crows possess.

However, in some parts of India, particularly in the south, crows are viewed in a very different light. In these cultures, crows are believed to be vessels for the souls of our ancestors. As such, feeding them before meals on auspicious days is a common practice, as it is believed that late family members come in the form of crows to eat the food that is offered. Despite this positive aspect of the

crow's reputation, on common days they are often overlooked and seen as dirty birds due to their behavior of hunting, eating corpses, and foraging food from garbage.

Despite the varied perceptions of crows around the world, one attribute that is universally acknowledged is their intelligence. Crows are incredibly adaptable birds that can problem-solve their way into different environments, ranging from rural areas to extreme metropolitan settings. Their sense of community is also a noteworthy trait, as they exhibit social behaviors such as mourning for their dead and working together to protect their young.



# Applying Attributes

The crow, an intelligent and adaptive bird, possesses a set of unique attributes that can be incorporated into design when creating symbols and icons. These characteristics can be visually emphasized to convey a particular style or mood. For example, the crow's gritty and dark appearance can be used to represent a more ominous or foreboding tone, while their curious and friendly nature can be conveyed through softer, more humble design elements.

Incorporating the visual aspects of the crow's attributes into design requires a cohesive approach, where different parts of the design work together to convey a unified message. One way to do this is by emphasizing the softness of the crow's feathers, which

speaks to their inherent adaptability and approachability. By using design elements that are soft and gentle, the friendly and curious nature of the crow can be highlighted.

It's important to note that while the crow is often associated with darkness and grittiness, there is no inherent sense of strength or hardness associated with them. Rather, these attributes are forced upon them by their form and design. By focusing on the more positive aspects of the crow's nature, designers can create designs that convey a more well-rounded and nuanced view of this fascinating bird. Ultimately, the goal is to create designs that effectively convey the desired message while remaining visually appealing and aesthetically pleasing.



