Estorick Collection

Paper Propeller

Tullio Crali was a Futurist artist whose work embraced technology and machinery as important sources of creative inspiration. His work was well known in the genre of 'aeropainting' which celebrated the technologies, sensations and perspectives of flight. Explore the power of wind by making your own paper propellor.



Tullio Crali, Broken Propellor, 19..

You will need

- 1 A4 or square piece of paper
- 1 drawing pin
- 1 wine cork
- 1 wooden skewer
- 1) Take an A4 piece of paper and fold one corner to the edge of the paper to make a square.





Tullio Crali, Johnathan Monoplane, 19..

- 2) Cut or carefully tear the excess paper off.
- 3) Fold the triangle again and open it up.



4) Make a pencil mark 1/3 from the centre on each fold and cut along the lines to it.



5) Bring alternate corners of the square to the centre and hold them together with the pin



- 6) Push the pin into the cork but leave a gap to leave some space for the propellor to spin.
- 7) Push the skewer into the bottom of the cork. If it doesn't have a sharp end you can dig out a little hole with a pin and push and twist the stick into the cork.
- 8) BLOW into your propellor and watch it spin.



Top Tip: Don't push the drawing pin all the way into the cork to ensure you leave a gap between the paper and the cork so it can spin freely.

Experiment: What other sources of wind could you use? You could try a hairdryer or take it to a park. Try making one from recycled plastic and keep it outside to tell you how windy it is from inside your home. You could try decorating the paper before your construct it or make one from coloured paper and see how the patterns change when they spin.